

Loving, learning and flourishing in community

Message from Mr Edwards-Grundy

Welcoming your children back to school after the half-term break has been a great pleasure, they are even more ready to learn and engage with all that school has to offer than they were in September. I have had the joy of seeing lots of examples of children's work this week and hearing from teachers about the learning that is taking place in classrooms. It is clear that your children's learning behaviours will enable them to not only fill any gaps after the lockdown earlier in the year, but to make rapid progress too.

Thank-you for responding so positively to our request to wear a mask on site. It is a simple demonstration of compassion – I wear a mask to protect you and you wear a mask to protect me, by all wearing masks we protect one another.

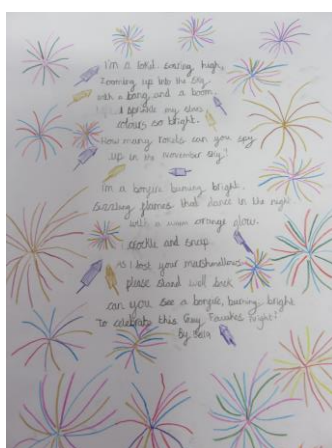
This week two members of our staff have received shielding letters that require them to work from home for the duration of this second lockdown. There will be some adjustments to staffing as a result and I am delighted to be welcoming Sophie Knipe and Serena Krzyczkowska to new roles within the school to help us continue to provide the high quality of provision that we currently have in place.

In the light of the lockdown, the government has this week issued new guidance to schools. Much of the new guidance reflects our current practice, but we have further updated our risk assessment and adjusted protocols to ensure we are fully compliant. As ever, I am enormously grateful to the staff team whose effort and hard work continues to be extraordinary.

Next week many of you will have parents' evening appointments with your children's class teachers. I know teachers are looking forward to sharing with you everything that your children have achieved already this school year. I hope you enjoy those conversations and will be encouraged by how well your children have settled and all that still lies ahead of them.

News from around the school

Around the school children have been very busy settling back into their learning after the half-term break. This week we asked Mrs Hayes to share what the children in her class have been doing. Mrs Hayes was delighted to be able to share the fantastic posters that her children have been creating using the laptops, reminding everyone about firework safety. We loved the different ways that the children have formatted their work and the great firework images. We were also very impressed by the really clear writing that children have been doing.



Remembrance

We are continuing to support this year's Royal Legion Poppy appeal. Merchandise will continue to be available in school until Wednesday 11th November 2020.

- silicon wristbands at £1 each.
- snap bands at £1.50 each. (Please note that snap bands must be taken home on the day of purchase, and not kept in school.)
- poppy reflectors and zip pulls at 50p each.

If your child would like to make a donation towards a poppy, or purchase any of these additional items, please send the money to school in a sealed envelope. The envelope must be labelled with your child's name, their class and which item/s they would like.



Children in Need

Next Friday is Children in Need day and as usual we want to support this worthwhile cause.

This month, as part of reflecting upon our value of 'compassion', we will be thinking about what it means to walk in someone else's shoes.

On Friday 13th November we are therefore encouraging children to wear odd socks to school in exchange for a donation to 'Children in Need.' Your children's odd socks can be as wild and whacky as you like! Looking at each other's feet will remind us all to think more about what it means to walk in someone else's shoes.



A message to the nation

These are deeply challenging and difficult times for us all. When we are surrounded by fear and suffering, it can be hard to feel hopeful. This coming winter feels like it will be longer and darker than usual.

We are writing to share our belief that whoever you are, and whatever you happen to believe, you are loved by God. Beyond measure.

We also want you to know that we are praying for you, particularly asking that Christ's love will comfort us, calm our fears, and lead our nation and our world through this terrible pandemic. Starting this week, we have asked every church to pray each day at 6pm. We invite you to join with us.

There are three other responses that we want to encourage everyone to consider -

First, let's be *calm* - we can be stronger together in ways that are impossible if we go it alone.

Second, let's be *courageous* - we will all need each other's courage in the months to come.

Third, let's be *compassionate*. We will need to be gentle, kind and patient with each other.

May God bless you and keep you, and all those you love.

Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell

100 club

The Friends have had a fantastic response to their 100 Club fundraiser, with nearly 100 numbers requested.

For those parents who have signed up, the payment is now available on ParentPay. If you cannot see the payment on your ParentPay account, please do contact the school office.

Please make your payment by **Wednesday 11th November**, as that is when the numbers will be allocated. Thank-you.