



Diocese of Clifton

Faith, Hope, Love

# St Joseph's Catholic School Newsletter

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22nd January 2021 Term 3-1

From Mrs Howells



Thank you, thank you thank you! I cannot thank our amazing PTA for their kindness and generosity. Yesterday, all of the staff received a box full of thoughtful gifts as a thank you for their hard work – just what they needed half way through the term. And to you all for agreeing and for those of you who contributed towards them. Staff were delighted by this lovely surprise! You are all being so kind to us– the Crew family sent in individually packaged biscuits for the staff to have at their drink stations, Mrs Pinnock sent in bunches of daffodils for the classrooms and Mrs Gwyer never fails to send in biscuits too- thank you all.

We were delighted that so many parents were able to join us for our remote learning feedback sessions. It was lovely to see you and for your positivity. Thank you all for your support- we couldn't do it without you! We have listened to what you have had to say and will use it to shape our learning as we move forward.

I am so proud of our team, they have all risen to the challenge and are working hard to deliver learning as best that we can to our children – where ever they are. We are still learning and adapting as time goes on. After the initial shock, followed by a steep learning curve we are now working mostly as we had planned, with the odd bump in the road! We would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to the PTA for buying visualisers for each class. The staff have been so excited about them this week. They have enabled them to teach and model their expectation to the children much more easily than using the boards that they would normally use in the classroom. It has really helped enable them to teach the children as a 'class'. We were delighted to hold our whole school celebration assembly for the first time last week- we weren't sure the system was up to it but it was – what a great way to end out first full week of remote learning, bringing our school together.

We are well aware that some of you are working as hard as we are – especially lower down the school you go. I have been impressed by some of the volcanos that the reception children have created and the hedgehogs in year 2, you are all being very creative! Look out for my letter updating you on remote learning early next week.

The number of children in school are gradually creeping up as critical workers are finding that they need to ask us for help with their children. I would like to remind you that the guidance says;

Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.

I would ask critical workers again to consider whether they are able to review their current arrangements and where possible reduce the amount of days that their children are in school, enabling us to support other critical worker families. Please let us know of any reduction in days that you are able to make. Due to the increasing demand for us to have critical workers in school we will be seeking evidence from employers of work schedules and evidence that you cannot keep your children at home.

The e-schools app, if you haven't downloaded this already, please do so. For the school this is a much more efficient, time and money, way of communication with all parents. The school admin team would like to switch over to this fully but at the moment can't because not all parents have downloaded it. If you are having difficulties with it, please contact the school office and they will be able to help you.

As always, if you are having any issues technically please do not hesitate to give us a call and we will do our best to resolve them with you as quickly as possible.

Finally, I hope that you all have a lovely weekend with laptop lids closed!

## In Your Prayers

**God of hope, love and mercy,  
united in prayer with our global family,  
we ask for quick control of the virus that is spreading in  
our world.**

**We pray for our sisters and brothers who are affected,  
especially those in poor communities without  
healthcare.**

**Heal the sick, give eternal life to those who have died  
and console families who have lost loved ones.**

**Help governments and health authorities  
to make wise decisions for the good of everyone.**

**We pray that medicine for the sickness will be quickly  
found.**

**Hold us all in your merciful love. Amen.**

## Class News!



St Mary	Bonnie - I like making dinosaurs out of paper and some colouring pens.  Elizabeth - I like playing with playdough. I made some cookies and I cut the playdough.
St Joseph	Finlay - We painted African necklaces because we are learning about Safari and continents. Bobbie - We used ten frames to help us with our maths work.
St Peter	Bertie- I've had fun in maths this week. I've enjoyed counting in tens and fives. Rory- I got to my 'deepen it' and finished it. We also made hedgehogs using clay and teal.
St Patrick	Jacob- I have really enjoyed Maths this week because I have been trying my best with my presentation. Matilda- I have loved doing fractions in Maths! Olivia- I really enjoyed doing our science experiment. It was really fun! We were seeing how far objects travelled on different surfaces.
St George	William enjoyed making electrical circuits in Science and Autumn has enjoyed learning column addition in Numeracy.
St Teresa	Aeva: I am really enjoying seeing my friends at school and on Teams. I am loving my literacy lessons at the moment and I have some great ideas for my mystery story. I am working so hard!  Michael: I have loved doing the bus-stop method in maths this week. In literacy we have had so much fun learning about active and passive voices. I love year 5 because it is fun and I am learning new things about Space each day.
St David	Joseph: I have really enjoyed our fraction work this week in our maths lessons. I am a fraction hero now!  Wren: Literacy has been challenging this week but I've written an excellent setting description! I am very proud of myself!



## Christmas Jumper Day

A cheque for £149.50 has been sent to Save the Children — thank you for your support.

**CHANGE OF DETAILS—**  
Please let the school office know if you change any of your personal contact details. If you are not receiving any school emails, again please let the Admin Team know. **THANK YOU.**

Please be considerate to our neighbours when parking at school. Try to use the village hall, it's only a couple of minutes away. Thank you.



**E-Schools** —we are moving across to using our current website provider e-Schools to communicate with parents/carers—thank you if you have downloaded the app and are already using it. We have had good feedback saying it is very easy to use. So far approximately 50% of you have downloaded the app. At present we are still sending emails via the school admin address also but the plan and hope is to just use e-Schools in future. So please can we ask if you have not set an e-Schools account up please do so ASAP—usernames and passwords and an instruction sheet were sent home via your child in December. If you need a reminder of the login details or have any questions please email the Admin Team at [admin@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk). This is different to the logins sent to you by email for TEAMS. Thank you.

