

ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

FREE PRAE ROAD, CHERTSEY, SURREY KT16 8ET

Tel: 01932 562251 / 562366

e-mail: office@stannes-chertsey.surrey.sch.uk

www.stannescps.eschools.co.uk

Leanne M Harris B.A. (Hons)

Headteacher



14th December 2020

Dear Parents,

As we begin the final week of what has possibly been one of the most unusual and tough terms for the whole community, I want to reflect on all the positives that have come out of this time. I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to so many people and groups within the St. Anne's family.

You, the parents

As I always say, we could not be successful for the children if we do not have a positive partnership with parents and I cannot thank you all enough for everything you have done. Your support and commitment to the school has allowed me to lead, with a superb group of people, and really focus on the main job of supporting the children.

For our Reception parents and particularly new families to the school, this will have undoubtedly been an uncertain time for you. It is unfortunate that you have not been able to come into school as much as we would have allowed historically and your concerns and anxieties regarding how your child has settled in and about what St. Anne's is like. Knowing that the team is led by Mrs Lewthwaite and Miss Gullick who are both outstanding practitioners with our early years children and seeing the staff in the playground daily has hopefully put your minds at ease.

The Reception children walk into school with smiles on their faces and are in a great routine which is wonderful to witness. Many days, we have to tell them to slow down as they run in to school! As a parent myself, I couldn't ask for more than to see my child so keen to come into school.

I am so grateful to you for reading all the correspondence, evidenced by the majority of parents, following requests to keep us as safe as possible.

I appreciate as the first educators of your child, the contributions in supporting learning by ensuring you read regularly with your child, teaching them nice manners and a good moral compass for discerning right and wrong. You have seen the importance of the catch-up groups and ensured your children are attending. We cannot make maximum progress if there is not support from home too.

The Staff

I am sure you would like to join me in thanking the staff for all their hard work and commitment. They will never ask for thanks as they know this is their job, but I think they deserve a pat on the back for getting through this term especially and doing an outstanding job to not let Covid lower expectations for the children.

For further information on the way we use your data, please see the Xavier Catholic Education Trust Privacy Notice. This can be found on the Xavier Catholic Education Trust website in the About section under the list of Central Policies and Financial statements.

I know that a few nice words from a parent means the world to staff and it is these words that they cherish so if you have 5 minutes, please do take the time to write this down. I know it will be appreciated immensely.

I can honestly say, that in the 5 different schools I have taught in, I have never worked with such a committed and hardworking set of people. They always go the extra mile, not to be thanked but because they want to do it. They arrive from 7.00 am in the morning and we often have to tell them to leave at 6.00! I feel blessed. A big thank you to all the teachers, support staff, office staff, Marek, the Breakfast and After School Club team, Chris the Lollipop Lady, all the kitchen staff and cleaners.

The Children (please read to your child)

I don't know where to start! You are an incredible group of children. You have worked so hard this term, made super progress and given every effort to be the best you can be, not only with your work but as individuals. You are polite, well-mannered, kind, thoughtful and friendly children. I am so proud of every single one of you and you deserve this Christmas holiday to relax and have lots of fun! You have shown the adults around you that change isn't always a bad thing and you are now used to all our new routines with little fuss. We can all learn from you.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and look forward to some even better achievements in January.

Whole School Achievements

1. All children have settled back into school very well as if nothing has happened.
2. Handwriting has improved across the school and the profile of it has increased (please see winners in our newsletter).
3. The contributions for our Harvest Festival were phenomenal and will have made a difference to so many families.
4. The creation of Pupil, Parent Champions who have begun fund raising and created the Winter Wonderland which has been a huge hit for the children.

What else has been going on?

- All children made cards for the homeless.
- Year 3 have made cards for the residential home for the elderly and Year 6 wrote letters.
- Pupils are being elected for school council to begin in January.
- Classes have been visiting the Nativity scene in the prayer garden.
- KS2 classes have taken part in Reconciliation services in class.
- Every class continue to take part in Well-Being Wednesday activities and then an assembly to reinforce this with Mrs Rainbow.
- A Welcome Assembly for all Reception children who were presented with a heart badge to remind them of our mission statement that they are all loved.
- A Christmas surprise was made for the children. We are working behind the scenes with technology to get it onto E-schools so parents can see it too!
- Classes have been uploading wonderful Christmas assemblies.

The Governors

I would like to thank all the Governors for their continued commitment to the school and to me personally. I would particularly like to thank Lyn Derrington, our Chair of Governors, who has been a constant support and being an ex-Headteacher herself, has been invaluable in sharing her knowledge and experience.

We have a busy and fun final week to this term.

Reminders for this final week:

- There will be some singing daily at 2.45 pm from KS2 classes. Please join in to make this a community sing along!
- Christmas jumpers on Wednesday for Christmas lunch. School uniform to be worn as normal please with just the addition of the jumper.
- Friday - Christmas dress up day as in previous years. I will judge via Zoom the best class dress up which includes the staff!
- Home time on Friday will be: 12.05 pm for EYFS & KS1 and 12.15 pm for KS2.

Final Words

I feel absolutely privileged to have had the opportunity to 'step up' as Acting Head Teacher since April. It was a huge learning curve but one that I can honestly say I have truly loved. I would never have thought that I would be saying this but it has been a wonderful experience. When people have asked me, why I have enjoyed it so much, my answer is because of everyone's support.

The Senior Leadership Team are highly experienced and have supported me so much. Mrs Rainbow has been a tower of strength and a calming influence for me as Deputy Head and without her, I could not have done this job. The Xavier Academy have been there for me every step of the way and to be able to speak to so many experienced Head Teachers has been invaluable.

January brings the return of the wonderful Mrs Harris who is really looking forward to joining us back at St. Anne's. We are delighted that she will be returning and look forward to her leading us all again to achieve even more success.

Our mission statement is:

"It is not enough to love children, they must know that they are loved."

I feel, hand on heart, that we have lived this during this term as a collective family.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas break and hope you continue to keep well.

God Bless,



Mrs Murphy
Acting Head Teacher



For further information on the way we use your data, please see the Xavier Catholic Education Trust Privacy Notice. This can be found on the Xavier Catholic Education Trust website in the About section under the list of Central Policies and Financial statements.