



# OCTOBER 2021 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **October – Month of Mary**

Class worship during October will focus on our Lady and the Rosary. There will be many opportunities during class worship time for the children to find out more about Mary and how to pray a decade of the Rosary.



## **Black History Month**

October is Black History Month. Natalie, our history co-ordinator, has planned lots of interesting activities focusing on important historical black men and women throughout history.

## **Free School Meals**

If you are in receipt of certain benefits, you may be eligible to apply for free school meals for your child (Year 3 upwards). Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will all receive free school meals but again, if you receive certain benefits, the school will receive additional funds to support your child. You will need to apply on line through Hertfordshire County Council. For further information and advice, please contact the school office.

## **Privacy Notice**

This can be accessed on our website in the parents section. It contains information about the data we hold and how it is used. We are required to make you aware of this annually.

## **Parking**

Please continue to park safely outside the school and with respect for our neighbours.

## **CAFOD**

For many years now it is a tradition at St Anthony's that we raise money for CAFOD – '**Catholic Agency for Overseas Development**'. This charity reaches out to people living in hard-to-reach places, in war zones and those who are discriminated against. This year CAFOD are encouraging us to '**Go Green**' as they are raising money for their climate crisis appeal. On **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October** we will be organising a non-uniform day. The children may wear something green to school instead. This may be as simple as green socks or a green hair band. We would ask for a donation of £1 (or more if you can spare it) to be handed into the special green collection box in their classroom on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> October.

## **COVID -19 Update**

### **Local Outbreak**

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, in addition to our Risk Assessment, the school also have a Management Plan in place which we use in the event of an outbreak and we can also seek support from the local Education Public Health team.

Thank you for continuing to be vigilant as we all continue to do all that we can to keep each other safe.

### **Common Symptoms**

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature

- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste

### **What to do if you or your child has symptoms**

*If your child has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, even if they're mild:*

1. *Get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) as soon as possible: [Get a PCR test to check for COVID-19 on GOV.UK](#)*
2. *Your child should stay at home and not have visitors (self-isolate) until you get a negative test result – they can only leave home to have the test. Check if you and anyone else your child lives with need to self-isolate.*

### **Contact Tracing**

*If a child tests positive for COVID-19, NHS Test and Trace will now contact close contacts directly, replacing communications from the school. Please engage with NHS Test and Trace if they contact you about your child, you will not be contacted or advised by the school about what steps you need to take.*

### **Secondary Admissions**

Please note that the deadline for secondary school applications (current Year 6) is **31st October 2021**.

### **Uniform Reminders**

The children need to wear indoor plimsolls inside our school. This is essential for keeping carpeted and tiled areas free of outside dirt and mud. Our online uniform shop provides plimsolls for children if any parents are struggling to find a pair. Red socks are also part of our uniform requirement.

### **Weekly Updates and Information Evenings**

The teachers continue to send out their weekly updates to all parents. These are essential reading as they contain information, reminders and pre-teaching help. I would like to thank all the parents who have attended the Class Information Evenings. The teachers have been really pleased to see such a positive response and interest. These evenings are designed to help you support your child with the learning that is taking place in school but also offers guidance of how you can help your child at home. There are still some more of these evenings scheduled – please see dates for diary below. It was also lovely to see parents attend our recent Welcome assemblies – I was delighted that poor weather and a lack of petrol did not discourage attendance!

### **Wellbeing**

I hope you are all finding time to look after your own wellbeing. It is very important that we continue to remember the '5 Ways to Wellbeing'. Teachers are continuing to add little challenges each week to their weekly update to remind the children of the weekly focus. We have been very pleased when children talk to us about how they have taken part in these challenges.

### **St Joan of Arc**

We were very pleased to hear the news of a new Headteacher being appointed at St Joan of Arc Catholic Secondary School, Rickmansworth. We wish Mrs Bernadette O'Hanlon every success in her new role which will commence in January 2022.

### **Parents Courses and Workshops**

Families in Focus (Herts) are offering a number of courses and workshops to support parents of children with SEND. These include; 'Managing anger and anxiety', 'Parenting apart and children with SEND' and 'Supporting Siblings'.

These courses are fully funded. If you require further information please contact Melanie, our Assistant Head teacher, or access the website: [www.familiesinfocus.co.uk](http://www.familiesinfocus.co.uk)

## Attendance Update

If your child is absent from school please telephone **each** day to keep the school office informed. A daily return has to be given to the Department of Education; therefore we need to know the reasons why your child is absent. We will also continue to monitor lateness at the beginning and the end of the day. As I am sure you all know attendance is vital in order for the children to make good progress with their learning. The whole school attendance has been **95%** from **2<sup>nd</sup> September** until **30<sup>th</sup> September**. A particular well done to **Year 4 Lisbon** who achieved the highest class attendance during this time. The attendance of all classes is as follows:

Nursery	92%	
	<b>Lisbon</b>	<b>Padua</b>
Reception	91%	92%
Year 1	95%	95%
Year 2	95%	96%
Year 3	96%	93%
Year 4	98%	95%
Year 5	96%	96%
Year 6	95%	97%

## Congratulations

Our congratulations go to the following children:

### **Year 1 Lisbon**

Aadi P was also awarded a medal for multi-skills during a summer camp.

### **Year 1 Padua**

Aadhya P achieved Stage 1 of the Learn to Swim awards. Aadhya was also awarded a Wild World Heroes medal and certificate for the Summer Reading Challenge.

Lakees M was awarded a Wild World Heroes medal and certificate for the Summer Reading Challenge.

Elisha De P was awarded a Wild World Heroes medal and certificate for the Summer Reading Challenge.

### **Year 2 Lisbon**

Riya P achieved a 10 metre Rainbow distance award for swimming.

Lorcan M was awarded a Star Performer medal from Xtra time Club

Melissa M was awarded a Wild World Heroes medal and certificate for the Summer Reading Challenge.

Hannah M achieved Stage 2 of the Learn to Swim awards

Astraea M achieved a 5 metre Rainbow distance award for swimming.

### **Year 2 Padua**

Jotham G won a medal for a skipping competition

### **Year 3 Lisbon**

Harvey A was awarded a 10 metre Rainbow Distance Award for Swimming

### **Year 4 Lisbon**

Tai D-A was awarded the Most Improved Footballer of the week by Titan FC.

Amal P achieved Stage 3 for the Learn to Swim Swimming Awards. Amal was also awarded two medals for multi-skills during a summer camp.

#### **Year 4 Padua**

Daren C was awarded a Wild World Heroes medal and certificate for the Summer Reading Challenge. Daren also achieved Stage 3 for the Learn to Swim Swimming Awards.

Adeeshe C achieved Stage 3 for the Learn to Swim Swimming Awards.

#### **Year 5 Lisbon**

Emmanuel was awarded a medal for being the Star performer at a football tournament

Luca M was awarded a Man of the Match trophy from Cassiobury Rangers FC

#### **Year 6 Padua**

Dylan C was awarded a Wild World Heroes medal and certificate for the Summer Reading Challenge.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Weds 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Year 2 Lisbon and Year 2 Padua Information evening for parents -6pm
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Year 1 Lisbon and Year 1 Padua Information evening for parents – 5.30pm
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	St Joan of Arc Secondary School Open Evening
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Year 6 Netball and Football Tournament at St Michael's Catholic High School.
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Nursery parents 'Welcome' coffee morning 11.15am Reception Lisbon and Reception Padua Coffee Afternoon – 2.45pm
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Go Green for CAFOD fundraising day - £1 donation
Weds 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Grandparents/Community afternoon 1.45pm. Grandparents/Senior Citizens only – parents invited to see the entertainment on the dates listed below.
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Year 2 Padua and Year 2 Lisbon and Year 3 Padua and Year 3 Lisbon perform Community afternoon entertainment to parents – 9.15am
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Year 1 Padua and Year 1 Lisbon and Year 5 Padua and Year 5 Lisbon perform Community afternoon entertainment to parents – 9.15am
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Reception Padua and Reception Lisbon and Year 4 Padua and Year 4 Lisbon perform Community afternoon entertainment to parents – 9.15am
Weds 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Year 6 Padua and Year 6 Lisbon perform Community afternoon entertainment to parents – 9.15am. Information Evening for Year 6 parents – 6pm
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Term Ends – 2.30pm
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	INSET day – school closed
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Late Parents' evening for all classes – 6pm – 9pm
Weds 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Early Parents' evening 3.50pm – 6.30pm
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Occasional Day – school closed

Thank you for your continued support. God bless and take care,

*Elaine Harrold*

