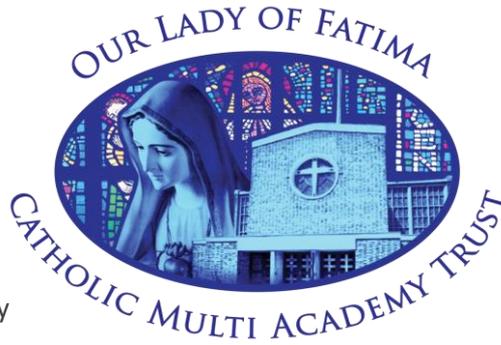




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Executive Headteacher: Mr I Kendal B.Ed. (Hons), M.A., NPQH
Chair of Governors: Mr G Reynolds BSc FCMA



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Monday, 04 May 2020

Dear Parents,

School buildings may be closed but schools are not. We continue to be here for you and for your children. I do wish to thank our staff who are doing wonderful work behind the scenes and have adapted fabulously to this new way of working.

House Team Winners. For each piece of work shared and for each piece of online learning, (Abacus and BugClub), your child will receive a house point.

Congratulations to last week's winners

At St Luke's

Winning Team St Francis's

At St Alban's

Winning Team St Thomas More's

Emails from class teachers: Please do respond to their emails and send pictures of your child's achievements.

Reports: Our teachers have spent their time, not only planning online learning, responding to emails and calls but also writing your child's annual reports. The teachers will endeavour to email your child's report to you throughout today (Monday). Please bear in mind, teachers are also, working in school alongside the children of Key Workers, or working at home whilst looking after their own children and family therefore, if you have children in different year groups, you may receive the reports at different times. Please contact the school if you have not received your child's report by Tuesday mid-day. Parents of nursery children will receive their child's report by the end of the week. Your child's class teacher will be in touch with you in the next few weeks as part of our regular contact. If you have any question pertaining to the report please email your child's class teacher in advance of this call.

Our approach to Home Learning: As an educator it is fascinating learning from others and seeing other schools' approaches to this current crisis. Every school is different and without direction from the DfE and the government, we will all do things differently. You may not be aware, but there is no requirement from the DfE or OFSTED to provide any resources/materials



or support your child's learning at home. We have chosen to support you via the home learning on our website. Other schools have chosen different approaches. One approach we considered very carefully was live streaming of lessons and recording of teachers. We decided against this approach as it focused predominately on methods that do not guarantee the safety of the children or our staff. Furthermore, it puts a significant amount of pressure on you as parents, on children and on teachers. We recognise homes are not schools. The skill of teaching is the face to face interaction between the teacher and the pupil, and this cannot be achieved via video. Interestingly a recent study by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) reaffirms this approach.

Rosary: During the month of May, we pray the rosary as a school community - we have added a resource on our website. Please look at the 'Believe, Belong, Become' link. This section on our website is promoting the Catholic life and so can assist families. Within this section you will find support in praying the rosary at home. We will soon be adding an interactive resource which supports your prayers. Please keep an eye on this section of the website.

National Home Learning Support Helpline: We would also like to make you aware of the **National Home Learning Support Helpline for Parents**. It is staffed by Ofsted inspectors who have been redeployed alongside teachers to provide advice about home learning to parents. The helpline is designed to help parents and carers create regular routines and study habits, offering practical steps to take and access to resources, such as support with a specific topic or advice on how to structure the day, deal with difficult behaviour or manage the learning of several children. StarLine is open six days a week and covers all areas of the curriculum across all phases of education. The number to call is 0330 313 9162 (calls charged at local rate). Once again can I refer you to the support that can be found on our school website, in the parent tab, we have just added another resource - <https://rainbowsgb.org/corona-virus-how-rainbows-can-help/>

Daily virtual singing: You may also be interested in the following: Daily virtual singing sessions from the Diocese of Leeds Schools Singing Programme are now available at 2pm every weekday. Aimed at primary school children every session includes sacred music, RE and music curriculum learning, and lots of vocal fun and songs to keep children engaged in lifting their voices to God. They're led by the Diocese's expert Choral Directors, and sessions for younger and older children are also available. Please see www.schoolssingingprogramme.org.uk – Unfortunately, this is a YouTube link, please follow all our previous advice relating to YouTube.

Mental Health and Well-being (Education Endowment Foundation)

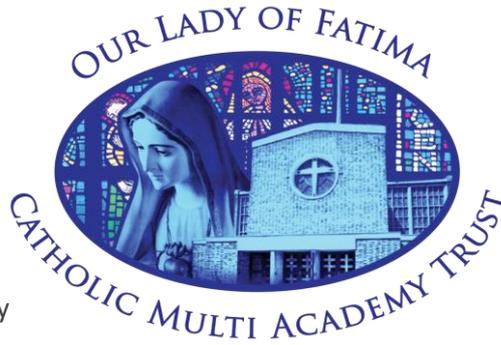
The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) have produced a series of checklists to help parents and children manage their routines. As we become more normalised into this way of life you may wish to use the attached to guide you through each day.





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All the EEF materials to support home learning can be found here:

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources#nav-covid-19-resources>

Term dates: please find following the term dates for our next academic year.

Autumn Term 2020	Spring Term 2021	Summer Term 2021
Tuesday 1 st September – Friday 18 th December 2020, Half term: Monday 26 th October – Friday 30 th October 2020	Monday 4 th January 2021 – Friday 26 th March 2021 Half term: Monday 15 th February 2021 – Friday 19 th February 2021	Monday 12 th April 2021 – Friday 16 th July 2021 (Bank Holiday - Mon 3rd May 21) Half term Monday 31 st May 2021 – Friday 4 th June 2021
School closed to children Tuesday 1 st September 2020		School closed to children Monday 12 th April 2021

Please note: we have one INSET date (a day when the school will be closed to children) to be allocated.

Thank you for all your jokes they made everyone smile. I wish you a lovely week of learning.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Ian Kendal
Executive Headteacher