

January 2023

Headteacher Update



Welcome to 2023...Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year

Welcome back everyone and a big welcome to our new families starting with us in this Lent term.

The term ended with some amazing singing and celebrations of the nativity story that we were delighted to be able to share with you. The children were wonderful – beautiful singing, enormous confidence and full of joy. It is always astounding to see how much they develop and grow in just one term!

I would also like to say a huge thank you to you, for all the kind Christmas messages and gifts that were sent in for staff at the end of the term. Your kindness and words are very humbling and much appreciated.

In Pre-School we have welcomed a new intake of children and I have been delighted to visit them in their sessions and say hello. They are busy learning the new routines and getting to know the staff and each other. Our oldest Pre-Schoolers have confidently made the return after the holidays and have been telling me about their Christmas break.

In school we have started the term reminding ourselves of the message of Christmas – peace, hope joy and love. We have celebrated Epiphany by recalling the journey of the Wise Men, and remembering how a bright star led them to Jesus the light of the world. We use this theme as part of our Star Awards celebration on Fridays when two children in each class are chosen as shining class stars for the positive way they have led others.

Each week the children in the main school have a staff-led hall assembly based on the Gospel of the previous Sunday and on Wednesdays we have a signing worship assembly led by our music teacher Mrs Finn. On Tuesdays and Thursday we have class based assemblies and these are a time for prayer and reflection within each class. Once a term each class takes the lead in delivering a shared assembly and we are delighted to once again be inviting parents to join us for these.

Once a term we celebrate Mass led by Father John, who I ask you to keep in your prayers at this time as he is recovering from an operation.

The classes have started new topics and you can find out more about what your child is learning via the weekly learning updates that are uploaded on to the website each week. This is a good starting

point for you to chat to your child about what they have been doing in school and to find out ways you can support your child with their learning.

A super start has been made by both staff and children on the new Phonic Scheme Read Write Inc. and all around the school children are making speedy progress with the new system. All staff have been trained to deliver the programme and we are looking forward to sharing information about this programme with our Year 1 and Year 2 parents this term.

This is a difficult time not only around the world with conflict and hardship but also closer to home with price increases, illness and many many families needing to consider lifestyle changes to adapt to the current circumstances. Schools are not immune to this and the movement of families, recruitment and wellbeing have all been major challenges. We are fortunate to have full classes and to have recruited teaching staff where needed.

We continue this term to recruit for our After School Club. This is a really valuable service and it is only possible to run it if we have the staff to do so. We are currently looking for a Level 3 Playworker to work as a supervisor from 3pm to 6pm daily. If you know anyone who may be interested in this type of work please encourage them to look at our vacancies on the school website.

Although a short term, there is lots happening and here are just a few of the things I am looking forward to seeing across the school over the coming months - topic celebrations, Parents Evening, Lent promises, Energy week, Archery, World Book Day, Stay and Plays, Mother's Day concert, St Joseph's Day celebrations, Science week, Animal Encounters, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday.

As well as some specialist drumming echoing around the school!

A Happy Healthy New Year

**Regards
Mrs Taylor**