



We are called to be the hands and face of Jesus as we learn, love and grow together

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Dear parents and carers

Four weeks into the new school year and the children have all developed into excellent working routines. Thank you for helping to make their transition back to school so fruitful. As the weather has turned, this has presented some extra challenges for us as we continue to maintain social distancing and separation of Year group bubbles throughout the school; however, this remains our priority.

It is likely that from next week we may need to extend our lunch rota by half an hour to ensure that all children get some fresh air and a chance to run around before or after their lunch. The children will still have an hour (½ hour to eat and ½ hour to play) but the start time for some might be earlier, enabling us to utilise the hard surface play areas whilst keeping year group bubbles separate.



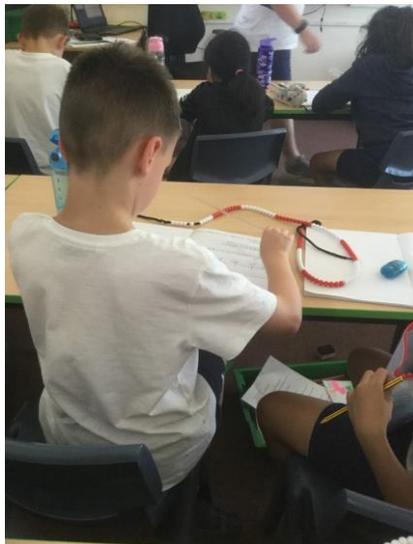
Heating & ventilation

Ventilation of the school building is an essential mitigation to potential transmission of Covi-19 in the classrooms and throughout the school (cf. Version 4 of the Risk Assessment: http://stvincent.herts.sch.uk/documents/20_29_Risk_Assess_Covid_full_school_hs_rev4-UPDATED-290920.pdf).

Last Friday was particularly cold and I know that some parents were concerned about the temperature in the building whilst the windows and doors were open. Throughout this week, we have reviewed the extent of the ventilation and have also ensured that the heat is on throughout the day. This has certainly improved the climate of the classrooms. However, as



the seasons progress, the heating will become less efficient with the windows open and, as such, wearing layers will become increasingly important. I have been in touch with the Hertfordshire County Council Health and Safety Manager to ensure that our current plans balance appropriately the need for warmth with the need for ventilation. It has been confirmed that our plan is correct. We will of course continue to monitor the situation.



Washing of hands

It is great to see that our children are making excellent use of the new external sinks before they come in in the morning. Questions have been raised about the use of cold water for this purpose particularly as it gets colder. In terms of the effect of washing with hot or cold water, the temperature, we are told, is less important than the use of the soap and the thoroughness of the washing technique. Soap is always available at these sinks. At other times, children will use the indoor sinks where warm water is available or may use the ready supply of hand sanitiser. When the external sinks were installed (an expense that the school has had to find) the cost of plumbing hot water to them would have made the project cost prohibitive. The convenience of having extra sinks available means that less children are waiting to wash hands and, as such, there is less impact on the logistics of the school day. Children have been brilliant at washing their hands at regular periods throughout the school day.

The return of a hot dinner menu

Following discussions with Herts Catering, from Monday we will be returning to a more familiar menu with two hot choices or a cold packed lunch on a three weekly menu cycle. Children in Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 6 will each have an allocated sitting in the main dining room (cleaned between groups); and pupils in Years, 3, 4 & 5 will be served lunch from a hot trolley in the Junior Hall and will return to their classrooms to eat. Thank you to Mrs Pickard and her team for working with us to find a way through the logistical issues that this new challenge presents. This will be trialled and reviewed over the course of the next three weeks.

A copy of the new menu can be seen overleaf:



Week 1 Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sausages with Gravy and Creamed Potatoes	Beefy Pasta Bolognaise	Roast Pork with Sage and Onion Stuffing	Chicken Curry with Rice	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Low Fat Chips
Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings
Tuna roll	Chicken Mayo Wrap	Cheese Roll	Ham Baguette	Cheese Roll
Week 2 Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken Korma fillet with Savoury Rice	Burger in a Bun with Potato Wedges	Roast Chicken with Sage and Onion Stuffing	Beef Lasagne with Side Salad	Fish Fingers with Low Fat Chips
Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings
Tuna Roll	Chicken Roll	Cheese Baguette	Ham Roll	Cheese Baguette
Week 3 Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meatballs in Tomato Sause with Pasta	Shepherd's Pie	Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding	Chicken Pie with Creamed Potatoes	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Low Fat Chips
Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings
Tuna Roll	Chicken Mayo Wrap	Cheese Roll	Ham Baguette	Cheese Roll

On Monday, we begin with week three of the menu cycle. Whilst I am looking forward to my roast beef on Wednesday, I think the children are looking forward to Friday's pizza with low fat chips! Meals will be paid for in the usual way and payments made in advance of taking meals.

Thank You Part 1

A huge thank you to everyone who has generously donated cleaning and other items each morning over the past few weeks. We have been overwhelmed by your support and are well stocked up. This will really help our finances and we are most grateful.

Thank You Part 2

Thank you to everyone for your vigilance in social distancing and mask wearing whilst on the school premises at pick up and collection times. This is really appreciated and helps to keep our community safe. Could I please ask that families extend this good practice in the journey to the car. I gather that The Maze Car Park is beginning to become rather busy as children and parents catch up with each other at the end of the day. As hard as this is, this could potentially be a transmission hazard and I politely remind everyone of the 'rule of six' which



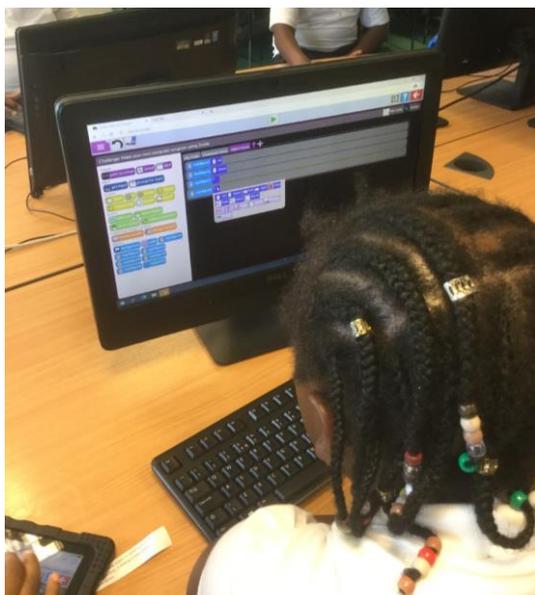
also applies outside. We are working hard to ensure that children from different bubbles do not mix and this protection can easily be diluted on that journey home. Thank you for all that you are doing to help our community remain a safe and happy place for everyone.

Parking

Despite the staggered drop off (which should mean that less people are accessing the site at any one time) we have noticed that parking is becoming an issue in the mornings and at the end of the day again. A reminder was sent out yesterday with the location of 'park and stride' opportunities. I appreciate that having a one-way system through the school may put pressure on parking on Bedwell Crescent but please do try to find alternatives. Bedwell Crescent is increasingly busy and this increases the likelihood of accidents. Please note that if you park in the coach bay outside school and leave your car, you could receive a parking ticket. This has happened already this term. The parking bay is a useful safe drop off location for older pupils who enter the school grounds unaccompanied. Please be considerate to our neighbours when parking in the local area. This week I received a complaint from a member of the public living in the cul-de-sac at the top of the hill off Fairland Valley Park who has experienced parents whose parking blocks the pavement or access to driveways. I am keen to keep our neighbours happy as travel to our school does have a significant impact upon our neighbours.

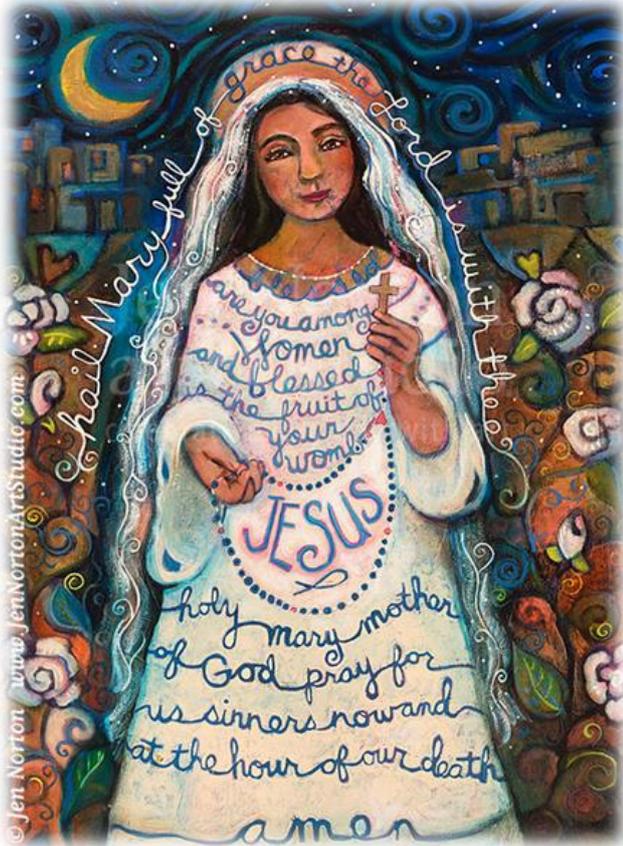
Digital Learning Strategy

Governors are currently working with staff to developing our Digital Strategy. This will not only involve the use of Chrome Books throughout the classrooms but will also involve each pupil having their own unique log-in which will enable resources and work to be accessed from different locations. In order to help us plan for this, it would be really useful to know about access to digital devices at home. As such, we will be initiating a survey in the coming weeks which aims to find out about such matters. Please do complete this if you can. Knowing about access to devices can help us to plan more adequately for any periods of forced closure that occur.



October Devotions

October is traditionally a month of devotion to Our Lady. Usually during October there would be the opportunity to meet to say the Rosary before school once per week. I know that many, including myself, will miss this opportunity to gather together for this peaceful and reflective time. You may want to spend some time each week as a family praying the Rosary and the Diocese of Westminster have put together a weekly resource that may help with this, available via the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVDR6sRXR1U&feature=youtu.be>



May God bless you and those most dear to you.

Yours sincerely

Jon White
Headteacher

