



Diocese of Clifton

Faith, Hope, Love

St Joseph's Catholic School Newsletter

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17th September 2020 Term 1-1

Where has the time gone? I can't believe that we have been back at school for two weeks already. The staff and children are so pleased to be back, there is still a buzz around the place as we settle into the new normal of school life. As you can imagine, the children are adapting quickly and behaving as if school has always been like this....they particularly seem to be enjoying eating their lunches in the classroom! It is great to have the children back, enjoying learning and being outside. They are becoming hand washing, socially distancing pros! I am especially proud of our Year 5 and 6 classes who have taken it all in their stride and are setting an excellent example to others as they move from their classroom to their outside space safely and sensibly. Thank you all for your support with the staggered starts and change of timings, all being done to get the children into school as quickly as possible whilst observing the Government guidance to keep us all safe.

I would like to politely remind you that the wall that runs along from the main school gates to the bus shelter is a capped dry stone wall. This was re- built several years ago at the cost to the school. Please can you ensure that your children don't climb over, walk along it – we would much rather spend the school budget on teaching and learning!

Whilst we are all in our school bubbles we still meet as a whole school for assembly via Zoom – there are at times internet issues....but we all manage to make it most days. This week has been particularly exciting as the House Captains have been presenting their speeches to the school. There have been so many aspiring leaders this year that we have had a different house each day! Votes have taken place daily at the end of the speeches and we are greatly looking forward to tomorrow to see who the Captains will be this year. There will be some disappointment tomorrow as we only have 2 House Captains per house. If your child is one of those who is disappointed, please reassure them that there are other options – we have been looking at how we can successfully run a School Council this year. Mrs Jenkins has always worked over and above with our School Council to ensure that the children have their say, and this year will be no exception. It will in fact need more input from Year 6 to make it work – so there are opportunities there. We will be speaking to the children about that in assembly. Mrs Barron's Chaplaincy Team has also been at the heart of the school in guiding the prayer life of our school, there will be opportunities there too.

This week the staff have had their DfE funded training to support us with remote learning. As a Microsoft school, we will be using Teams. By the end of the month we need to have our final plan in place. Thank you to all of the parents who have returned their Technology@home questionnaires to the office, this has enabled us to plan for your child/children should the need arise. **If you have not yet returned it, please do, so we can plan for your child/ children too.**

Dates for the year: we are in uncertain times and to plan too much leads to disappointment if we are then unable to deliver. We have planned the main events for the year expecting all event this term to be virtual. Please see the school calendar on the website for events which will be available by the end of the day tomorrow.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff who have worked tirelessly throughout the summer in order for us all to come back as safely and as organised as we have. Congratulations go to Mrs Lynham, Miss Berry and Miss Johnson who have also made a great start and feel as if they have always been part of the team.

Mrs Howells—Acting Head Teacher

In Your Prayers

Dear God speak to our hearts and help us to see that we are one big family, help us to share, however hard it seems, to make our world fair.



Class News!



St Mary	Beatrix - I like playing with Finley. Ava - I like painting in the art area.
St Joseph	"I like PE and the learning that we do outside" - Olive "I like Maths and I think that Max the Maths Wizard is funny! He gets the answers wrong and we have to tell him the right answer." - Edward
St Peter	Olivia enjoys playing with her friends and MOT. Theo feels happy to be back because he likes maths, phonics, MOT and grammar!
St Patrick	Reuben- I really enjoy the adding in Maths. Orla- I like how we do something different everyday in Literacy. Lauren- I like Dear time because it is relaxing. Roxi- I like our phonics lessons because they are fun. Elsie- I really enjoy handwriting so that I can improve my writing.
St George	Alfie - I have enjoyed seeing all my friends and teachers. Sofia - I really liked making a mythical creature using playdoh.
St Teresa	James - "I like how it is really fun and I learn lots of new stuff. I have really enjoyed seeing my friends and having a great time." Amelia - "I have enjoyed learning new things and seeing my friends. I particularly enjoy my Topic work because there are lots of interesting things to learn about. I am really enjoying being back."
St David	Amelia - the most spectacular part of being back at school has been seeing all of my friends again. We have loved being in our own bubble at break and lunch time too! Zac - I have three wonderful memories since returning to school. One being saying my house captain speech, another being seeing Miss Crisp and Mrs Ferris and my final memory being with my friends. I love being back at school and seeing everyone again.

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 please let the Admin Team know. We have had a few teething problems going over to 1 admin email address. Thank you for your patience.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER SEPT 2020— hopefully all Year 6 parents received a transfer letter in their child's book bags last week. If not please speak to the school office ASAP.



Y3—The photos have been taken during a science lesson. The children have loved setting up an experiment to see what a plant requires. We have planned the experiment, made predictions and are now ready to see whether our seeds grow!

