



Update Friday 2nd October 2020
Head Teacher Mrs Lynne Osborne

Dear Parents and Carers,

What has happened to the weather? Autumn is most definitely upon us. However, your children (and some teachers) brightened up our week with their 'lemon loveliness' and their 'yellow youthfulness'!

Watch out for our next well-being event but, in the meantime, a couple of pictures from yesterday.



Pick up and drop off – a few more 'tweaks':

We are now five weeks into term and the children are settled into their class routines. Following this morning's successful 'soft start', we have decided to 'tweak' our morning procedures. From Monday (5/10) the school gates will be open at 08.40 and **all children** will be able to go straight to their classrooms. There will be no lining up, just a steady flow of children walking into their classrooms ready for handwashing. We expect all children to be in their classroom at 08.50 so that we can begin our day's learning. Children from Year 6 will now start and finish at the same time as other classes. Adults will always be on hand in the playground to answer any queries/allay any worries. However, if you have a particular concern or query please do contact the class teacher via the class email or email the school office.

Healthy eating:

On Monday 12th October we will recommence our hot meal service which I'm sure lots of the children will enjoy. School meals are nutritionally balanced and, as the weather turns colder, many of us like our children to have a hot meal. If your child has a home packed lunch please think about our healthy eating message – crisps, chocolate biscuits and sugary drinks are not the choices we want to promote. Thank you for your support with this.

Celebration Assembly:



Absolutely my favourite assembly of the week. Today we celebrated authors, runners, Blue Peter Badge winners and lots of amazing learning. The Golden Ticket is now The Rainbow Award, ask the children why, and we've already had the following worthy winners:

Lilly K, Finley M, Moss S, Ben S, Gilbert D, Hayden F, Molly F and Harry E. Congratulations to all of you.

A plea:

We have been very fortunate and not had any Covid cases since school reopened. However, we are not immune and need to remain cautious following as many precautions as possible.

Please:

- Exit the school site promptly after pick-up and drop-off
- Maintain social distancing at all times

If these measures cannot be adhered to I may have to consider closing the site to parents as a last resort.

Keep safe and keep our school open.

Parent Consultations:

Most of you have now indicated your preferred time for a telephone consultation. Just a reminder, these calls will not follow the traditional format. Teachers will be updating you on your child's well-being and how they have settled into the 'new normal'. As previously mentioned, please do use the class email to let teachers know if you have any particular questions that you would like addressed.

Black History Month:



In today's Celebration Assembly I talked about Marcus Rashford and how he had used his celebrity status for the greater good. During October we will be learning about famous (and not so famous) black people and their contribution to History. We will also be thinking about why we have 'Black History Month'. If there are any people that you think we should cover please do get in touch.

Harvest Festival:



As you are aware, this year's Harvest Festival will be somewhat 'low-key'. It takes place next Wednesday and each year group will visit St Mary's Church and enjoy a Harvest service with Jonathan. This year we are asking for donations for DENS, the local foodbank, which has seen an upsurge in requests following the Coronavirus pandemic. Please find attached a list of essential items that DENS is asking for. Alternatively, some of you may wish to consider sending a donation and details of how to do this are on the information sheet. Please send any donated items into school with your child on Wednesday. Your child will then carry the item they have brought over to the service.

After School Club:

Our After School Club is off to a flying start and is a great addition to our school. Here's what one of our satisfied customers had to say:

'The St Mary's After School Club has been a real success in our household. The kids have loved spending time playing outside and have been raving about what they get to eat. So pleased and such a relief.'

For more details, please contact Mrs O'Dell via the school office.

WOW:

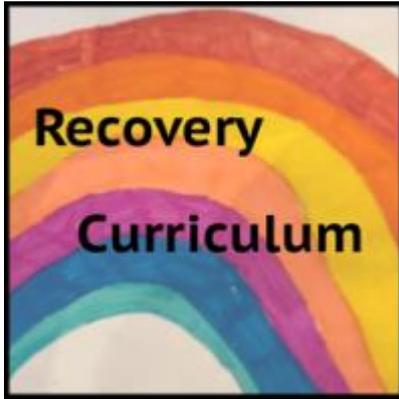


We have been overwhelmed by the generous donations received so far and I am delighted to be able to tell you that we've already started putting them to good use. Watford Football Club will be working with our older children later this month and the younger children will enjoy an African Drumming Workshop. Next term we are organising a skipping workshop and we're already thinking of more curriculum enrichment opportunities.

School Association:

The School Association is holding its virtual AGM on Wednesday 21st October at 8pm (a letter went yesterday). The School Association is fantastic, providing both resources for school but also exciting activities for your children. What's more, it's a great way to get involved with the school community. For more details contact Mrs Keenaghan-Clark via the school office.

The 'Recovery Curriculum':



There has been a lot of talk in the press about 'catching up' and lost learning. Although we are keen to get 'back on track' this isn't going to happen overnight. Your children have been through a difficult few months and everything has changed. Although they appear to be coping extremely well, we have to be mindful of their emotional well-being and thankful that they're back in school safely. As a wise year 5 parent said to me:

'If they're happy to come to school and keen to do some learning that should be our focus.' I completely agree !

Word of the week:

New for this term 'Word of the Week'.

Year 1's choice: **investigation (because they've been investigating smells!)**

Def: the action of investigating something or someone; formal or systematic examination or research.

Have a lovely weekend Mrs Osborne and the staff team.