



# Christ The King CVA Newsletter

*"I am the resurrection,  
and the life: he that  
believeth in me, though  
he were dead, yet shall he  
live"*

*John 11:25*

## Spring Term 2020

[www.christtheking.notts.sch.uk](http://www.christtheking.notts.sch.uk)



Dear parents and carers

We have come to the end of the Spring term and more than ever we feel the need to thank you for the support that you have given us with your child's education. We have all entered into a period of change where we are trying our best to adapt to new ways of working so that our students continue to make progress. We appreciate the fact that so many of you are having to balance your own work with supporting your children with their distance learning.

We want to acknowledge the significant impact that the current school closure is having on all of our students and staff and to thank them all for their hard work and commitment to ensuring that learning remains a priority. We continue to support your child's spiritual and emotional well-being through their tutor team on Microsoft Teams. Here they have access to our daily prayers and reflections and to information about how to support their emotional well-being during this time. Please encourage them to make use of all of the support that we are offering them through Microsoft Teams.

We will continue to communicate with you through the school website and through our School Comms app – School Gateway. Please make sure if you haven't already installed this on your phones that you do, as it is the most effective way for us to communicate with you. If you do have any concerns or need any additional support then please contact your child's tutor, our school chaplain or the school office and we will do all we can to help and support you and your child through these challenging times.

Finally, we hope you have all had a very happy and Holy Easter.

Please do all that you can to stay safe.

***Carlo Cuomo and Jo Love.***

***Executive Headteacher and Head of School***



## **Easter Message**

What a peculiar time we find ourselves in! Can I firstly, take this opportunity to say thank you to all of the key-workers that are currently still working during the pandemic crisis that we find ourselves in. Many of them are parents of students at Christ the King and what you do, not just for your children but for the nation, is incredible and we say thank you to you.

This is the first time I have had to give an Easter message without having been to Church. Usually, my Holy Week consists of being at Church from Wednesday until Sunday; opening the church, setting up for the Holy Week liturgies, altar serving, and making sure everything runs smoothly. I did none of that this Easter. But what I did do was stop, reflect and pray. I did not just attend, I did not just read and say and sing without thinking. I prayed.

And through prayer, the Easter Triduum was, still, as it always has been.  
We, still, were able to be given the example of service on Maundy Thursday.  
We, still, were able to hang our brokenness on the cross with Jesus on Good Friday.  
We, still, were able to wait in prayer on Holy Saturday.  
And we, still, were able to have our brokenness healed through the love of Jesus on Easter Sunday.

Easter was still the same! Even though the surroundings of how it happened were completely different to how it usually is! And that is because I stopped, I reflected, and I prayed. In a world where all we do is hear what is being said, read about what is going on and say what our reaction to this is – when and where are we letting God in? I would say it is because, although our bodies may be stopping, our minds are not. Although our eyes are reading, our souls are not. And although our mouth is speaking, our hearts are not.

I would implore that you all, during these uncertain times, stop, reflect and pray. Because it is in these moments where we find God, and then we can start the process of healing and experience love. A friend once said to me, when the Church is persecuted, rejected or in hiding, that is when saints are made, and saints are not made on their own. At this time when we feel persecuted, rejected or in hiding, let us work together on our journey to Heaven, and ultimately, to be a servant of God, by showing love, care and kindness to those around us.

Stay safe, be kind to yourselves and keep your hearts, minds and souls open to the voice of God speaking to you.

**#CTKCARESSTAYHOME**  
**#CTKCARESPROTECTTHENHS**  
**#CTKCARESSAVELIVES**

Joe McCay  
Lay Chaplain



## **YEAR 8 BRIARS**

In January, we took 50 Year 8 students to our Diocesan Retreat Centre in the Derbyshire countryside called The Briars. It is a wonderful opportunity for our students to deepen their faith and for personal development to take place. The impact it had on our students was massive and it helped them to take a step back and have a new outlook and approach on life. It also gave them a chance to support each other and build a stronger sense of community through our faith in Jesus Christ.

As always, the activities undertaken were a lot of fun! The Apprentice, The Masked Singer, artwork, sports and vlogging were all part of our weeklong adventure. However, each of the activities had a deeper meaning which helped them to stop and reflect. During The Apprentice, they had to create a business idea which would help the environment; The Masked Singer involved them making a Saint and picking a song that best described how that Saint lived out their lives; during the arts, sports and vlogging, the emphasis on the choices that we make and why we make them was key before they had to settle on a choice.

Having had the opportunity to take part in physical activities, we then took time to stop and reflect on the choices we make as individuals, and as a community. We had a reconciliation evening where the students got the opportunity to reflect on the choices they have made and ask God for His forgiveness. This was a very emotional night as the students then realised that they were not on an outdoor activity residential, they had come on a retreat to experience God's love and forgiveness and to strengthen that relationship with Him.

The physical activity was not done there though! A walk in the countryside followed by Mass and a disco wrapped up the final night, really emphasising the community feel among the group.

The students had enjoyed themselves. They had fun, enjoyed sports, played games, but the Briars is so much more than that. The students were able to stop, to reflect, to build, to smile, to cry, to laugh, to dance and to be themselves. And that is the beauty of this trip, it revitalises the students and they take that into their daily lives on return to school.



## LOURDES FUNDRAISING DAY

Although the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes has been postponed, that did not stop our students fundraising and helping others right up until this news! On the 13<sup>th</sup> February, our Sixth Form students going to Lourdes planned, organised and then delivered a full day of fundraising focused on being able to "Spread the love of Our Lady of Lourdes".

With the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on the 11<sup>th</sup> February, and Valentine's Day on the 14<sup>th</sup> February, the Sixth Formers combined the two. A lot of hard work was put into the day, designing Valentine's Day cards, selling roses, hot chocolates, homemade cakes, sweet packs and raffle tickets. The day was full of fun, laughter and joy. In the afternoon, the Sixth Formers who had worked so hard all day, then went around the school delivering the Valentine's Day cards along with any of the additional treats on offer.

Although they are not going to Lourdes this year, the aim to "Spread the love of Our Lady of Lourdes" was there for all to see. Our school was laughing, celebrating and sharing the love of God with all they met and our mission of #CTKCARES was lived out by all that day.

**#CTKCARESLOVE**





# Geography News

Inspired by Covid-19 maps from citizens in lockdown around the world as well as our own experiences in the current climate we have encouraged students to create their own maps of their environment shaped by lockdown. Staying local gives us a new found appreciation for where we are from and students have expressed this in a multitude of ways. Some have done before and after maps, highlighting new commutes around the house to work and school, others have linked the locations of lockdown such as local parks with the key objects of lockdown like laptops and sofas to demonstrate the key routes of their day to day life.

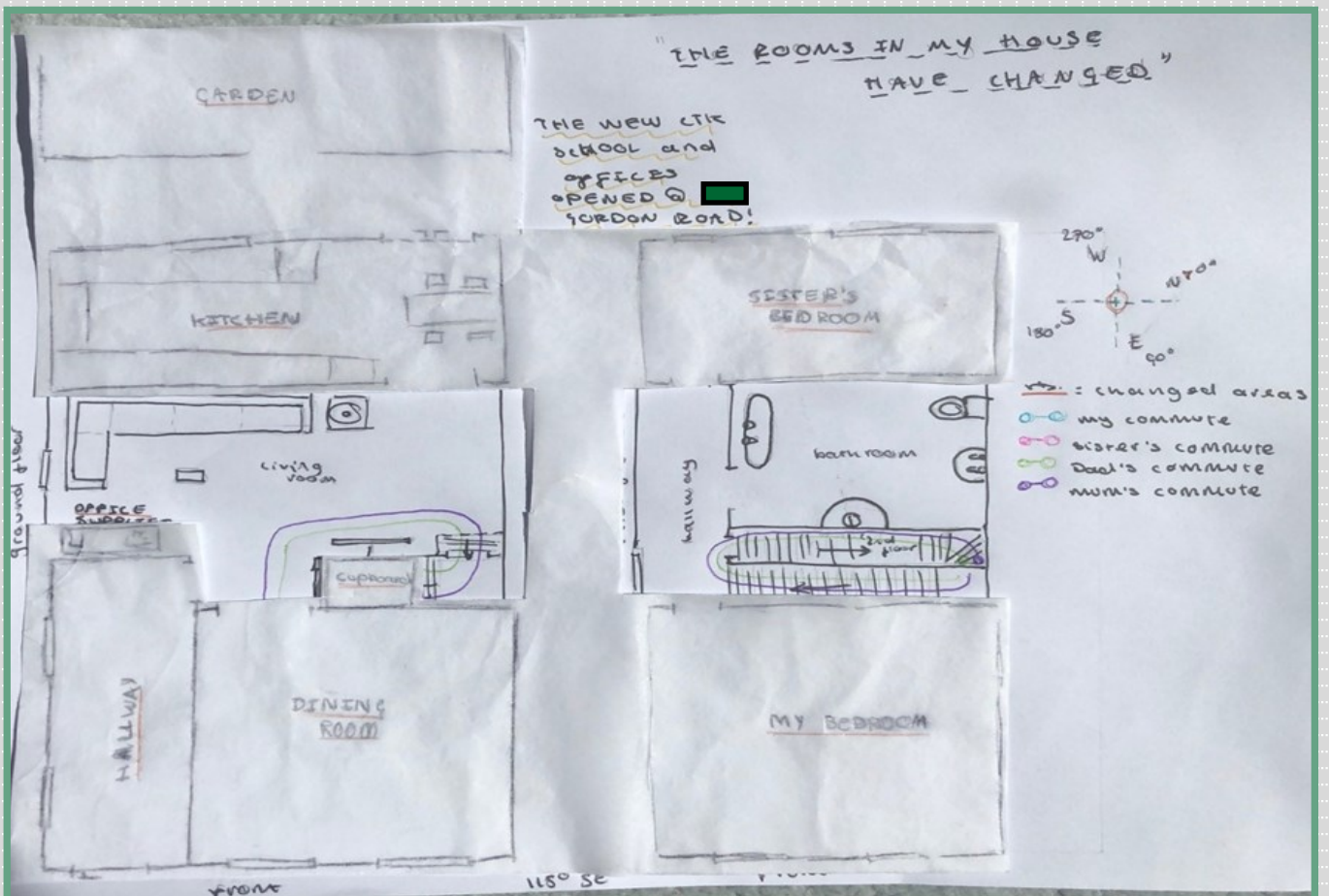
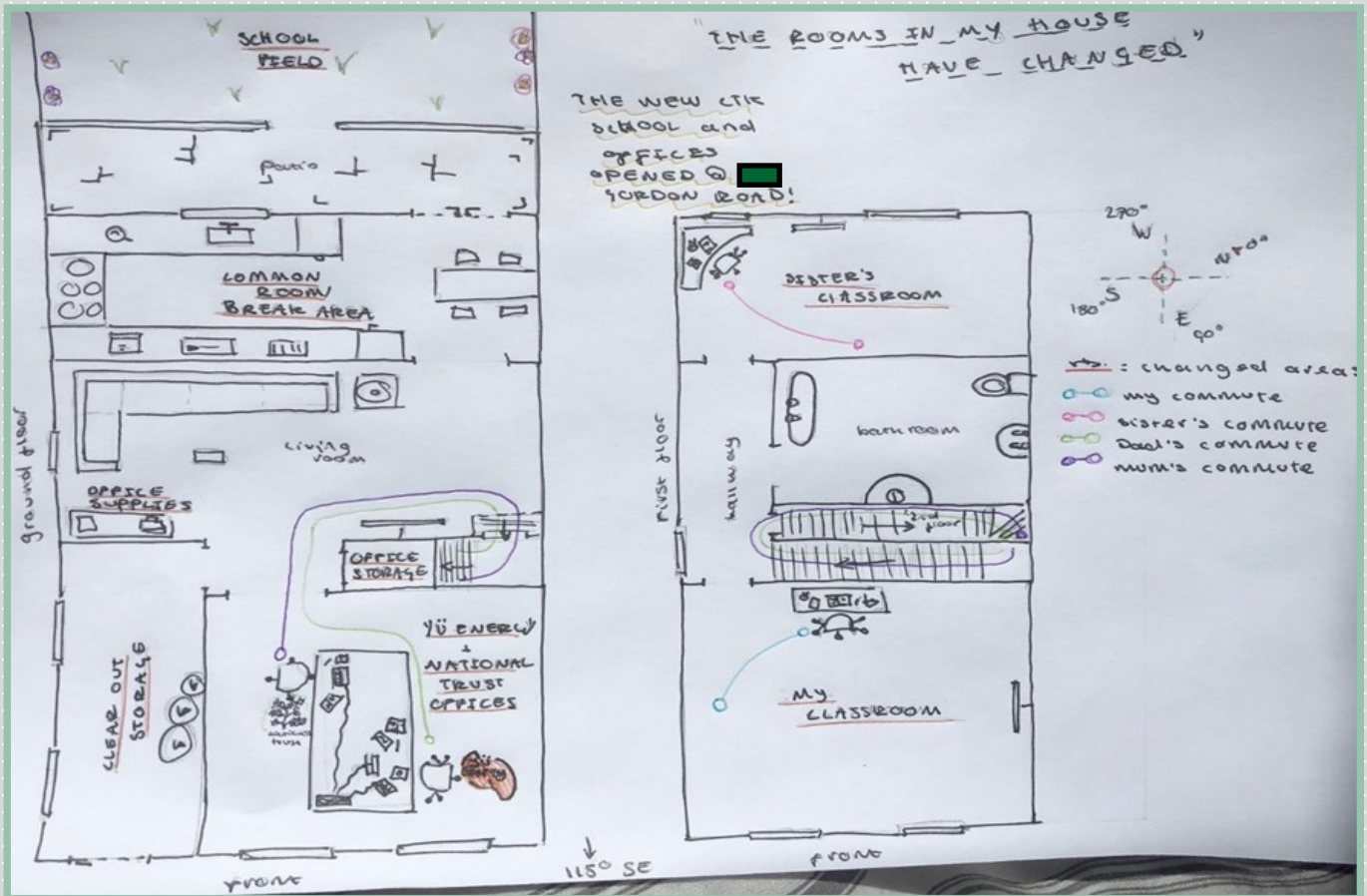
*If you would like to have a go please send in yours to Mr Lightfoot and Mr Hudson – we plan to award some suitable prizes when school returns in the future.*

Stay Safe!





# ..... Geography News



## **STUDENTS TO STAFF - #CTKCARES**

Many of you that have been to Christ the King school will talk of the vibe that you get. You mention the feeling that you get when you walk through the school. That is not from the building or the equipment, that is from the people. As staff, we aim to live out our mission of #CTKCARES – Community, Achieve, Respect, Encounter. And we teach this to the students, and they are challenged on a daily basis to live this out.

During these uncertain times, our students showed how incredible they are with a video that they produced for the staff, showing that they #CTKCARE about us as much as we care about them. A particular mention to Holly Barnett, Jessica Byrne and Hisam Tariq who organised this video. Thank you from all the staff at Christ the King – we miss you and hope you are staying safe and being kind to yourself!

**#CTKCARESALWAYS**

**#CTKCARES ALWAYS** ❤️

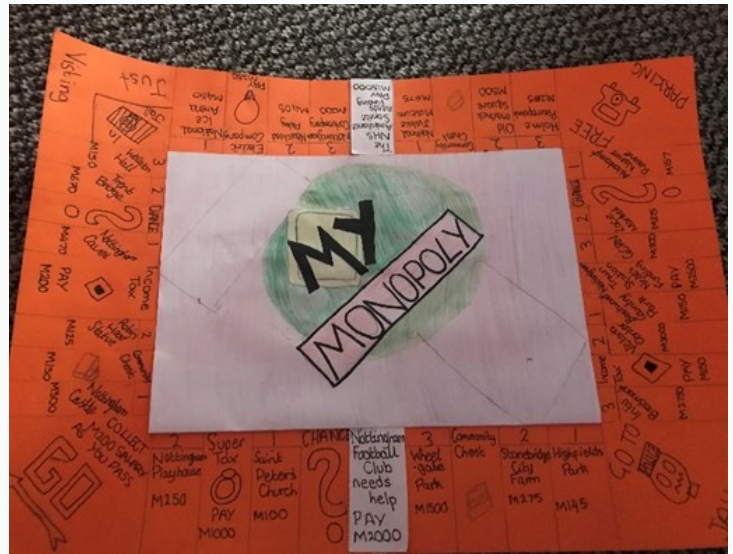




# Nottingham Monopoly – Year 8 Geography

**Year 8 Geographers have recently been developing their knowledge of the local area through the geography unit on Nottingham.** They began by identifying and researching landmarks around the city. Over the Easter break, they produced a Nottingham themed Monopoly board. The extremely high levels of creativity that these year 8 students demonstrated was impressive, especially in these unusual times. We hope this has enhanced their local place knowledge, as many will continue to learn more about Nottingham during their GCSE course next year; studying urban areas and conducting re-branding fieldwork in the city.

Mr Hudson





# Proud moment for Imogen!

Huge congratulations to our talented Year 10 student, Imogen Jones, who managed to attain the highest mark in her recent IDTA 4th Star ballroom dance exam, achieving an amazing **94%**; and as a result she is the current recipient of the *Mavis Gillespie Shield*, from the Gillespie School of Dancing!

The Shield is awarded to the pupil who achieves the highest overall mark in the school for Latin or Ballroom dance.

Imogen also achieved 91% in her 3rd President Latin dance exam, and 92% in her 1st International freestyle exam.



A very happy Imogen proudly holds the Mavis Gillespie shield.



## YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK... ...not long now!

The compulsory Work Experience Week (WEW) for all year ten students starts on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

A number of students have already arranged and confirmed their placement.

However, too many students are leaving things very late and a few have done nothing about finding a placement which is very unwise. For students, doing nothing or saying they don't know what to do is not an option.

The closing date for notifying school of placements is Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, giving the Safety Measures organisation sufficient time to check the health and safety procedures and insurance policy for all the employers used by students. Any time after this IS TOO LATE!

Over the Easter holidays students without a placement must get one sorted-out.

They can:

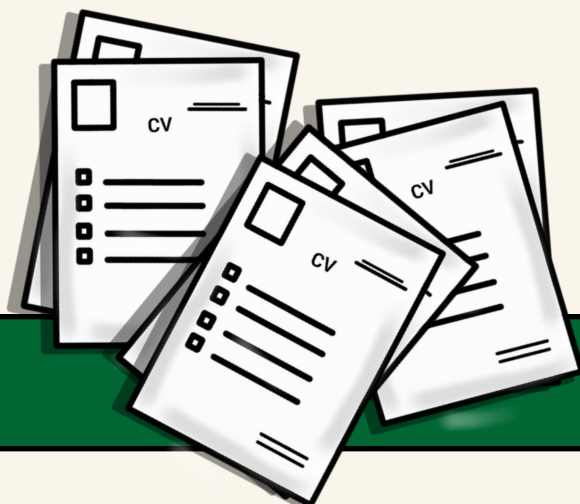
- Use the "Safety Measures" website which has a large number of potential placement opportunities for students to investigate
- Ask parents or carers if their workplace can offer a placement
- Ask relatives, friends or neighbours if they or their workplace can provide a placement
- Go into shops, businesses, firms in person to ask face-to-face if a placement might be offered

It is essential students contact a number of employers rather than relying on just one – and don't assume that because an employer has yet to reply to an email enquiry that they may still be considering it. Our experience shows that many employers simply don't reply to email enquiries about placements. No news is bad news!

The twice-weekly "clinics" run by Miss Southgate and I in room E5 (at lunchtime each Tuesday and Thursday) have been sparsely attended but we both remain very keen to offer support and advice. Please come along and get some help if you need it.

Much more positively, ten of our year 10 students will be participating in a WEW camp run by the Army in late June. This is the only WEW organised by any of our armed forces and participation on it will be a real bonus for the lucky ten!

Mr S J Pringle  
Work-related Learning Manager



# Bringing the past to life



**Year 8 students took part in our World War themed activities on February 5<sup>th</sup>** to further their understanding of this event which shaped our world today. Working with the History department students engaged in a range of activities including designing a war memorial, drama on life in the trenches and mapping the origin of soldiers who fought in this conflict. Students were invited to reflect on their faith through the themes of salvation, hope and remembrance and given time to research information about those who lost their lives whom they may have a link to via the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

<https://www.cwgc.org/>



The highlight of the day was the visit of Jason King, an expert in the conflict with an extensive collection of artefacts which students can engage with. Our young people were able to dress in uniforms, handle weapons, shrapnel and the kit of soldiers as part of an extended interactive workshop. Jason brings the period to life and the students engaged fantastically well with this and all other activities during the day as you can see in the images with this article.

**Thank you to Year 8 and all the staff who supported this event to make it such an excellent day for all involved.**



## LENT



### ASH WEDNESDAY

On Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, our students had the opportunity to attend Mass and receive ashes. Canon Philipp Ziomek, from Good Shepherd Catholic Church, kindly came and celebrated Mass for us before school where students were also invited. With the ash that Canon Philipp used, our chaplains then went around the school into lessons to distribute the ashes to the whole school.

Many get confused about what the ashes represent and what Ash Wednesday is all about. And it is basically God saying these three things to us:

*"I love you"*

*"I call you"*

*"Get on with it"*

What does that mean or have to do with Ash Wednesday? Ash Wednesday is a day where we publicly admit that we fall to worldly desires and are trying our best not to sin again. But it starts with us recognising that God loves us, no matter what. We can trip, we can fall, we can make mistakes, but God still loves us. So, the ashes are also a sign that you are accepting God's love. And by wearing them, we are saying that we are ready to leave worldly desires behind and follow God. That is the calling. The rest is up to us. God doesn't force us, He shows us. I think it is fair to say, our students show God's love to one another, follow Him, and show this by living out our mission or #CTKCARES.

### **#CTKCARES ASHWEDNESDAY**



### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

During Lent, it is a time where we focus more on Godly things rather than the things of the world. One of those things that God gives us always is His forgiveness. It is available all the time, we just need to take that leap of faith and take a step closer to Him. In order for this to be available to our students, our priests, Canon Phillip Ziomek and Father Joe Wheat, came into school and offered the Sacrament of Reconciliation all morning. Students from all year groups came and received God's forgiveness and then were able to take part in Mass which Father Joe celebrated at lunch time.

### **#CTKCARESFORGIVENESS**



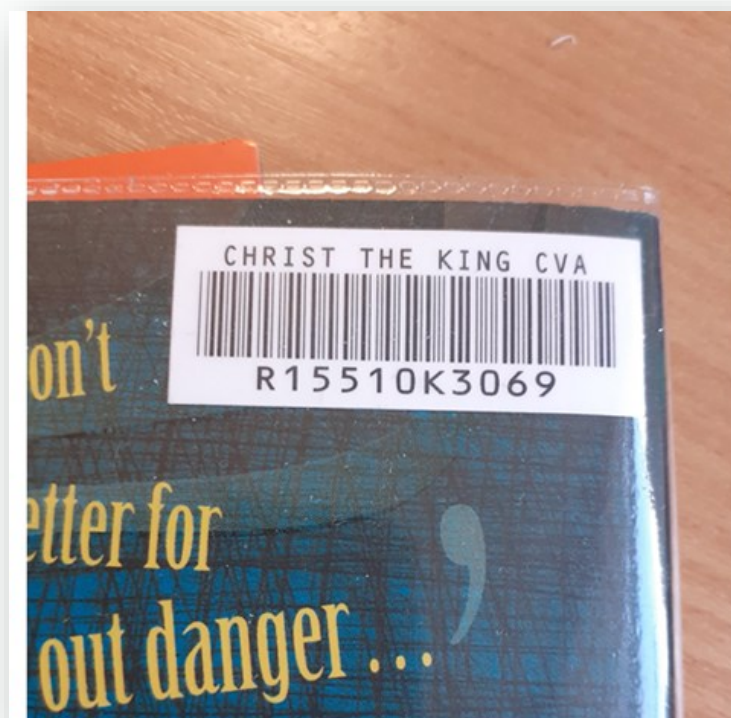
# Book Amnesty.

The recent stock take of the library has shown a deficit of over 500 books. The cost of replacing each years' losses runs into thousands of pounds, a loss that is totally avoidable.

We are asking for students, parents and carers to look around their home to see if there is one or more of our books lying around. They can be identified by the school barcode as in the picture below. The writing above the bar code will either say Christ the King School or Christ the King CVA. If you do happen to find any, regardless of condition, you can return it to the school, no questions asked.

*A weeks amnesty will begin soon—a date is to be decided*

After this time, we will be in contact with you to arrange payment for the full cost of the replacement, this may also include postage and packaging. If your child is unsure whether they have an outstanding book, please ask them to come along to the LRC so we can let them know.





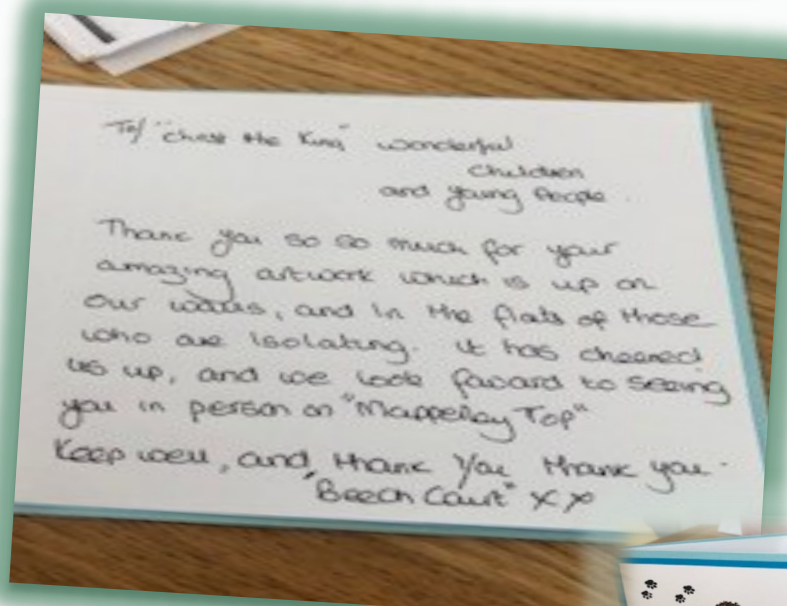
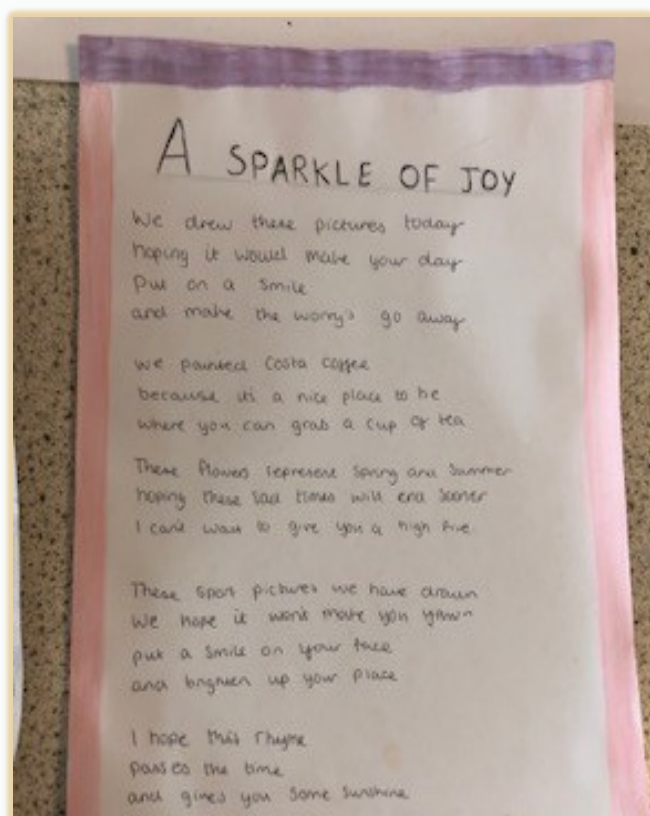
# CTK CARES



As you will be aware, Christ the King has provided care for the children of key workers over the Easter holidays. It was necessary for a number of our students to attend our academy during the two-week Easter break and many of our staff team volunteered to care for them during this time.

Some of these students really lived out our #CTKCARES motto and despite their own concerns for loved ones working on the frontline of the Coronavirus pandemic, painted a selection of beautiful pieces of artwork to brighten up the home of 54 elderly residents living in Mapperley. The paintings, and an accompanying poem which they composed to send their encouragements to the residents, are being displayed in the corridors of the building so that the vulnerable residents being shielded there have something uplifting to look at, despite being isolated from their loved ones. The residents have shown their appreciation by sending the students a card thanking them for 'cheering them up'.

I am sure that you will agree that the courage of these young people is quite remarkable and genuinely heart-warming in times such as these; a reminder that we are all in this together. **#CTKCARES - Miss Southgate**



Above and right- the lovely handmade card that Beech Court sent with warmest thanks



#CTKCARES ALWAYS ❤️



More wonderful artwork sent by  
our students to all the residents  
at Beech Court

