



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER NO 1

DATE: 4/9/2020

*Love, Learn, Share, Care - We are God's children doing God's work*

Our Christian Value for this half term is **Friendship**

It is lovely to welcome you all back to school. It is a real joy to have all the classes of children in school. I am pleased to announce that we have had 99% attendance. This is fantastic. I am aware that some parents may have felt anxious about bringing their children back to school, but they have been amazing in their attitude to returning and they are excited to be back.

In school, we have many procedures and processes in place to keep our community safe. These include:

- Keeping classes/bubbles entirely separate from the moment the children arrive at school
- Enhanced cleaning of classrooms and shared spaces throughout the day
- Frequent hand washing through the day and careful respiratory hygiene
- Set routes around school to avoid bubbles mixing
- Tables are forward facing for all but our youngest children
- Children do not use the internal staircase to avoid spread via the handrails
- Staggered arrivals, departures and playtimes
- Social distancing of staff with separate staff rooms and limited staff coming together
- All doors through school are open to avoid spread and windows are open to increase ventilation

Government guidelines acknowledge that children and staff within their classes will not and cannot be expected to socially distance, but risk is reduced by limiting the number of contact they have. The chances of children becoming very unwell is extremely low. I do have a number of staff who have a heightened risk from Covid-19 through pregnancy, diabetes and age (60s and 70s). We also have a number of parents going through cancer treatment, who have heart conditions and immunity difficulties. We must be vigilant to keep them safe. Thanks to one parent who took their child for a test on the first day of term instead of coming into school because their orange juice tasted strange. The test came back negative, but this level of vigilance will keep everyone safe.

Mrs Hanrahan caught the coronavirus just as we went into lockdown and it caused great anxiety amongst the staff team and brought home to me the huge weight of responsibility in keeping everyone safe. Fortunately Mrs Hanrahan did not need to go into hospital and is now involved in regular testing to assist in better understanding of the length of time anti-bodies last in people. She is our pincushion super hero - putting up with the regular blood tests for the good of others. I will be vigilant in school and constantly review what we do to improve what we do. I apologise if I will be stern, 'strict' and somewhat anal about procedures going forward, but it is all born through the desire to keep everyone in our school community safe.

**Thanks PTFA!**

During the holidays a new soft play area was created in front of the nursery and under the trim trail. It had been planned for a while and it is wonderful that construction was completed during the holidays. It is great to have the additional play space just at a time when groups of children need to be kept separate. The money for this project was entirely raised by the PTFA. So a huge thanks to everyone who has been involved with the PTFA and



contributed to this project, which improves provision for all children. It will also mean that children are less likely to get muddy while playing on the trim trail. Fantastic effort everyone!

### **Head Girl, Head Boy, Deputy Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy**

During the summer term, children applied for this position and Mrs Holmes, Mrs Haughin and myself enjoyed reading their letters and thinking about them when we could not be with them. We reflected upon their letters and the way they have presented themselves over the years. It was an incredibly difficult decision and children who applied, but have not been successful will have other responsibilities.

I am pleased to announce

**Head Girl - Mae, Deputy - Darcie**

**Head Boy - Jools, Deputy - Toby**

Well done to everyone who applied for the roles and thank you for wanting to step up and do your bit for the school.

### **Meet the Teacher**

Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions, we cannot hold our usual meet the teacher evening in school. Staff will however send out information to you next Friday through Parent Mail. You have increased access to staff through ClassDojo, so please ask any questions you have through this and staff will get back to you as soon as they can. Staff are really enjoying working with your lovely children in their new classes.

Thank to so many of you for your supportive words and encouragement as we meet the challenge of returning all children to school under the governments guidelines. Your support is very much appreciated.

### **School Dinners**

School dinners for this half term will be £75.90. Please could dinner accounts be kept in credit.

### **Term dates for your information**

Fri 16.10.20	School closes for half term at the end of the school day
Mon 2.11.20	School opens after half term
Fri 4.12.20	<b>This is an normal school day</b> as the original proposal for an inset day was cancelled