

Spring 2021

News Romero

News and events from across The Romero Catholic Academy



MAYOR VISITS SAINT PATRICK'S

Saint Patrick's welcomes West Midlands Mayor, Andy Street

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Generous donation from the community to support Home Learning at Cardinal Wiseman

PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Exceptional feedback from Romero Parents

SS Peter and Paul New Outdoor Area



STAFF SURVEY UPDATE

GO PARKS

GREEK WEEK

Spring 2021

Contents

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter	3
Romero Parent Feedback	4
SS Peter and Paul New Outdoor Area	5
30 Years Catering service at Cardinal Wiseman	6-7
Community Engagement supports home learning	8
Sacred Heart Dance	9
Romero pupils progress to our Alumni	10-11
Pupils Explore Ancient Greece	12
West Midlands Mayor visits Saint Patrick's	13
Staff Survey shows ongoing improvements	14-15
Go Parks Success	16-17
Social Media Snapshot	18-19





Brendan Fawcett

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter

Dear All in the Romero Family,

Welcome to our Easter newsletter. Easter presents us with a very timely opportunity to reflect having gone through the Season of Lent. As the days lengthen and we move hopefully towards the better weather, we are also hopefully moving towards a new beginning where the restrictions in place due to the coronavirus can eventually be lifted.

I am also mindful, that we recently remembered Father Bob on his first anniversary with a Mass at Saint John Fisher on Friday 5th March. Father Bob is greatly loved and missed by his Parish and schools; it was poignant to share a Mass with the family and schools to remember the great gift of his ministry. We also keep Zara, Christy, Ryan and the family/friends of Carole Flynn in our prayers as we approach her first anniversary on the 2nd April. Plans are under way at Corpus Christi to remember Carole in the Summer term in a way that reflects her personality and the impact she made on so many lives during her vocation.

The operation of our schools over the past thirteen months of restrictions has been challenging and I can only thank our amazing staff, pupils, governors, and the wider community for adapting so well and doing as much as they have. I also particularly want to thank those who donated devices to enable our students to continue learning from home.

During lockdown, we were delighted to welcome the West Midlands Mayor, Andy Street, to Saint Patrick's. We were able to showcase the new building work in the school that had been done with the support of Deeley Construction.

One of my highlights was the Go Parks competition and I am delighted at how well all our schools did although special congratulations go to Good Shepherd for their outstanding performance. This highlighted the importance of parks and outdoor space and this is something that we continue to invest in across Romero.

Our cover image shows the recent investment at SS Peter and Paul; and we are delighted to share that we are receiving positive feedback from our families on the ongoing improvements across the Romero.

Mrs Scullion our new Head of School at Saint Gregory's also appears alongside Ms Edge in our alumni focus. Ms Edge's, choreography skills are also highlighted. In our last newsletter we introduced you to Tom O'Reilly who had just been appointed as our new Catering Manager. In this edition we have shared stories on our new mobile catering van and the recognition of an outstanding long serving employee within the catering team.

As usual we have a roundup of activity on social media. As you will see there has been lots going on and I know many of our staff and wider community will be looking forward to a break and a slow down over the Easter period.

With this in mind, I'd like to wish you all an incredibly happy and holy Easter and let you know that we are all looking forward to welcoming you back for what we hope will be a remarkably busy and memorable Summer Term.

With very best wishes for Easter,

Brendan.

F E E D B A C K

Exceptional Feedback from Romero Families

We are celebrating achievements after receiving exceptional feedback from parents as we mark our fifth anniversary.

Romero Catholic Academy, made up of seven primary schools and one secondary school based in the city, has announced the results of its successful 2020 parent survey.

Hundreds of people with children across the Academy, took part in the survey.

It attracted a host of positive responses, with total of 94.38 per cent stating that they would recommend their school to others – a figure which has increased year-on-year since the survey began in 2018.

A total of 96.8 per cent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their child is happy at their school and 95.32 per cent said that their child is encouraged to work hard and do their best.

A similarly high percentage reported that their child feels safe at their school and that their child is well looked after.

When asked what they like about their child's school, families praised everything from the staff members and the high standard of education being delivered to their values and how supportive and nurturing they are, with one parent stating: **"The school is like family. Every teacher and member of staff know the children really well and care for them. I could not pick a better school for my children."**

Patrick Taggart, Director of Operations for Romero has welcomed the results and said that they are testament to the dedication of staff across the Academy and it also reflects a number of improvements that have been made during the last five years.

He said: "It is fantastic to receive such positive feedback from our families right across the Academy as we celebrate our fifth anniversary."

"All of the staff work incredibly hard to deliver a well-rounded education to our pupils, and it is excellent that this has been recognised in our latest survey."



SS Peter and Paul

State-of-the-Art EYFS Outdoor Area

Children at SS Peter and Paul will be able to learn and play in a state-of-the-art outdoor area after it was officially opened, in a special ceremony.

SS Peter and Paul unveiled its new Early Years outdoor area where children can experience outdoor learning all year round, whatever the weather.

The new outdoor area, officially opened by Romero Foundation Director Victor Bellanti, has a variety of stimulating features, including a mud kitchen, a large sand pit, a story-teller's chair and stage area, a construction area, and a garden.

Lorraine Stanton, Principal of SS Peter and Paul, believes the new facility will enhance the children's learning.

She said: "We're so happy with the new outdoor area. Having high quality outdoor facilities for our younger children is incredibly important."

"It provides them with opportunities to learn, interact and explore in a stimulating, and natural environment which encourages them to use their imagination."

"Play-based learning is crucial to developing strong social skills in younger children, and we believe our new outdoor area will be perfect for nurturing these skills."

And Leanne Hicks, Assistant Vice Principal and Early Years Lead Practitioner at SS. Peter and Paul, hoped the outdoor area would be enjoyed by children for many years to come.

She added: "The children have really been enjoying it so far – we've had budding actors getting up and performing on the stage area, would-be chiefs using the play kitchen, and creative pupils building in the construction area."

Ss Peter and Paul wanted to build the new outdoor area to provide a new environment in which their pupils could play and learn at the same time.

The new area was designed and constructed by Daniel Griffin at Griffin Property Services, who liaised closely with Miss Leanne Hicks, on the bespoke design for the area.

It was completed prior to the reception children joining in September.



30 years in the Catering Team

Cardinal Wiseman is honouring the hard work and dedication of a member of its catering team whose long service has seen her serve up hundreds of thousands of dinners and welcome generations of the same family to the cafeteria.

Bhagwant Khabra is celebrating 30 years of service at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School, part of the Romero Catholic Academy.

Bhagwant has seen both catering

technology and food trends change over the years, and said it is her love for both the Cardinal Wiseman children and staff members that have kept her at the school.

She said: "I really enjoy my job, it's very rewarding and I have an excellent team around me – we're like family.

"There's also a lot more technology, and jobs that we used to do by hand like peeling vegetables and grating cheese, is done by machines.



"We're also seeing some exciting developments, including the Academy's new food van which will allow us to serve up dishes remotely to our students and staff."

"I'm very proud to be celebrating 30 years at Cardinal Wiseman, and I look forward to many more at the school."

Tom O'Reilly, Catering Manager at the Romero Catholic Academy, said: "Bhagwant is an extremely valued member of our catering team."

"She is well thought of by colleagues and pupils and has a vast amount of knowledge of both Cardinal Wiseman and the catering industry."

"I would like to congratulate her on her 30 years' service at the school, an achievement that deserves to be recognised."

"Our new mobile catering van is part of the new service at Cardinal Wiseman and will give us the flexibility to serve children at a range of sites across the school and support

our seven primary schools at events and fete days."





Mark Lambert, Head of Year 10 (left) collecting the device from Tony Sweatman (right)

Community Engagement supports Home Learning

A member of the local community has generously donated a tablet to Cardinal Wiseman after taking part in a radio campaign which asked listeners to give their unused devices to children across Coventry and Warwickshire who are home schooling.

Tony Sweatman, from Coventry, has presented a Samsung Galaxy Tab S3 to the school to support one of its pupils to access online learning during the third lockdown.

The kind gesture was made after Tony contacted BBC CWR in response to its call for donations of devices.

BBC CWR then selected the school as the recipient of the device, and Cardinal Wiseman Assistant Principal Colin Beesley was able to thank Tony on air.

The school agreed that the device should go to a pupil in Year 10 and the tablet has now ensured the pupil can access home learning.

Tony said: "I had originally researched charities which I could donate the tablet to but was passionate about ensuring it went to a local child

in the community, so I was extremely happy to take part in the BBC CWR campaign.

"I was overjoyed to hear that the device was not only going to a local child in need, but one that has come through an incredibly difficult time in recent months. I hope that the tablet will make a real difference to their learning."

Matthew Everett, Head of School at Cardinal Wiseman, said: **"We would like to thank Tony once again for his generous donation. We had the pleasure of speaking to him on air and have since learnt more about his family history which has been fantastic.**

"Tony's act of kindness has been a real inspiration to others, and we have since received further donations of devices from our staff and members of the local community.

"This will ensure all of our children can continue to learn at home during the lockdown and also strengthen their digital learning skills to support them in the future."



Sacred Heart's 'Great Big Dance Off'

Dancers from Sacred Heart have been showing off their best moves on the virtual stage in a bid to wow the judges of a long-standing competition. **hard over the past 10 weeks to learn and perfect their dances.**

Five pupils from the school, have entered this year's 'Great Big Dance Off', a national school dance competition. **"Being able to take part in the competition virtually has given the girls a real purpose at a time when their usual clubs aren't able to run.**

The Great Big Dance Off, which has previously invited school dance troupes to perform on stage in regional heats before holding a national grand final, has this year launched a virtual solo competition. **"They have all loved it and we've really seen their confidence grow – they are all used to performing as a group, but all eyes are on them in a solo competition and I'm incredibly proud of what they have achieved. I'd like to wish all of the girls the very best of luck."**

Phoebe, Toni, Olivia and Imogen, Year 5, and Freya, Year 6, have all been working hard to enter the West Midlands heat which will see them go head to head with dancers from right across the region. **"We are delighted to see our pupils engage in these activities and is very important to us that they have access to a very broad and rich curriculum in our schools."**

Sophie Edge, PE lead at Sacred Heart, has helped the girls choreograph, practice and perfect their dances ahead of being filmed for the judges. **Three finalists will be chosen from each of the regions and it is hoped that a live grand final will be able to take place in 2021.**

She said: **"All of the girls have worked incredibly**

EDUCATION AND CAREERS

10

FOR OUR PUPILS



Megan Scullion Head of School Saint Gregory's



Megan attended Saint Gregory's and Cardinal Wiseman and has recently been appointed as Interim Head of School at Saint Gregory's. She joins the school from her joint role of Strategic Lead for School Improvement and Year 6 teacher at Corpus Christi.

Despite the challenge of starting her new position during the third lockdown, Megan said that all of the staff were extremely well prepared to deliver remote learning to pupils.

She said: **"It's a real honour to be appointed as head of my former primary school.**

"I have so many fond memories of my time here. It's always had a special place in my heart so it's fantastic that I've been given the opportunity to give something back and make a difference.

"My former role within the Academy meant that I already had a good knowledge of the school and its processes, and I already knew all of the staff.

"Starting as Head of School during lockdown has been challenging, but the whole team were very well prepared. It's meant that I've been able to explore

positive changes that can be made within the school, such as re-designing some areas to create an inspiring learning space and give the pupils somewhere that they can be even more proud of".

"The children are at the heart of everything we do, and I hope to make their time at the school as memorable as possible."

Megan is being supported in her role by the school's Executive Principal Paul Madia.

He said: **"It is fantastic to welcome Megan as interim Head of School at St Gregory's.**

"She has a significant amount of experience in both staff and curriculum development as well as in teaching. She is very enthusiastic about delivering a well-rounded education in an environment where children can foster a passion for learning, develop high aspirations and make memories. I wish her every success in the position."

Sophie Edge

PE Lead

Sacred Heart



Sophie Edge attended Saint John Fisher School before joining Cardinal Wiseman in 2004 where her sister was already a pupil.

She said: **“Cardinal Wiseman taught me many qualities and attributes that have stayed with me throughout my life and career, such as the importance of working hard, being independent and being resilient. I had some fantastic times at the school, but there were some aspects that were more challenging.”**

Sophie always had a love for sport, and also received a lot of support from the school’s PE department. She said: **“I took part in a lot of Irish dance and triathlon competitions and the PE department were always so supportive and let me have any time off that I needed.”**

During her masters degree Sophie moved to Courthouse Green School. This was followed by a move to Canada for seven months after which gave her a chance to reflect on her teaching career and what she wanted to do next.

She said: **“When we returned to the UK I did some supply teaching and then a job became available**

teaching Year 2 at Sacred Heart. I knew I really liked teaching the upper age of Key Stage 1 as it also comes with a bit of added pressure because it’s a SATs year which is really rewarding, so I was very pleased to get the position.”

After spending four months teaching at Sacred Heart, Sophie was given the opportunity to become PE lead at the school alongside her Year 2 teaching role.

Two years later this then evolved into being a full-time post, where Sophie now leads and teaches the school’s PE provision.

“Sport has been a passion of mine my whole life and I’ve always been involved with sport during my time as a teacher. It was fantastic when I was given the opportunity to become a full time PE teacher where I could lead the provision and really dedicate myself to it. There’s a really strong leadership team in place at Sacred Heart, and our Principal, Paul Madia, really trusts me to drive up the standards of our PE offering.”



Pupils explore Ancient Greece

Year 4 pupils from St Patrick's and SS Peter and Paul, have been given a taste of what life was like in Ancient Greece during a week dedicated to the civilization as part of a special 'Greek Week'.

The week provided an in-depth look at the topic of Ancient Greece, providing a variety of practical activities to enhance their knowledge and skills even further. They took part in everything from Greek dancing, vase making and learning the Greek alphabet.

The catering team also gave children the opportunity to learn more about the diet of Ancient Greeks and sample the food they would have eaten. They sampled everything from

Greek salad, pitta bread and dips, olives, pomegranate, figs and dried fruits.

Tom O'Reilly, Catering Manager, said: "During the topic of Ancient Greece the children would usually visit a Greek restaurant.

"During these times it's really important that we continue to offer interactive experiences to children to enhance their learning and ensure it's fun and memorable.

"It's fantastic to link food to the curriculum in this way and having an in-house catering service allows us to be even more dynamic with the experiences we provide to the children."

Megan Scullion, Head of School at Saint Gregory's, added: "At Romero we have an innovative curriculum which is knowledge rich and skills based, and uses active experiences to enhance learning and help the children retain what they have learnt.

"Our Greek Week provides pupils with the opportunity to enjoy practical activities whilst developing their knowledge and skills further, so when learning about the food eaten by the Ancient Greeks they are also able to try it themselves.

"All of the children have thoroughly enjoyed Greek Week, and we hope the rest of our the pupils across our schools have just as much fun."



West Midlands Mayor visits Saint Patrick's

The Mayor of the West Midlands has made a special visit to Saint Patrick's to find out more about its links in the community and hear first-hand how it has been dealing with the pandemic and the measures that have been put in place to help stop the spread of the virus.

Andy Street visited the school, where he spoke to the children about his role and heard more about how the school has been supporting its local area during a challenging 2020.

Andy was joined in the visit by Eleanor Deeley, Managing Director of the Deeley Group which has strong links with the Romero Academy.

As part of the tour, Andy was shown the Martin Curtin Room

which was built by the Deeley Group after the company found out that the school was in need of space to support some of its most vulnerable children.

The room, named after well-known construction worker Martin Curtin who worked for the Deeley Group for 58 years, has a range of uses including meetings, support sessions, interventions and SEN (special educational needs) sessions for the children.

Andrea Sherratt, Principal, said: **"It was a privilege to welcome Andy Street to the school and it was lovely to see him speaking to the children about what he does. It was our first time welcoming Andy to the school, and we hope to see him again in the future."**

Andy said: **"It was brilliant to visit St Patrick's and meet with the children and staff."**

"It has been an extremely challenging year for schools, so it was good hear about how the school has adapted as a result of the pandemic and overcome a number of challenges."

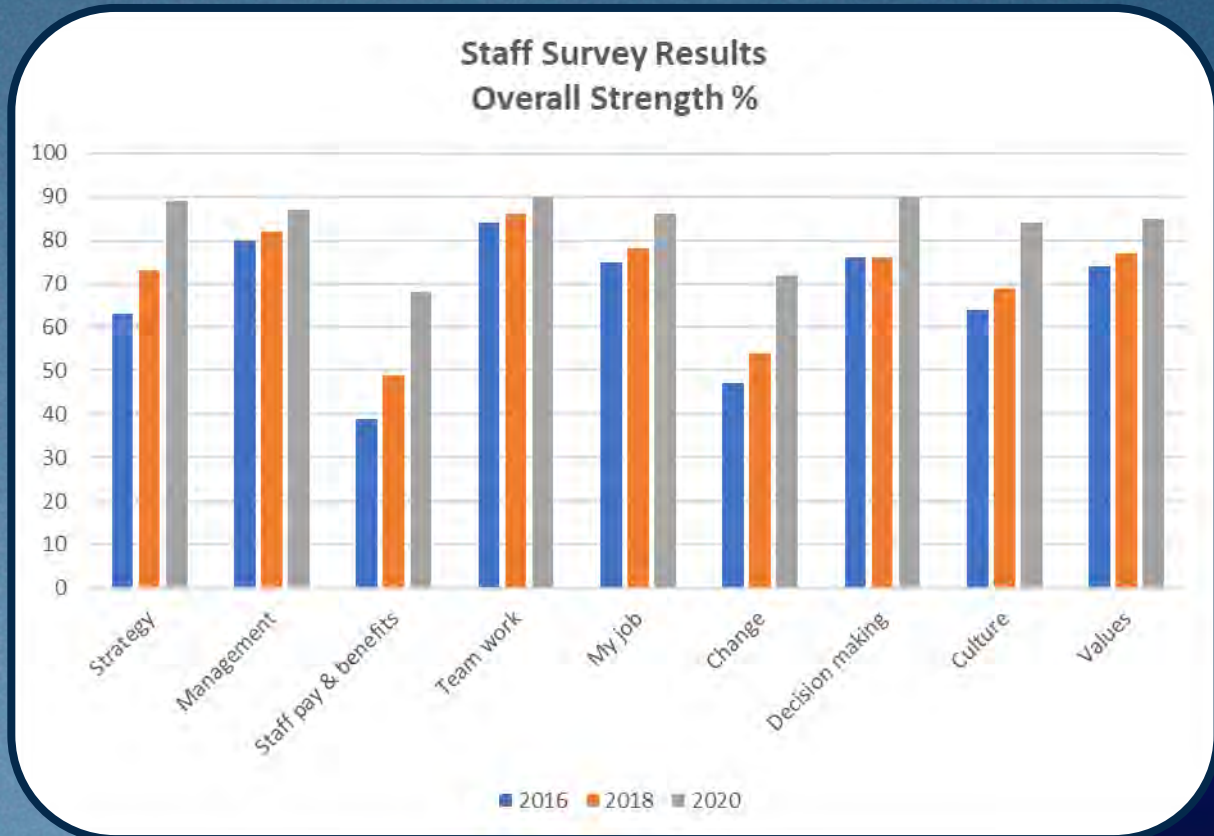
"I was also very interested to hear more about the school's relationship with the Deeley Group and visit the Martin Curtin Room, an area which is of huge importance to Saint Patrick's."

"It's clear that the school and the company have a very strong sense of community spirit which was excellent to see."

STAFF REPORT IMPROVING MORALE AND WELLBEING

The Romero Catholic
Academy celebrating rapid
improvement since
launching our staff survey
in 2016





The Romero Catholic Academy's rapid improvement across all departments, since being established in 2015 are a cause for celebration.

We are proud to announce the latest staff survey results which demonstrate just how far we have come in five years.

We launched staff survey's in 2016 and have held them again at the end of 2018 and 2020. Employees share their views on the Academy's strategy, how satisfied they are with management, staff and pay benefits, their role, teamwork, a change, decision making, culture and values.

Despite the latest survey being held during the Covid-19 pandemic, it highlighted improvements across the board,

including some significant positive changes.

This includes staff believing that their work is valued by their line manager, with almost 92 per cent of employees agreeing or strongly agreeing with this compared with 83 per cent in 2016, and that their wellbeing is considered in the workplace, with almost 83 per cent agreeing or strongly agreeing compared with 68 per cent in 2016.

Almost 90 per cent of staff surveyed also said they would recommend the Academy as a good place to work compared with 69 per cent in 2016.

Patrick Taggart, Director of Operations at the Academy, said: **"We survey nine different areas of the Academy. The**

graph above shows that we have been consistently improving our scores. The HR department work closely with the schools to feedback the results and develop action plans for us to continue this improvement in advance of the next survey in 2022."

We really appreciate our staff giving us this feedback as it allows us to achieve our aim of being an Employer of Choice.



GO PARKS: ACTIVE SCHOOL CHALLENGE

go parks | SCHOOL GAMES

Go Parks: Active Schools Challenge

Starley Leader Board

	School	Points
1	Good Shepherd	21435
2	St. John Vianney	18854
3	St. Patrick's	17113
4	Longford Park	17106
5	St. Gregory's	13583

@SGOCcoventryWest @SGOCcoventryEast
 @coventrysport @coventrysport
www.go-cv.co.uk/go-parks

Go Parks: Active Schools Challenge

Godiva Leader Board

	School	Points
1	Ernesford Grange Primary	23570
2	Coundon	19439
3	Sacred Heart	17699
4	St. Christopher	10720
5	Richard Lee	7350

@SGOCcoventryWest @SGOCcoventryEast
 @coventrysport @coventrysport
www.go-cv.co.uk/go-parks

The Go Parks: Active Schools Challenge has now finished after four weeks of challenges, family fun and competition.

Almost 29,000 entries were made by scanning the Go Parks QR code in participating parks which made a huge total of 384,905 points earned by schools in Coventry.

Over 100 schools took part in the challenge, with five categories representing schools by their on-roll numbers.

All prizes go towards maintaining the school children's mental and physical wellbeing. An additional prize for the most active and encouraging social media presence has also been awarded to Saint Patrick's school.

41 parks across the city hosted a QR code banner or poster for residents to enter and vote; all wards were covered allowing the challenge to be safe, yet fun way

for all households in Coventry to get active while adhering to local guidelines.

Cllr Kamran Caan, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport, said: **"The Go Parks: Active Schools Challenge has been a massive success. Almost 29,000 entries demonstrates the enthusiasm Coventry residents had for the challenge.**

"It has been amazing to see so many children of all fitness levels and abilities in the city get so excited about the challenge, supporting their school and of course being able to get active safely during this difficult time.

"I would like to congratulate all of the winning schools on their fantastic efforts and managing to hold their positions in the leaderboards to the end. I would also like to thank every school, their staff, parents/carers and pupils for taking part in the

challenge. You have all done brilliantly."

The challenge was in partnership with Coventry School Games organisers who host sport and physical activity competitions across Coventry schools.

School Games Organiser from Coventry West, Danny Kingham, said: "We can't believe the challenge has already come to an end. The last four weeks have flown by. Now we need to remember to keep up that level of physical activity for our mental and physical health by continuing to use our daily exercise."

We are so proud of our Romero schools who took part with Good Shepherd finishing in 1st Place, Saint Patrick's in 3rd Place and Saint Gregory's in 5th place in the Starley Leaderboard and Sacred Heart finishing 3rd place in the Godiva Leaderboard!

Well done!



**1st Place Starley Leaderboard
CONGRATULATIONS Good Shepherd!**



**3rd Place Godiva Leaderboard
CONGRATULATIONS Sacred Heart!**

**3rd Place Starley Leaderboard
CONGRATULATIONS Saint Patrick's!**



**5th Place Starley Leaderboard
CONGRATULATIONS Saint Gregory's!**





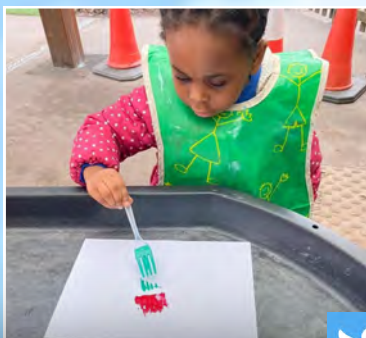
Corpus Christi
@Corpusprimary_Mar5

Mr Clark and Mr Byrne did a live Wake Up and Shake Up this morning!



18

Social Media



Sacred Heart

@SacredHeartCov_Mar19

Nursery have had a wonderful week learning about spring. We have enjoyed lots of different activities including new stories, investigating frog life cycles, adult and baby animals and different flowers and blossoms that grow in the spring. [#romerochild](#)



Saint John Fisher
@SJF_Mar8

We were very excited to welcome back all of our pupils today! A massive thank you to Mrs Ryan for creating such a masterpiece and making people smile!



Good Shepherd
@GoodShepherdCOV_Mar5

Even more entries for "Where does Reading take you?" Well done Year 6.



SS Peter and Paul

@SSPP_Mar19

Reception celebrated the feast of Saint Joseph with a prayer time and a little treat. Saint Joseph is our class Saint and guides us in our work. Today we spoke about how we can be like Saint Joseph and look after those we love and care about.



Saint Gregory's
@StGregorysPrimary_Mar12

Year 5 have been loving Science Week and loved today's challenge! They were competing to build the strongest bridge. Amazing work Year 5!



Good Shepherd
@GoodShepherdCOV_Mar19

The children in Year 3 have been creating artwork linked to their text for this half term: The Iron Man



Saint Patrick's
@StPatricksCov_Mar12

Year 6 have started British Science week by making the first layer of their volcanoes for their experiment. Let's see how they progress later in the week! [#BSW21](#) [#RomeroChildCharter](#) [#RomeroJourney](#)





Saint Gregory's
@StGregsPrimary_Mar4

Reception enjoying World Book day with a special world book day parade!
[#WorldBookDay](#)



Saint Patrick's
@StPatricksCov_Mar17

Happy St Patrick's Day from all the Staff and Children!
We will be enjoying these incredible cakes later
[#stpatriksday](#)
Huge thanks to Skull Duggery Desserts for these this
AMAZING DISPLAY! [#skullduggerydesserts](#)



SS Peter and Paul
@SSPP_Mar12

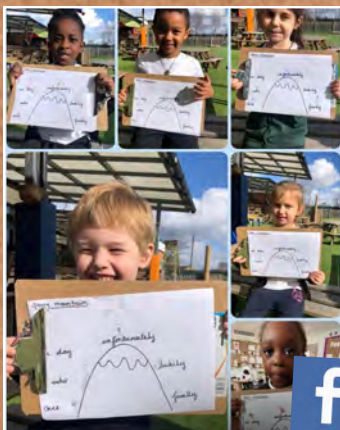
A big round of applause for our wonderful lockdown learners. Here are our stars...

They were very excited to receive a brand new book, from our amazing book vending machine!



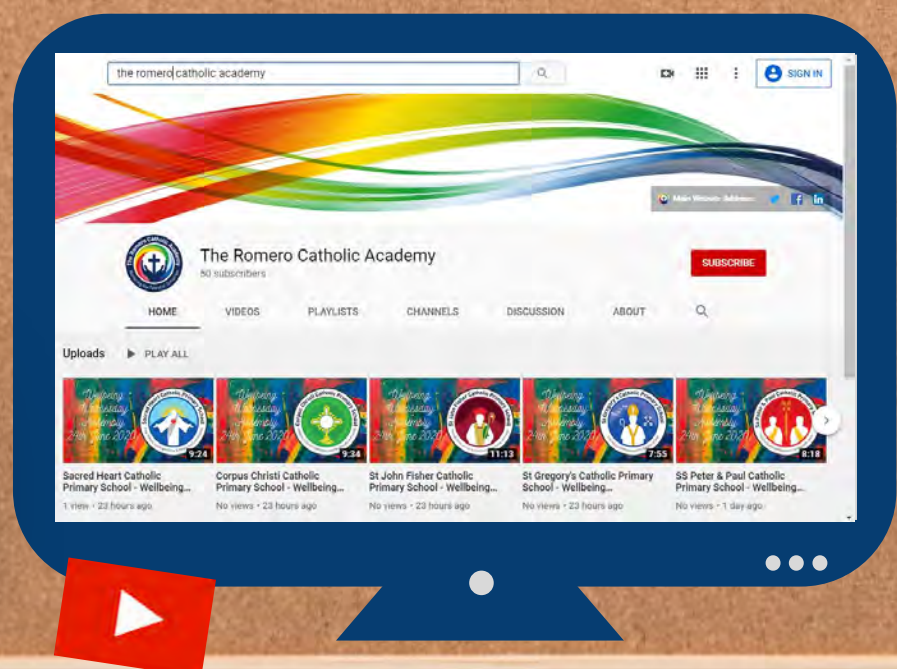
Sacred Heart
@SacredHeartCov_Mar15

Today year 3 are learning about the human skeleton!
Drawing around our bodies and labelling the different parts of our skeleton!
[#romeroexperiences](#)



Corpus Christi
@CorpusChristi_Mar12

The children in Reception became story-tellers today by creating their own story mountains to help them tell their stories





The Romero Catholic Academy

Nurturing the Talent of Tomorrow

We are a multi-academy company comprised of the following individual schools/academies:



Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School

Omnia pro Christo



Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School

Walking in Christ's footsteps, opening hearts and minds



Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School

One Fold, One Family, Walking with Christ



Ss Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School

Learning and loving on our journey with Jesus



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Pray, Reflect, Learn and Grow to Mirror the Love of Jesus



St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

Learning and Growing in the Service of God



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

With Jesus we love, grow and succeed



St John Fisher Catholic Primary School

To live, love and learn, in our caring community



Blue Sky

Teaching School Alliance