



Diocese of Clifton

Faith, Hope, Love

St Joseph's Catholic School Newsletter

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12th November 2020 Term 2-1

From Mrs Howells



We have come back to school with a bang, half term seems a long time ago.

Last week we thoroughly enjoyed making our virtual open day, spending time capturing our amazing children, loving learning at St Joseph's. It is incredible watching our reception children, how quickly they learn, supporting each other as they become increasingly independent. Then, as the children move up through the school growing from strength to strength to be our polite, well rounded Year 6 children working hard to be the best that they can be along with the other year groups in between. We hope that you have had a chance to watch it and have enjoyed the small part of St Joseph's school life that we captured.

Friday morning brought into play what we have been planning for- the testing of our remote learning plans! From phone calls at 6am both members of staff went straight into teaching from home at 8.40am supported by our fabulous support staff in school. It doesn't matter how much you plan for something, it's not until you have to do it that you really get to see how it actually works. There were obviously teething issues to begin with but in the main, so far, all things considered it has been a great success! Not only have we had some teachers teaching from home, we have also had a couple of our children joining them. Thank you to the parents who have supported their children throughout these early sessions – the more we all use Teams, the better we will become. It has been incredible to see the learning that has been going on this week, there has been team teaching by the teachers and TAs, there has been small group teaching, guided reading and Miss Jones was even working 1:1 with some children assessing their phonics! If you had told me that this would be the way of school life in March, I would not have believed you - and yet here we are. I am so proud of the staff and their commitment to doing the best that they can for all of our children. We have bought web cams to enable the teachers to see all of their class- we need to thank the PTA for funding this essential addition to support our remote learning.

Mrs Barron has her Chaplaincy Team! Before half term, the children wrote super letters to her explaining why they would like to be part of the team. This year the team are: Summer, Isabelle, Leo, Emily, Amelia, Maddie, Lola, Maya, Francesca, Beatrice, Ava, Safia, Emily, Orla, Rosalie and Pippa. Their commissioning will obviously be virtual and their first challenge is Advent Retreat in their bubbles!

The School Council are off to a flying start, they have been meeting then emailing the class bubbles to get their opinions and ideas. Reception added to their suggestions box that they would like a zip wire, water slide swimming pool and hot tub! Our Year 6 reps met with them virtually to let them down gently and try to understand what they would like that is achievable.

I would like to thank our Year 6 children and all the staff involved for the lovely remembrance assembly that they produced for us. It was shared with all of the classes yesterday. Despite the fact that Miss Crisp was out of school, the staff still managed to work together to get it done. We are so lucky to have such dedicated staff at our school. If you haven't had a chance to look at it, please do it is on the school website under it's own tab.

I was lucky enough to meet with Mandy Baker last week, the chaplain from St Peter's. She is a true inspiration and has agreed to work in partnership with us. Throughout lockdown she is producing a Sunday Reflection base on the gospel reading. We will be sharing this on our website for all to enjoy especially when our churches are closed to public worship.

Autumn term 2 is always busy and exciting as we lead up to Christmas. We are working in different ways to ensure that our children still feel the buildup and excitement of Christmas in their bubbles. KS1 are considering a Nativity, KS2...what a virtual carol concert looks like and our amazing PTA are thinking about how our children can still have breakfast with Santa! It won't be the same as our live performances but rest assured we will be aiming for it to be the 'Best that it can Be!'

Finally, I would like to thank you all for continuing to support us with following the guidance at school drop off and collection. It really does help us to manage our bubbles and keep groups away from each other- vitally important as local schools are closing bubbles around us.

In Your Prayers

Lord of life and love,
as we give thanks for times past,
grant us courage to embrace the present
and grace to share the future.
In memory of loved ones dear,
kindle their flame to shine in the dark
and light the path ahead.
Show the way that leads to life
as we cherish days gone by
and inspire us with the touch of love
that faith and hope live on.



Annabel Shilson-Thomas

Class News!



St Mary	Amberlee - I like playing with all of my friends and making snow with flour and glitter. Jake - I like playing with the sand and building a big snow ball.
St Joseph	"I like the story map in literacy. It is a fireworks poem by Gareth Landcaster" - Henry "PE is fun. We are doing yoga and we make animal positions" - Kian
St Peter	Grace - I've managed to get on to my deepen it in Maths and finish it. I changed my Frost Unicorn to the Sunshine Horse. Everything she touches will go hot like the sun. Rory - I got on to my deepen and finished it. I tried to find the missing digits. It was a challenge!
St Patrick	Claude- I have really enjoyed playtime this week. Getting to play tag with my friends. I have been learning the 8 times table in Maths. Orla- I have enjoyed handwriting and I have also really enjoyed learning my times tables and MOT.
St George	Ava - I have enjoyed learning more about the Romans and what they used to wear. I found out the Roman soldiers wore strong body armour, which protected them and was very different to what the Celtic warriors wore. Samuel - I have enjoyed starting school at St Joseph's. I am very pleased Kestrels were in the lead with the House marbles.
St Teresa	Sam - I am really enjoying the learning opportunities that I am given in year 5. We are having lots of fun, most noticeably when I was able to take on the role of Ebenezer Scrooge in our literacy lesson. I had everyone laughing, including Miss Johnson and Mrs Hamlin! Lola - I am enjoying the kind teachers that get to teach us each day and I am enjoying maths because I am learning new things each day. I am feeling extra happy today because it is my birthday!
St David	Rose enjoyed STOP maths today and watching the results of work towards Y6 Remembrance Service. Zac has enjoyed topic work - Crime and Punishment and playing Anglo Saxon board games.

DATA SHEETS—We are limiting the amount of paper which is sent home at the moment so Data Sheets will not be sent home this year. Please let the school office know if you change any of your personal contact details. If you are not receiving any school emails/text messages, 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.

