



Headteacher Update

February 2022



Whilst we have had much staff illness since the start of term we have done our utmost to minimise the disruption to both children and to parents. The children have coped very well and our strong staff team have admirably supported each other and the children's learning.

Our COVID numbers amongst children remain low in comparison to other schools and we believe this has been helped by the measures we have retained in school and the good support from you.

At the beginning of the month we invited Father Livi from Our Lady of Lourdes Church to attend a Candlemas service and to Bless our school candles for the coming year. Each class has a candle in their classroom that is lit at prayer times to remind us that Jesus is the 'light of the world'. The Gospel reading during the service told us about when Jesus was taken to the temple by Mary and Joseph. Father Livi spoke to the children and helped them to understand how Jesus is the light of the world. Father Livi was very impressed by the children's singing and he even joined in with our action hymns.

This month, work commenced on repairing and improving the paths at the back of the school. This work will improve the access for staff to the cabin and storage areas and make a safer walking and waiting space for parents. It is not quite finished but it is already looking much tidier with uneven areas removed.

We have planted three trees. One for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and two gifts from the Bishop and the St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust. They are all growing well. We will shortly be adding small plaques to them so that we can remember the reasons they were planted.

In school, we have been thinking about the values that are important to us as a school community. We have grouped the values together and have thought of the actions that go with each one. The children will be introduced to each over the coming weeks and they will hopefully be able to share with you the ways to have:



Kind Words and Voice



A Safe and Healthy Body



A Thoughtful Mind



Helping Hands



A Kind Heart

We will be displaying these around the school and children will be rewarded with stickers when they are seen to be demonstrating one of these values.

When we return to school after the break, we will be sharing our Lent promises and marking Ash Wednesday with a short service with the children (only) in the hall. We are very much looking forward to inviting parents back into school and have some events planned for later in the term to reintroduce this. Further information will follow after the half term break regarding events for parents in school.

It is also good news that we are able to begin resuming the fund raising activities with the SCA (School Community Association). Their work is a great support to the school and we are grateful for all the work they do. The funds they raise help enormously.
Please look out for the SCA events and support in any way that you can.

I am also delighted that the bulbs planted by the children to mark the 50th anniversary of our school are just starting to surface. A good sign that spring is on its way!
I hope that they will grow for many years to come.



I hope that you have a good half term break and hope that everyone remains safe and well.

Regards
Mrs Taylor

Prevent the spread of COVID-19

Make sure you and your children follow these general principles to prevent spreading any respiratory virus:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- If you feel unwell, stay at home and don't attend work or school
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home



If you are worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 119 – do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment.

Symptoms to look out for

- Cough
- Difficulty in breathing
- Fever (a temperature of 38 degrees C or higher)

A link to the latest guidance is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>