



St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Friday 4th September 2020

Little Flowers Growing and Giving Glory to God

Welcome back!

Welcome back to the children, parents and staff at the start of this new academic year. I hope that you had some sort of a break during the summer and are ready for the year ahead. We are awaiting our new Reception class starting from next Monday, but has been wonderful to have the vast majority of children back from the other six classes back in school. 95.6% of the children from Years 1 to 6 have been in school this week. With this newsletter is a letter from Birmingham City Council regarding attendance at school. I won't dwell on the challenges faced over the last five months but it is good to have some sort of normality return to school life.

The next few weeks...

In the short term we will be continuing with the 'soft start' and 'soft end' to the school day. Children, accompanied by an adult, if that is the norm for your child, can come onto the school site from 8.45 a.m. to 9.15 a.m. and go on a directed route into class via the playgrounds. The soft end to the day will continue to be from 3.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Whilst the intention is for school to be as normal as possible there is guidance that we will continue to follow. This includes how classrooms are set up with children facing, where possible, in the same direction. It is also expected that bubbles of up to thirty children i.e. classes, do not mix. Breaktimes and dinner times will be staggered and are carefully managed so ensure that classes do not mix. Hand washing and cleaning regimes will continue. At this time we are not able to provide a Breakfast Club or after school activities. On the 'Home' page of the school website there is a link to a 'Return to School Guide' which will provide further information.

To help manage P.E. lessons and provide more curriculum time, which is affected by additional handwashing, we are having one long P.E. lesson rather than two lessons each week. To prevent clothing mix ups or uniform being handled by others or mislaid we are asking that on the day of their P.E. lesson the children wear an outdoor P.E. kit all day - they will therefore not need their uniform on that day. The outdoor P.E. kit is to be a P.E. t-shirt and shorts over which the children wear a long sleeved top and jogging/tracksuit bottoms or similar. Children are to wear trainers or pumps on their relevant day; for Year 1 this will be Tuesdays, for Year 2 it will be Wednesdays, for Year 3 it will be Fridays, for Year 4 it will be Thursdays, for Year 5 it will be Tuesdays and for Year 6 it will be Mondays. At this time these P.E. lessons will take place outdoors to ensure space and ventilation. Should the weather be bad the P.E. lesson will not take place.

Mrs Byrne is our Mental Health lead and can be contacted by email at Y2@stteresa.bham.sch.uk. Given the challenges that all have faced over the last few months she is available to support children and parents/carers with the return to school. Due to Mrs Byrne's health she will not be working with the Year 2 class at this time. Mrs Lal will be the teacher with Year 2.

Covid-19 Parents/Carers Survey

With this newsletter, there is a parents/carers survey that you are asked to complete and return to school. For the last academic year, due to the circumstances of the last few months, the survey questions reflect the school's response to the Covid-19 crisis. Please do complete this survey and return it to school. The question about whether your child attended school during the coronavirus outbreak is for the time period between March and July.

Family Circumstances

Over the last few months, a number of families have had changes in their circumstances. If parents/carers of any children are having hardship, particularly getting food, please contact the school and we will signpost you to groups that may be able to help you. We have been able to source food parcels and other support for families where we are aware of any need and will continue to do so.

Annual School Report

The children's annual school report for last academic year was forwarded electronically to parents and carers in July. Please contact school if you did not receive your child's annual school report.

Grammar School Entrance Exams

The families of children in Year 6 who are taking a grammar school entrance exam for the Birmingham Grammar Schools should have received the information required for these exams which take place on Saturday 12th September.

Catholic Life

The Wednesday Word booklet, which has covered each weekend for each weekend throughout the summer, up to and including this weekend is available on the 'Home' page of the school website. The theme for this weekend is 'Reconciliation'.



The Catholic Pupil Profile Virtues



This half term the two Virtues that are a focus for us and the other Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham are to be 'curious' and 'active'. The challenge is to be curious about the universe and all human activity, and to take increasing responsibility for their own learning, and by providing opportunities for them to be active in the life of the school, the Church and wider community.

This week the Catholic Pupil Profile Award goes to Jaimar who took an active role in looking after his friends in the playground. Well done Jaimar!

TEN TEN

We continue to work alongside the organisation TEN TEN which provides collective worship and prayer resources to Catholic Primary schools. Ten Ten produce a letter for parents each half term. In the September newsletter you will find information and ideas for discussing new beginnings with your child. You can find the newsletter on the school webpage under 'Catholic Life'.

Term Dates 2020-2021

The term dates for this academic year are below:

Autumn Term 2020:

Tuesday 1st September 2020 - Friday 23rd October 2020

Monday 2nd November 2020 - Friday 18th December 2020

(Tuesday 1st September is a Teacher Training Day. The children will return to school on Wednesday 2nd September).

Spring Term 2021:

Monday 4th January 2021 - Friday 12th February 2021

Monday 22nd February 2021 - Thursday 1st April 2021

(Monday 4th January is a Teacher Training Day. The children will return to school on Tuesday 5th January).

Summer Term 2021:

Monday 19th April 2021 - Friday 28th May 2021

Monday 7th June 2021 - Wednesday 21st July 2021

Please note there are three other Teacher Training Days to be confirmed. The term dates for the school are on the school website (www.stteresa.bham.sch.uk). The school term dates for 2020-2021 are on a link at the top of the 'Parents/Carers Information' page and at the bottom of the 'News and Diary' page.

Infant Free School Meals

Children in Infant classes are provided with a meal at dinner times under the Infant Free School Meal Scheme. Children in Junior classes are to pay £2.40 for a school meal unless entitled to free school meals. The parents or carers of any children who would be entitled to free school meals regardless of the provision for the Infant children are encouraged to register this entitlement through the school office as the school will receive £1,320 per child through Pupil Premium funding.

Uniform

It is lovely to see how smart the children look at the start of the new school year. Please do ensure that the different elements of your child's uniform, including coats and P.E. kits, have their name on it.

School Fund

The school is requesting a contribution of £20 from each family for School Fund, also known as the Building Fund. School Fund can be paid in full to the office. Cheques are to be made payable to 'St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School'. If you pay by cash please put it in an envelope labelled as 'School Fund' and the family name. Many thanks in anticipation of your support. Donations can also be made through ParentPay.

Dates for the Diary

- Monday 7th to Wednesday 16th September - New Reception class in for part of the day, either morning or afternoon.
- Thursday 17th and Friday 18th September - all Reception children in from 9.00 - 12.00, including dinner.
- Monday 21st September onwards - Reception class in full time.
- Friday 23rd October - End of the first half of the Autumn Term
- Monday 2nd November - Start of the second half of the Autumn Term

Best wishes,



D. Corkery