



'Working & learning together with Jesus as one family'

HEADTEACHER NEWS LETTER

Friday 6th October 2017

'I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you'

Ezekiel 36:26

Jesus teaches us about changing our minds and changing our hearts. Pupils reflected on this message in the context of the parable of the two sons asked to work in the vineyard. We wondered why one son may have said 'no' and the other 'yes' to their father's request. And why both ended up changing their minds - one for the better, the other for the worse.

We recognized the importance of actions reflecting our good intentions and the promises we make.

There was a marked increase in the number of pupils who were ready to share their thoughts in assembly reflection time - our Wednesday Word homework tasks are clearly having a positive impact!

Our **Year 6** pupils and supporting staff set off for Osmington Bay on Monday – we are informed that the weather has been brilliant and everyone is enjoying an array of outdoor activities in this beautiful Dorset setting. The Key Stage 2 wing of the school seems strangely quiet without the children (and teachers!) and we look forward to welcoming them back on Friday afternoon.

(Year 6 individual pupil photo day will be on Tuesday 10th October).

Year 5 have been hard at work again this week under the watchful eye of Mr. Ross!

In History, the children have been learning about some of the fascinating Egyptian gods – their names and responsibilities. Art work has also been linked to this popular topic as children created images of Egyptian gods in oil pastels.

In other areas of the curriculum, the children have been developing their grammar knowledge by learning about prefixes, suffixes and conjunctions. Please talk to your child about these to reinforce class learning. Thank you !

This week in **Year 4** we have been learning about volume and pitch as part of our Sound topic in Science, by investigating the best soundproofing materials. In English, we have been writing detailed character descriptions, using our current literacy text, 'The Adventures of Robin Hood', for inspiration. In Maths, we have been hard at work rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. Finally, in Music, the children are planning, in groups, to showcase their own version of Abba's 'Mama Mia', enhancing the song rhythm with percussion instruments and dance moves! They already know all the words to the song, and we are looking forward to their class performances before half term.

In **Year 3** we have been working through the Writing Process and will be making a class book of superhero interviews; the children have been very creative and made good use of their dictionary skills. Our French classes are quickly becoming very popular, the pupils have been practising how to greet and thank others with confidence.

What an exciting and busy week **Year 2** have had! In Science we learned about what hygiene means and the importance of keeping clean. We all took part in an experiment using glitter to represent germs. We predicted what would be the best way to clean our hands and found out that the best way was with hot soapy water. We also learned why it is important to make sure our hands are nice and dry afterwards!



In English we have been looking at the famous A. A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh stories. The children brought their teddies into class and even wrote a letter to A. A. Milne. We included the four sentence types (statement, exclamation, question and command) as this was this week's focus.



In **Year 1** we have been reading and exploring the traditional tale of Little Red Riding Hood. We have enjoyed acting out the story and creating our own versions including new characters whom Little Riding Hood might meet in the woods. In R. E. we have begun to look at the Sacraments of Initiation focusing on Baptism. We have all shared pictures of our own baptism and have looked at the different symbols and actions associated with this sacrament.

Our **Reception** pupils have been learning about families through the wonderful story of '*So Much*'! At the end of the story, the family celebrated a birthday. Pupils loved responding to the text through role play, creating their own mini-celebrations with the use of face- masks to represent different characters. Encourage your child to retell the '*So Much*' story at home and talk to them about the generations in your own family – they will enjoy learning more!

This week in **Nursery** we have been learning about Harvest. We have looked at vegetables and printed with them and talked about Creation. All children are lining up beautifully and joining in with prayers very well.

OTHER SCHOOL UPDATES ...

In October, we celebrate **Black History Month**. We will mark this tradition by holding a **Heritage Celebration Day** on **Thursday 19th October**. Parents/families have been sent an email inviting pupils to wear traditional clothing from their culture to school on this day.

Parents/family members are also invited to support us by coming to school to tell pupils about your own culture/ethnicity and share artefacts, photos etc with your child's class.

Please email your details for the attention of Mrs. Logan (via school admin) Thank you !

Thank you for all your donations to the **Catholic Children's Society for the Grenfell Tower Fire Crisis Fund**. We have received a letter of appreciation for our donation of **£1437.30**. The society will be providing ongoing support for the community in various ways eg. mental health support funding to help children and families cope with trauma. I have been asked to pass on the Society's thanks to staff, pupils and parents for your financial support and prayers.

Our Harvest Celebrations and Collections will be taking place over the next few weeks. We will be sending out details of mass /liturgy times and details of how/when to make donations.

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

We have a vacancy on our Governing Body for a parent governor and look forward to hearing from interested candidates. Parents who put their names forward in the previous election are invited to re-apply – there is no restriction on the number of times a parent may stand for election. See attached letter.

The Governing Body's role is crucial to the effective Leadership & Management of the school – if you would like further details, please contact our School Office to arrange a meeting with Maura Lyons, Chair of Governors. Ballot papers will be sent out by pupil post next week.

J+C BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB – please see attached flyers for club updates !

Ms. Siobhan Keegan bids us farewell as she takes maternity leave for the remainder of this academic year. We wish Ms. Keegan all the very best and eagerly await news of the arrival !
