



LENT TERM 2021 NEWSLETTER

A heartfelt welcome back to our whole school community. We are now in the holy season of Lent. A special time in our school, as part of the whole Catholic Church community, where we focus on the three pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting and Giving. We thank you for your generous donations at Christmas, which amounted to £404 for CAFOD World Gifts. During Lent we seek to support the charity Mission Together.

Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio – the Catholic Church's official children's charity for overseas mission. What makes Mission Together special is that it's universal: while children in our school pray and fundraise for children overseas, children around the world are praying and sharing too, in an amazing exchange of faith and friendship.

The charity helps people regardless of background or beliefs. That's how it shows the all-embracing nature of the Catholic Church and the true meaning of 'mission'.

This term we welcomed Mrs Otter to her new position as Deputy Head Teacher. Mrs Otter has taught across the school; having enjoyed time in Early Years' as well as Year 6 and numerous classes in between. We will work together across both sites and she will lead the operational, organisational and strategic aspects of the school alongside Mrs Truman and I. Of course, there is a far wider leadership team behind the scenes, ably assisting with these aspects too. Do seek out the Assistant Headteacher for your phase, if you wish to share any information or concerns. They are listed below:

- Assistant Headteacher - **Ms A Dimmock** – Early Years' (Nursery and Reception)
- Assistant Headteacher - **Mrs R Simpson** – Y1 and Y2
- Assistant Headteacher - **Miss T Hounsome** – Y3 and Y4
- Assistant Headteacher - **Mrs M Brown** – Y5 and Y6

We also welcome Mr McCartney to Y6 Seal's class. He has spent some time already working with classes on the Upper Primary site and has settled into our school life really well. We also welcome Mr Stephenson, our new site agent. Sadly, some of our support staff have also moved on to new things over the last six weeks. We say goodbye to Mrs Reynolds, Miss Reid and Mrs Castro (who has been a member of the school community since she was a little girl at St Joseph's Infants – we will miss her greatly).

The school will be open to all children from Monday 8th March 2021. We wish to welcome everyone back; offering your children the space, resources and social engagement that may not have been available to them for much of the last half term. To make this as safe as possible, we would like you to take the following precautions on and around the school site.

- **One family member drop and collect children on school grounds**
- **Wear face coverings on school site to protect each other**
- **Keep a safe distance from all adults on site, especially the pathways**
- **No bags or additional items from home to be brought into school**
- **PE kit should be sent into school and remain here for the half term**
- **Lunchboxes and water bottles only for children in Y3 – Y6**
- **Register any new mobile phone numbers or email addresses with the school office**

If you need to speak to the office staff, or a teacher, please telephone or email the school. Your request will be dealt with more effectively this way.

We continue to implement our risk assessment and infection control policy (available on the website), mitigating as much risk as we can by cleaning contact surfaces throughout the day; adult and child regular handwashing; year group bubbles and good ventilation.

We may be short staffed at times around the school. I can assure you your child will always have a teacher and as much support as we can organise. However, we ask for your support too. Please use envelopes and the school post box on either site to return paperwork, make requests or pay money – even better, much of this can be done on-line. If you need to speak to the office staff, or a teacher, please telephone or email the school. Your request will be dealt with more effectively this way.

Breakfast Club will be available on both sites from 8.00am and After School provision on UPS until 4.45pm and on LPS until 6.00pm.

School classes are open from 8.30am. Please ensure your child arrives at school before 8.45am, as learning starts at this time.

Thank you once again for your positive support both of your child and the staff across our school last term. We look forward to working together for the rest of this year and pray it brings comfort from the current state of anxiety, a safer environment for everyone and peace in our communities, wherever they may be.

The blessings of hope and good health are wished for you all

Lisa Sumpter

Headteacher

SCHOOL CLOSING FRIDAY 26th MARCH at 1.30pm

SCHOOL RE-OPENS ON MONDAY 12th APRIL at 8.30am