

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back

The staff were delighted to welcome back all our children and families last Monday. It was lovely to see happy smiling faces arriving at school. The children settled back in very quickly and we were delighted to witness such a positive atmosphere around the school. We have given the children plenty of opportunities to be outside and physically active this week and we are keeping a close eye on the children who are perhaps showing signs of worry or anxiety at being back. I would like to thank all the parents who wore face coverings and socially distanced from others, we really appreciate all your support with these guidelines. The staggered start and finish times are very important to help with distancing so please continue to ensure children are dropped off and collected at the correct times. I would also like to thank all the parents using our cashless system of payments 'The Gateway'. Please remember that two weeks' notice is required if your child would like to change to school meals from packed lunch or vice versa. This is due to the ordering in advance of the correct food quantities.

World Book Day

Well done to everyone who joined in with our potato/wooden spoon activities. I was very impressed with the imaginative creations. We hope you all enjoyed 'The Masked Reader' and that you were able to correctly guess the identity of the staff ! We were very pleased to feature in the special World Book Day supplement of the Watford Observer last Friday. I would like to thank Megan and John, our English Co-ordinators, for all their help with organising the Book Day activities.

Catholic Children's Society Charity Day - Friday 19th March

On Friday 19th March the children are being asked to take part in a mufti day in support of our Lenten charity – The Catholic Children's Society. The children may wear their own clothes to school in exchange for a £1 donation. Class teachers will ask the children to pop their donation into a purple Lenten collection box on Friday morning. Thank you in advance for your support.



Staffing

After half term we were delighted to welcome back Hannah Mitchell to our staff team. Hannah has been on maternity leave after the birth of her youngest child. Hannah is now working with classes across Key Stages 1 and 2.

I would like to welcome Susie Pope to our staff team. Susie will be working part time as our welfare Assistant. Susie will be helping children who need first aid and will be supporting with medical records.

Parents Evenings

We have organised two virtual parents' evenings for **Tuesday 23rd March 4.20pm to 7.50pm** and **Wednesday 24th March 4.20pm to 7.50pm**. These will be online this term due to the current Covid restrictions. We will be using an online system called School Cloud. The instructions about how to use this system are attached to this email.

Holy Rood Church

As you will know we have now been emailing parents the weekly newsletter from Holy Rood Church. I hope you have found this useful as it will help keep you updated with parish news. On behalf of our school community I would like to welcome Fr Gerard to the parish. We hope he is able to visit our school very soon. In the newsletter this week there is an important notice about Baptism courses. The next preparation course for parents who have not yet completed the course is **Sunday 6th June 2pm to 4pm**. If you are interested you will need to book through the parish.

At Holy Rood Church there will be a 12pm mass on Wednesday 17th March for St Patrick's Feast Day



On Friday 19th March there will be a mass for the Feast of St Joseph at 12pm and 6pm.



Masses need be booked in advance using the 'Events' tab found on the Holy Rood Church website.

Five Principles of Wellbeing

A lot of work will be taking place in school to ensure your children understand the **Five Principles of Wellbeing**. We feel it is important to explain what these are as it is not only the children who need to ensure they are aware but everyone in our school community. These principles apply to children, parents, staff and governors. Melanie, our Inclusion Co-ordinator, has placed some information about this in our school noticeboard located on the Key Stage One playground. More detailed information will be attached to the April newsletter.

Year 5 Retreat Day

Our Year 5 children would normally take part in a Stations of the Cross retreat day at one of our local churches. This year, due to Covid restrictions, the retreat day will take place in our Activity Studio. The children will model their own Stations of the Cross from clay and create artwork using pastels and charcoal. The results will be displayed along the St Francis building upper corridor. I am looking forward to seeing some fabulous art from our talented Year 5 children.

Class Photographs

Class photographs will be taken on Wednesday 17th March. Information about how to order the photograph will follow soon.

Monthly Newsletters

After the Easter holidays I will revert back to monthly newsletters in order to inform you of school news and dates. Each Friday you will continue to receive a class weekly update from your child's class teacher.

God bless and take care,

Elaine Harrold

Acting Headteacher