

## **ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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*Leanne M Harris B.A. (Hons)*

Headteacher



2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents,

We have had another busy week in school and it is a delight to see the children back into a great routine and working hard to produce excellent work. Thank you for supporting your child by hearing them read and completing homework with them. I have learnt over the years how much children need routines in place and actually thrive from them. Thank you for your support to ensure your child has excellent attendance, a good night's sleep and modelling the importance of smart school uniform.

### **This Week in Class**

Year 5 have been writing stories based on the book 'Around the World in 80 Days'. They were telling me yesterday that they could choose where their characters travelled to in their own versions. I wish there had been such interesting challenges when I was at school.

Year 4 have been writing biographies of Charles Dickens which will lead into their text 'Oliver Twist'.

Year 1 were doing some excellent phonic sessions this week and then breaking bigger numbers up into smaller parts.

EYFS are really beginning to eat their lunches well in the dining hall and how to choose their learning in a sensible way.

### **Grandparents Morning – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October**

Very sadly, we will not be able to hold our annual invitation to grandparents to come into school to spend some quality time with their grandchildren as in previous years.

However, we will be uploading some things for grandparents to see through E-schools. Please keep a look out for these to help make this still feel like a special day.

### **Pupil, Parent Champions**

Thank you so much for the support we have received for this new forum. We now have a representative for each year group which is wonderful. As arranged, I will meet with you on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30pm at the front of the school. Please wear a mask and we will meet, socially distanced, to discuss plans from the children about various projects. I look forward to working with you all and I promise this will really help to move the school forward for the sake of our wonderful children. I would really appreciate it if you could email me to confirm you can attend.

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### **Catch-up Groups**

You will have received a letter on Monday from your child's class teacher if they have been selected for the first catch-up groups. Please check carefully the days and times these are taking place. The groups will start promptly and finish on time. Consent forms must be signed and handed back to the teacher, before your child can start. If your child is in an after school group, please provide them with a healthy snack.

### **Remote Learning**

We have now completed a contingency plan in the case of a bubble self-isolating or part closure of the school. More details about this will follow next week.

### **Behaviour Challenge**

I am incredibly proud of the way our children conduct themselves in school and prior to lockdown, any time they left the site for trips. Over the years, external visitors have written to praise the manners and good behaviour of our pupils. As the first educators of the children, they are a credit to you all and we continue these high expectations at school. I often say to the children that how you treat others and conduct yourself is more important than anything else. I feel strongly that relationships are key to success.

On this note, I would like to ask for your support. I am asking all of the children and staff to say good morning and good afternoon to one another and address the person by their name where possible. So many of the children are really taking this on board and yesterday a parent from Reception class, stopped to help her child to say good morning Mrs Murphy. It was wonderful to see this early support for a child.

### **October - The Month of the Rosary**

The staff have been brainstorming activities to do with the children to reflect the importance of this month in our Catholic schools. Each class will be timetabled to say a decade of the rosary at our prayer and reflection area throughout the month. Please take a small bit of time over the weekend to watch the clips below and discuss and look at a rosary with your child.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GuT7HI7ZvfA> (Suitable for KS2)

### **School Lunches**

After half term hot lunches will be available for the children which KS2 classes will eat in the hall. The new menu will be available to view on the website and SCOPAY very soon. Please ensure you order meals as much in advance as possible as the catering staff need accurate numbers to order the food. If feasible we ask for meal choices to be selected at least two weeks in advance.

Meals should be ordered before Friday 12 noon for the following week. If you have not ordered by this time you will have to provide a packed lunch for your child as the kitchen will not be able to accommodate extra numbers.

## **Well-Being**

Mrs Rainbow has prepared some well-being presentations which are available on E-schools.

## **Mask Wearing – Overall Safety**

I continue to thank you for wearing face coverings on the school grounds. We can all see the number of cases rising and I want to ensure that we are all doing everything we possibly can. I did notice this week a few less masks being worn and I must urge you to wear them, socially distance and move off the school grounds as quickly as possible. The different exits are to try to spread people out as much as possible so please do not ask us to allow your child out of another gate. There must be the same rules for everyone.

I was also shocked yesterday to hear that a few parents have been sitting on staff cars at the end of the school day. Please refrain from doing this.

## **Collection Arrangements**

If you are unable to collect your child for various reasons please phone any alternative arrangements through to the office by lunchtime.

## **Parking**

Just to remind you there is no parking available in the school grounds. There was a recent incident where a parent was rude to a member of staff which is not acceptable.

## **Open Mornings**

Open Mornings for new pupils will be virtual this year via Zoom and will take place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30 and 1.30. Log-in details will be emailed on the day to those who have registered an interest.

## **Communication**

Any questions you have regarding your child should go to the class teacher in the first instance. After that it will either be Mrs Rainbow for KS2 pupils or Miss Bisset for KS1 pupils. The staff can be contacted during the day via email and will always get back to you at the earliest opportunity.

I am always happy to support you all - where we work together, we can meet with success.

I spoke to the staff at the start of the term about how teaching is a vocation and how we are all asked on a daily basis to serve one another. I talk a lot about service to the staff and children regularly. We also looked at this painting of Christ washing the feet of the disciples (see below) which I think sends a powerful message about the importance of service. We gladly serve one another as a team and feel privileged to serve this school community.

I wish you all a lovely and healthy weekend. I also want to reiterate my thanks to you all for working with us, together we are stronger and more successful for these wonderful children in our care.

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by Siegar Koder

God Bless,

Mrs H Murphy  
Acting Head Teacher



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