

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of the first half term I would like to thank you all.

Thank you for...

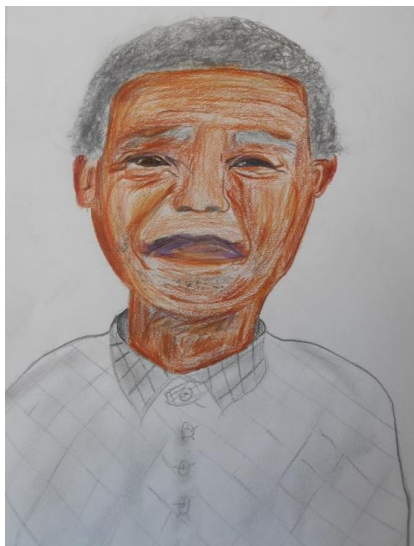
- ...patiently queuing (often in the rain)
- ...following the guidelines and sticking to the COVID rules, in order to keep us all safe
- ...your generous donations of soap, hand towels, sanitiser and financial gifts
- ...your patience when there were a few technical hitches with the parent/teacher meetings
- ...your amazing commitment to the school, and for supporting all of the HOTS' initiatives
- ...your prayers for our school community
- ...your delightful children, who have bowled us over with the way they have coped with the return to school!

I hope you all manage to have a good rest over the half term break.



Year 6 have been enjoying creating Zentangles; exploring the action of yeast in a number of different conditions; and creating their own Water Lilies' painting inspired by the impressionist, Claude Monet.





An assembly during Black History Month inspired Joseph, from Year 5, to draw this amazing portrait of Nelson Mandela.

Sumdog Competition Results

Many congratulations to 6T, who were the winners of the recent Merton Sumdog Maths' contest. Congratulations also to Holly, Nora, Leonardo, Kayra, Douglas, Tiffany, Siena, Eira, Coen and Sendan, who were the top ten contestants.

Parent/Teacher Meeting Consultation

Thank you to those who have already completed our consultation about the recent parent/teacher meetings. It is not too late to complete it – check your Parentmails for more information.

Learning Platform

Don't forget to keep checking your child's class learning platform for useful information.

Lunchboxes

Please remember that we are a healthy school – lunchboxes should not contain any sweets. Thank you.

Coats and Jumpers/Sweatshirts

Please ensure children bring their coats and jumpers/sweatshirts into school after half term. As part of our COVID measures we will continue to keep windows and doors open as much as possible, so it may be cold!

HOTS online Pumpkin Disco

Thank you so much for everyone who has bought a ticket for the HOTS virtual pumpkin disco next Friday. We have managed to raise over £1000 so far to benefit the school, and we hope we can also put on a really fun event for all the children. [You can still buy tickets and donate here](#), but the deadline to receive a party bag has now passed.

An **URGENT REMINDER** that we are looking for volunteers to help host the individual class discos. **We only need 30 minutes of your time**, and you will be provided with easy instructions including a playlist you can access and games you can run.

If we do not get a host for the following years, we may have to cancel their discos - so please do help if you can.

Nursery

Reception Robins
Year 1 Foxes
Year 1 Moles
Year 2 Badgers
Year 5/6 combined disco

Many thanks, the HOTS team.

Might you be eligible for Free School Meals and extra funding for school?

To make the application process easier school can now check eligibility on your behalf. All you need to do is email your name and National Insurance number to sbm@holytrinity.merton.sch.uk giving your consent, and we can check your eligibility and let you know.

Useful Safety Information - Pupil Safety and Dark Nights

Next Saturday night we will be setting the clocks back an hour and summer time ends. Road traffic collisions increase by 20% in the fortnight after the time change. Sadly, some of those collisions will involve child pedestrians and cyclists. Children under-16 are one of the most vulnerable groups of road users.

The latest available government statistics (2015)* show that 58% of children who die or are seriously injured in a road collision are involved in incidents between 3 and 7pm. From next Sunday, much of those will happen in darkness.

Whilst younger children are at risk, the data shows that 11 - 15 year olds are actually at more at risk from accidents that kill or result in serious injury.

The resources below will help remind children, especially teenagers, about road safety and safe cycling.

Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents <https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Safety First – Cycling at Night <https://www.cycletraining.co.uk/cycle-training-and-cycle-safety/safety-first-cycling-at-night/>

Messages from the Friends of South Park Gardens

The Friends of South Park Gardens Annual Bonfire and Fireworks event has been a stalwart of the local community for many years. However, with the ongoing situation with Covid-19, this event was cancelled. The Trustees of The Friends of South Park Gardens join you in the disappointment of not being able to hold our annual fireworks event this year.

This year we thought we would have a Fireworks display, with a difference.

We are calling on younger members of our community and any older budding artists, in hiding or otherwise, to draw pictures of fireworks to give the Garden Pavilion windows a seasonal display.

Can we please ask you to paint/draw a colourful picture of fireworks for us to display both in the garden pavilion and on our website? Use paints, felt tips, pencils, crayons or chalks on any paper but please no bigger than A4 so we can display as many as we can.

Please include your full name and age on the back of your picture.

Pictures may be handed in to Chris at the kiosk, Bliss in the Park.

We look forward to seeing your creations.

The Fireworks is our biggest fundraising event and with other events also cancelled, we have been unable to raise any funds this year. If you would like to make a donation to Friends of South Park Gardens, please do. You can send donations via PayPal or directly to our bank account. Any contribution is welcomed, and we thank you in advance.

FSPG Trustees
Friends of South Park Gardens (FSPG)
registered charity number: 1162459

Key Dates for 2020-2021

Autumn Term 2020

Thursday 3rd September - Fri 18th December 2020

NB Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September INSET days so **children start on Monday 7th September**

Half term Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2020

Spring Term 2021

Monday 4th January – Thursday 1st April 2021

NB Monday 4th January 2021 INSET day so **children start on Tuesday 5th January 2021**

Half term Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2021

Summer Term 2021

Monday 19th April – Friday 23rd July 2021

NB Monday 7th June and Friday 23rd July INSET days

Term ends for children on 22nd July 2021

Half term Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2021

As further dates are added, these will be highlighted.

Date	Time	Event
23 rd October		Break up for half term
6 th November		Proposed new date for flu immunisations for those who have already given consent.
16 – 20 th November		Anti-bullying week
11 th December		Christmas Jumper Day – children can come to school wearing a Christmas jumper, with their school uniform on the bottom half! We will work out a COVID-friendly way to collect £1 in aid of Save the Children Fund.
18 th December	Staggered ends TBC	Break up
4 th January 2021		INSET Day
5 th January		Children start back

I hope you all have a lovely half term.

Izzy Rickards