



March 2021

Dear Parents

EASTER LETTER 2021

As we reach the end of this very different term I wanted to write to you to thank you for the tremendous support that you have given – from moving very quickly into home learning for so very many weeks, to then supporting the children's return to school, and back to the staggered start and collection times. The last few weeks have been great – to have a buzz back in the school again and to welcome all of the children back with big smiles on their faces. In just a few weeks, we have crammed many exciting things in...!

Aspirations Week

We began the return to school with a wonderful Aspirations Week, to support the children's mental health and well being and to ensure a smooth return for them. We had different focuses on different days ranging from, 'Aspiring to have a growth mindset', 'Aspiring to read', 'Aspiring to have positive mental health and well being', 'Aspiring to be creative', 'Aspiring to stay safe', 'Aspiring to be tolerant of other's views' just to name a few. Year 5 and 6 children also enjoyed a virtual Tour of Parliament and a STEM Workshop lead by the Sea Cadets. This proved to be a very successful and enjoyable week.

Promoting a love of reading

We have also had wonderful opportunities for the children to engage with an author and a poet this term. The older children have enjoyed virtual question and answer sessions with author, Thomas H Taylor and poet, Paul Cookson provided virtual workshops to classes around the school. All in the name of promoting a love of reading amongst the children.

The younger classes now have links to Oxford Owl's e-books for home reading, as well as a reading for pleasure book. This means that the right reading book for your child's level can be accessed without having to quarantine the books for 72 hours, which should mean more opportunities for the children to carry on reading at home. Thank you so much for your support with hearing the children read. Please also encourage them to read their scheme book a few times before it is changed – children learn through repetition and just in the same way that they might enjoy watching the same episode of a programme on the television, they will also enjoy, and indeed gain much from reading their book several times at home too.

Book Fair – thank you so much for your kind support of this. We took over £1000 which has meant that we were able to select over £400 worth of books to keep for school which has really enhanced our class libraries.

Catholic Life

We have continued to enjoy various **liturgies and acts of worship** in school this term. Y5D led St Patrick's Day Mass readings over in church, whilst Upper KS2 joined them in the live stream. They did a magnificent job and had not forgotten how to read and behave respectfully in church – a real credit to our school and their families. I was very proud of you, Y5D.

We enjoyed a whole school retreat day on 19th March where we celebrated the feast of St Joseph as part of the Year of St Joseph. The children learnt more about St Joseph, the foster father of Jesus, took part in a diocesan wide live streamed Mass led by Bishop Patrick as well as various prayer stations in the hall, set up by Mrs Richards and Mrs Allen and a special art afternoon with the theme of 'hope in my hands' organised by Mrs Parker.

Last week, the children in KS2 took part in Adoration and an opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation – many thanks to Fr Michael for enabling this to take place.

Our school prayer area and chapel space is taking shape nicely, thanks to the talent of Mrs Mochel who has created a beautiful Our Lady of Lourdes grotto and is currently designing an Oscar Romero style crucifix to go above the altar.

Many thanks to Mr Westerman for supporting the ongoing creation of the Word of the Week films, and to the children in KS2 for creating these over the last half term. Please either follow us on Twitter or check out the link posted each week on Class Dojo to keep up to date with these.

As this is **Holy Week**, each class in the school has been involved in preparing special liturgy films for all of the classes and our wider community to enjoy.

Foundation Stage focused on Palm Sunday and Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. KS1 led the Last Supper, Jesus' washing the disciples' feet and the garden of Gethsemane, Lower KS2 led the arrest of Jesus and Jesus before Pilate and Upper KS2 led the Crucifixion of Jesus and the Resurrection. Thank you so much to the children and staff who led these beautifully. The films will be shared with parents via Class Dojo and Twitter very soon, so do look out for them.

Fundraising for Cafod – thank you so much for your very kind generosity – we raised £440 which is an incredible achievement. Each class has been walking daily for Cafod's #Walkforwater appeal and uploading their steps to the Trust's Virtual Pilgrimage Step Counter. This money was raised both through the non uniform day on the Lenten Retreat day and through the purchase of the knitted crème egg chicks. Thank you everyone!

Friends of Holy Trinity

Thank you very much for your generous support of the fundraising activities organised by FHT -film afternoon, Easter Egg Hunt and the Easter Raffle. All of the funds raised are contributing to the purchase of a new sound system and screen for the hall – so as soon as we can invite you back into school, you will be able to hear every word your child says! Many thanks to the FHT team and to Mrs Duckmanton in particular for making this happen!

Catching up – we will be continuing to observe and note any areas that your children are struggling with following the lockdown period, and will continue to use IXL both in class and for homework to help pin point gaps and support catch up. However, we will also continue with our wider curriculum, with our Forest School provision on a weekly basis in addition to working with English and Maths consultants to support closing the gaps in the core curriculum areas. We have also invested in further teaching assistant support to enable small group interventions to take place. All of this will continue over the course of the summer term, alongside the implementation of the new Read, Write Inc phonics scheme.

So much has taken place in such a short space of time! Our staff are well and truly ready for a very well deserved break and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for continuing to be an inspiration and privilege to work with.

A final well done and thank you to your amazing children for coping so admirably well with all of the different changes this term – it hasn't been easy, but we have made it, together!

I hope you enjoy a wonderful, happy and peaceful Easter with your families and that you enjoy safely the beginning of the relaxation of the Covid rules and regulations. Do stay safe and well over the Easter break and look after each other. If any of the children do unfortunately test positive for Covid within the next 48 hours, please contact me as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing the children refreshed and raring to go again on Monday 19th April.

With my very best wishes to you all

Mrs Julia Summers
Head Teacher

