



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

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18th October 2021

Dear parents and carers

It has been a busy half term of learning and we are all looking forward to a well deserved half term break at the end of this week. The children have settled well to their learning this year and are established in their routines. It has been a pleasure to witness to positive attitudes to learning and the vibrant and supportive atmosphere of each class as they have returned to new routines and exciting learning projects.

Feast day celebrations

On 27th September the school celebrated St Vincent de Paul's Feast Day with special activities and a virtual assembly where Father Nigel spoke to all about the important example that St Vincent set for us all. Activities on this day have really helped to strength our sense of Charism and a deeper understanding of our mission statement. After assembly Father Nigel visited each classroom to deliver a special blessing – the children enjoyed Father's generous showering of Holy water - there was much joy and a few wet RE books!



Parent consultations

This week you will receive an invitation to book an online parent consultation via School Cloud for after half term. The teaching team look forward to sharing news about how your child had settled into their new class and their learning. We hope that our next parent consultation opportunity after this will be in person, allowing you to see the work completed in books.

Harvest

During this final week of term, we want to ensure that our children have an opportunity to support those most in need in our local community and to thank God for all that we have. Throughout this last week (until Wed 20th Oct) we encourage all children to bring one item into school that can be distributed to those most in need in our local community and leave it in the boxes on the edge of the KS1 Playground, next to St Joseph's Workshop. This year we will focus on donations to the *Feed Up, Warm Up* project, a local charity that works with the homeless and those in financial need. In our Wednesday Word



assembly last week the children heard about the wonderful work of Shane and his "Orange Army" of volunteers from Feed Up, Warm Up. You can read about this for yourselves on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/feedupwarmup/>. As well as the "shopping list" of items below, we know that they would really appreciate **donations of new sleeping bags, socks and boxer shorts (adult sized)**.

- Tinned meals/fish
- Tinned beans
- Pot noodles
- Super noodles
- Microwave rice/pasta and sauce
- Mug shots
- Cereal/chocolate bars
- Individual boxes of cereal
- Tinned fruit/custard/rice pudding
- Sugar sachets
- Coffee sachets
- UHT milk
- Vinegar
- Deodorants
- Shower gels
- Hair conditioner
- Toilet rolls

Nursery class admissions

Applications for a place in our nursery class, to start in September 2022, opened on 2nd September 2021. The school welcomes applications from anyone who is willing to support our ethos and help promote an inclusive environment. Although we prioritise Catholic families, in the past four years we have also been able to admit non catholic children in our nursery class. You must complete the school's Supplementary Information Form (SIF) together with submission of other supporting documents to have a complete application. Application packs are available on the school website; paper copies are available from the school office. We hope that school tours in person will be able to recommence after half term. Applications close on **Friday 26th November 2021**.

Reception class applications to start in September 2022 open on 1st November 2021.

Black History Month

You may have been surprised to not hear mention of Black History Month this year in school. Do not be alarmed – we are taking a different approach to this important aspect of the curriculum and want to make sure that this strand is woven into our curriculum plans as a constant theme rather than as an add on in October. I hope that over the course of the year ahead you will hear children talking of inspirational figures from history, science, sport, maths, engineering, science and the arts that are drawn from a full range of diverse backgrounds. The teaching staff made a commitment to this following a training session at the end of the Summer Term and will be implementing aspects of this work as they plan the curriculum for the year ahead. Linked to this, the school has also invested in excess of £5K in new books to ensure that classroom libraries reflect positively the cultural, racial, social, familial, gender and neurodiverse population of the school to ensure that everyone feels a sense of 'belonging' in the materials that are available to them. Please do ask your children about the new books!



St padre Pio said, 'When one million children pray the rosary, the word will change'

Throughout October your children have been learning about the power of prayers to Our Lady and her promise to take special intentions straight to Jesus. Today many of our children have joined together



with children across the world, through Aid to the Church in Need's rosary campaign. "A million children praying the Rosary" is observed on October 18 to mark the feast of Saint Luke, whose Gospel speaks about the childhood of Jesus. The number of participants in this initiative has been increasing every year, with the aim of reaching at least one million officially registered participants. It has been wonderful throughout October to see our children engaged in private and class prayer at our two Marian Shrines on site. Ave Maria!

Safeguarding – Squid Games

Interest in Squid Games is on this rise throughout conversation and games with our young people in our schools. Rated as a Netflix 15+, the visual content includes high levels of gore, death, violence, and physical assault. It also has graphic depictions of suicide, murder, and sexual assault. Children and young people are likely to know about the show via word of mouth and because it is so popular on social media. They may be unaware of the extent of gore, death, and violence the show contains. It also focuses on adult themes that are not appropriate for younger sensibilities. For young people who live with mental health issues, they may be triggered by some of the content. The aesthetic of Squid Game, especially in promotional images and material, appears innocent and childlike. This is to provide a clash with the excessively violent content that is meant to be jarring and unsettling to viewers. Parents and carers should be aware that video content from this show is found on TikTok, which could also increase their interest in watching the show. Remember: even if you restrict the young person in your care from watching Squid Game, they may be able to access content on other social media platforms.

Church Car Park

Father Nigel plans to re-open the invitation to use the Church car park at drop off and pick up after the half term holidays.

Please only make use of this facility if there is a space; if not please exit the car park and find an alternative space. You must not park in the turning circle directly outside of the church, on the grass or on the drive to the presbytery. Please do not block other users in and ensure that you always display courteous behaviour when using this facility. If problems re-occur it is likely that our permission to use this facility will be permanently removed. Please note that there are often available spaces at the Noah's Ark car park, adjacent to the Fairland's Valley playground which is a short, pleasant, and stress-free route to school that many make use of.

Bicycles, scooters and e-scooters.

Please note that the school only permits pedestrian access through the site. If you or your child travels on a bike, you must dismount as you enter and walk through the site. This includes toddlers on scooters. Please note that the school does not permit the use of electric scooters on the site at all.

Term dates

Please note that term dates for this year now include an additional day's holiday. This is because the additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Jubilee occurs during the school holidays. As such, schools have been asked to allocate an extra day's holiday during term time. Please note that due to this, the school will now break for Christmas on Friday December 17th at 2pm.

Term dates for 2022/23 have now been agreed by the governing body and are appended to this letter.

Charity

Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions on St Vincent de Paul's Feast Day. We managed to raise an amazing £700 which has already been passed on to a family in our community who have needed to arrange private emergency medical care. The family are incredibly grateful and pass on their sincere thanks to you! Thanks are also due to our staff team who raised almost £200 through a McMillan Coffee Morning this month. This is a charity that is very dear to our hearts. Congratulations to Mrs Glover (Year 6 teacher) who ran the London Virtual Marathon on Sunday 3rd October finishing in 7h59m and raising an amazing £1300 for Breast Cancer UK. We are all very proud of you Mrs Glover, especially as you taught a full day following this on Monday! Well done!!!



Year of St Joseph

To commemorate the Year of St Joseph, the school has purchased two sleeping St Joseph statues (one for each building). Pope Francis talks of his devotion to sleeping St Joseph and suggests that we can place our prayer intentions and worries under his pillow for St Joseph to deal with in his dreams in the same way that Joseph's dreams protected Jesus from Herod's intention shortly after his birth. We hope that our children take comfort from the offer of loving St Joseph's protection when they too are concerned.



Prayer to sleeping St Joseph:

Oh Saint Joseph,

*The angel of the Lord appeared to you in dreams,
while you slept, to warn you and guide you
as you cared for the Holy Family.*

*You were both silent and strong, a loyal and
courageous protector.*

*As you rest in the Lord, confident of His absolute
power and goodness, look upon me. Please take
my need... (mention your request here) ...*

*into your heart, dream of it, and present it to
your Son. Help me then, good Saint Joseph,
to hear the voice of God, to arise, and act
with love. I praise and thank God with joy.*

Amen

May God bless you and those most dear to you.

Jon White
Headteacher



Important dates for your diary:

Thurs 14 th – Wed 20 th Oct:	HARVEST DONATIONS for Feed Up Warm Up on KS1 playground at the start and end of the day
Fri 22 nd Oct:	INSET Day (teachers only)
Mon 25 th – Fri 29 th Oct:	HALF TERM HOLIDAYS
Fri 17 th Dec 2pm:	School closes for Christmas holidays
Mon 20 th Dec:	School closed (day in lieu of additional BH this year)
Tues 21 st Dec:	School closed (Annual occasional day)
Wed 22 nd Dec – Tues 4 th Jan 22:	Christmas Holidays
Wed 5 th January:	Spring Term begins

Term Dates for 2022/23

Autumn Term 2022

Inset 1 (no pupils): Thurs 1st Sep 22

Inset 2 (no pupils): Fri 2nd Sep 22

TERM BEGINS: Mon 5th Sep 22

HALF TERM: Mon 24th Oct - Fri 28th Oct 22

TERM ENDS: Wed 21st Dec 22

Spring Term 2023

Occasional Day (school closed): Thurs 5th Jan 23

Inset 3 (no pupils): Friday 6th Jan 23

TERM BEGINS: Mon 9th Jan 23

HALF TERM: Mon 13th Feb - Fri 17th Feb 23

TERM ENDS: Fri 31st March 23

Summer Term 2023

TERM BEGINS: Mon 17th April 23

HALF TERM: Mon 29th May - Fri 2nd June 23

TERM ENDS: Wed 19th July 23

Inset 4 (no pupils): Thurs 20th July 23

Inset 5 (no pupils): Fri 21st July 23

