



St. Mary's Buzzin' Bulletin

Termly Newsletter



Friday 23rd October 2020

Friendship Compassion Service Forgiveness

Principal Comments

Dear Parents,

The first term has passed us by in a flash. Our aim this term was to rebuild our school and be back to as normal as is possible and even better than before.

This has started with our school worship, focussing on rebuilding the community, being thankful for what we have and appreciating and supporting each other. It's been a blessing to be able to start the weeks off using our online platform and having the whole school connected through video. Their smiling faces and wonderful ideas have given a sense of togetherness, despite the school hall being empty. In some ways, it's even better. We've had Reverend John Walker from St. Mary and St. Eanswythe's Church joining us every Wednesday too. He has also been a great support in rebuilding us as a community.

Our new school charter is said every morning by the children and every lunchtime. All children are engaging with this and we have actions too. It's a reminder to the children and each other of how we will be in school as a school family.

As a member of our school family, I will ...

Be ready to try my best.

Be safe with my words and actions.

Be respectful to everyone and my school.

To help others when I can.

To forgive others and myself if things go wrong.

Wear my uniform with pride.

Thank God for all I have.

Beyond this, we have started the year with a focus on the good and continued with a meaningful and fun curriculum. I believe this has gone a long way in ensuring that our attendance in the first term has been 95.7%. This is a tremendous achievement. Well done!!!

By recognising all that we are doing rather than what we are not, the children are developing their own sense of growth and reconnecting with classroom habits that may have been lost through lockdown. The teacher's actively seek to recognise the children's positive learning behaviours. We are able to build children's confidence in their own skills and celebrate them on the recognition board. The eagle of excellence in the class recognises those children that are stand out learners and with great attitudes and of course we have **Hot Chocolate Friday**. This is my favourite part of the week. So far this term, I have had meaningful conversations with 60 children over a nice cup of hot chocolate. The children always look so proud of themselves and there is a real buzz about it in school.

I know you all appreciate what we are doing here but you are also making a huge difference. The supportive comments, the patience when things have been difficult and the 'can do' and common sense attitudes have ensured a community approach to overcoming challenges. As a result, we have happy children, happy staff and a school which seems to be thriving, despite the external challenges. We can be proud of what we have achieved.

Let's bank this term in the positive bank and pray together for a successful and lockdown free term 2.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr. T. North, NPQH

What will we do if we have a lockdown again?

At present, we seem to be fortunate locally but we are not complacent. We are preparing for what may seem inevitable and will stick with what worked from the previous lockdown with a few additions. Our website is now set up with an online learning page for all year groups. It will offer:

- Quick and simple access to video links for those with internet access at home.
- A page dedicated to their curriculum with a combination of live lessons, teacher video instruction and links to online platforms for pupils to access tasks and upload work.
- Live lessons will be delivered at key points in the learning journey and may be whole class or selected groups of pupils, dependent on assessment.
- Work will be set in line with good teaching as defined by the school.
- For pupils without access to the internet, the school will seek to remove this barrier. Hard copies of learning and visual check-ins with the pastoral team to offer support and guidance.
- Live email links will be on the website for contact.

We will also continue with regular check-ins.

Please can you let the school know asap should you not have internet access or a device that enables your child to work online.

Clubs

We will be starting clubs in term 2, where they can meet the demands of the risk assessment. We are currently in discussions with external providers and finding a suitable provision plan for this. Please watch this space and our Facebook page for information on this.

Harvest Celebrations

We would normally be holding a Harvest celebration and getting together as a community to celebrate generosity and thankfulness. This is always a well attended event, which we will all miss this year. However, we are still celebrating Harvest and will be sharing our celebrations in the new term. The children will be presenting their reflections on Harvest to you in a video in the first week back. We will also be collecting food donations for the Rainbow Centre.

Non perishable food items must be brought in a plastic bag and will be kept in a safe place for 48 hours away from all staff and children. There will be a small box outside your child's class for them to leave the donations in. Please ensure any donations are in date and sealed.

The Rainbow Centre are also taking cash donations, which they will spend on food to support the homeless. If you would like to make a donation, you can do this through our Parent Pay app.

Term Dates 2020/21

End of Term 1: Friday 23rd October
Start of Term 2: Monday 2nd November
End of Term 2: Thursday 17th December
Staff Development Day: Friday 18th December
Start of Term 3: Monday 4th January 2021
End of Term 3: Thursday 11th February
Start of Term 4: Monday 22nd February
End of Term 4: Thursday 1st April
Start of Term 5: Monday 12th April
Staff Development Day: Friday 12th February
Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May
End of Term 5: Friday 28th May
Start of Term 6: Monday 14th June
End of Term 6: Tuesday 20th July
Staff Development Day: Wednesday 21st July

The Nursery will be open on Friday 12th February and closed on Monday 22nd February.

Attendance and Late Arrivals

We have hit our target for attendance this term, despite the challenges. 95.7% is fantastic! With the arrival of children now smooth running and routines well established, we are finding the management of late arriving children a challenge, as there is not the space or capacity in the front office to keep children socially distant in separate bubbles and supervised.

From term 2, the entrances to year groups will be open from 08:30 and closed by 08:50. Any children arriving after 08:50 will need to line up, supervised by parents and socially distant in the marked areas inside the main gate. The Pastoral Team will then take the children in bubbles to their class and take details for the office. We ask in advance that if you are running late that you are patient with us whilst we ensure your child gets to class safely and with covid measures in place.

Thinking of Others

During this Harvest time we have all been thinking about how thankful we are for what we have and showing compassion to those who may not have the same. Toby in Year 2 has astounded his peers with his generosity this week! For a while, Toby has been saving his pocket money up and has managed to raise an incredible £15. What is even more impressive is the selfless act he has chosen to complete by choosing to donate this money to the Rainbow Centre to help the homeless. He said he chose to do this because 'he does not like that people do not have what they need' and that 'everyone should be able to get the food they need'.

Well done Toby, we are very proud of you for modelling our Christian values.



Monday 16th November

What is Odd Socks day?

Odd Socks day forms part of Anti-Bullying Week. It is a chance to celebrate that we are all unique.

Change Starts With Us

The theme for Anti-Bullying Week this year is 'Change Starts with us.'

Whether it is verbal, physical, online or in-person, bullying has a significant impact on a child's life well in to adulthood. By making small, simple changes, we can break this cycle and create a safe environment for everyone. Because together, we can challenge bullying. Change starts with a conversation. It starts with checking in. It starts with working together.

Small change. Big difference.

On Monday 16th November, all children and adults are invited to wear odd socks to school to help send the important message to people that they should be themselves and free from bullying.

No donation required.



Year 6 Secondary School Applications

PLEASE REMEMBER to complete the Secondary School Application before the closing date on 2nd November 2020.

Year 5 - Swimming

Swimming for Peru Class will commence on Monday 9th November 2020.

Please can we ask that payments are made in advance via Parent Pay.

Thank you .

Internet Safety

This week, Year 6 had a visit from our local PCSO and Community Warden reminding them about the importance of using the internet safely and responsibly.

For more information, please go to

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>



Connected by learning

International Learning

Year 3 children have been busy sharing their work on Climate Change with their new partner school in Tunisia.

This week, they took part in a video conference with the school, Ecole Pilote.

They will be working collaboratively for the rest of the year.