



## **Newsletter October 16<sup>th</sup> 2020**

Dear Parents,

Another week is over and we are successfully edging now towards half term at the end of this month. The children have settled and are established in their routines. We have welcomed back Year 2 pupils and staff this week and thank those parents who supported their children with home learning.

### **House captains 2020-2021**

Thank you to all pupils in Year 6 who wrote letters requesting to be made a House Captain this month. Some of the letters were of a very high calibre and demonstrated how proud the children are of their school and the values we hold dear.

Congratulations to the following pupils who were success in their application. Year 6 prefects will be announced next term.

<b>St Francis of Assisi</b>	<b>St John Paul II</b>	<b>St Anthony of Padua</b>	<b>St Cecilia</b>
<b>Yellow</b>	<b>Blue</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>Green</b>
Niamh S	Patrick	Emilia D	Rosie
Evie S	Mya	Amelia J	Luke
Finlee	Rebekah	Benno	Grace E

### **Music**

Music at Christ the King School is something we are especially proud of and COVID restrictions have not hampered our efforts or enthusiasm at all. We are very grateful to Mrs Fisher for teaching the children Makaton signing in school so that they feel included in the music – this is also a wonderful skill for life – you never know when sign language will come in handy! Music helps us to reinforce our mission based on the virtues of faith, hope and love. The children are really enjoying the Makaton – please ask them to demonstrate for you.

### **Christmas Events**

Christmas this year will be celebrated and shared with parents in various new and exciting ways. The nativities will be performed and shared with parents virtually via video and we have an exciting virtual choir project. The virtual choir will sing and share our message of hope and love with the local and school community. Although we won't be able to visit the care homes this year we need our elderly and lonely persons to remember that they are not forgotten and very much held dear.

### **No Nuts Policy**

We have a no nuts policy in school – please be aware that we will not compromise any aspect of this policy or accept any disregard of the policy.

What does this mean? It means that all food products provided for any pupil or adult in school must be nut free, it also means that any product that states that it 'may contain nuts' or 'may have been made in an area that contains nuts' must also NOT be provided.

### **COVID-19 Risk Assessment**

Children have no need to bring in individual **hand gel** or sprays from home as we have both hand gel and hand washing facilities in school. The only exceptions are for pupils who have a skin allergy and the parent has spoken to the class teacher.

Thank you to all parents of pupils in **Year 3 and Year 4 pupils** for working with us to improve the flow of persons on site. This has made a significant difference and many have reported that it feels safer. There are a few families who allow their children to stay and play on the school premises after school – remember we need you to exit site promptly to ensure the safety of all.

Please can all parents drop children off on time for when the doors open – this saves 10 minutes of learning time. Doors will shut promptly after 10 minutes after which pupils need to enter school via the main reception. Only one person should drop off or collect each day .

### **Bubbles**

The September Risk assessment and opening plan specifies that children are in year group bubbles. The reason for this is to enable effective use of staffing resources and targeted intervention and group work.

If there is a positive case of COVID 19 within a year group, the decision as to who will need to self-isolate, as 'contacts' of the positive case, is carefully considered in consultation with Public Health England. For example, when Year 2S needed to self-isolate only the staff or pupils who had been in close proximity to the positive case had to self-isolate. At that point the two Year 2 classes had not started mixed year group phonics or group interventions. A 'contact' is someone who has been within 1 metre face to face for any less of time, or someone who has been face to face within 2 metres for more than 15 minutes.

### **Remote Learning at Christ the King School**

This month all pupils have been introduced to **IXL** (a maths and English remote learning app). Younger children will be learning how to use this in class and older children are already logging on from home – well done to these pupils.

**Google Classroom** has been introduced in school to pupils this month and after half term will replace our previous learning platform- eSchools. Some year groups will set work over the break for pupils to have go at.

Please keep your child's online logins safely in one place for easy reference for on-line home learning and also in case of longer term remote learning for virtual schooling.

In the event of self-isolation or lockdown we expect all pupils to engage with remote learning. It is so disheartening when pupils do not engage and ultimately are then 'absent' from schooling. The government expect schools and parents to provide remote learning and ensure all children have support and access.

Now, more than ever, please work with us as partners to offer the very best remote learning opportunities for your child/ren. If you have queries, please do let us know.

### **Individual Pupil Photos**

This year we will only be offering individual pupil photos, unfortunately no group or sibling photos due to co-19 restrictions. The individual pupil photos will take place in school on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November – all children need to come to school in main school uniform this day (bring PE shoes in a named bag)

### **Flu Immunisations**

As far as we are aware the flu immunisations will be going ahead in December. Further information will follow as soon as we receive it from Dorset Health Care.

### **Staff Day**

There will not be a school INSET day on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. School will be open for pupils as normal.

### **Parking Outside School**

We are getting reports that parents are parking on double yellow lines and also on zigzag lines. Please show consideration when parking to pick up your children – park further away to avoid congestion and upsetting our local neighbours.

### **Dog Thefts**

There are increasing numbers of dog thefts across the area. Please leave your dogs at home when doing the school run as dogs are not allowed on site and tying them to the church gate posts leaves them and others vulnerable. Thank you.

### **Parents Evenings**

Pupil Progress and target information will be sent to parents on 6<sup>th</sup> November – all parents will have the option of a virtual follow up meeting with the class teacher.

### **Thankyou**

Thank you to our first aiders, Mrs Mandale and Mrs Garrod for their expertise and kindness, dealing with first aid situations this week.

### **EYFS Open Day**

There will be an opportunity for parents interested in places in either Pre-School or our Reception Class 2020-2021 / 2021-2022 to view the school virtually or by appointment. More information to follow.

### **October – The Month of the Rosary**

In the Catholic tradition, October is 'the month of the rosary'. Please share the following link with your parents: [www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter/](http://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter/)

In the words of Saint John Paul II "To pray the rosary is to hand over our burdens to the merciful hearts of Christ and His Mother; the rosary does indeed 'mark the rhythm of human life', bringing it into harmony with the 'rhythm' of God's own life, the joyful communion of the Holy Trinity, our life destiny and deepest longing."

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October we will be joining in a worldwide event praying the rosary. A letter went home today to explain this. If you child has a rosary at home, they are welcome to bring it into school to use.

### **Let Us Pray**

We give thanks for:

- ❖ Our sports coaches from Planet Education and the opportunity to have Fit Friday.
- ❖ Our first aiders, Mrs Garrod and Mrs Mandale for the essential part they play in our school community.
- ❖ All those with October birthdays.
- ❖ The prayers from our parishes and local community.

We pray for those in our community:

- ❖ Who are anxious about COVID 19 and afraid or lonely.
- ❖ Who need to self-isolate at this time, that hope sustains them and they feel supported and remembered.
- ❖ Fr Chacko and all local clergy that they continue to inspire and support us in faith, hope and love.

**And finally**, thank you for your continued support. Please help us to maintain a healthy community by following the government guidelines and avoid mixing households outside of school. Have a good restful weekend and thank you again.

Best wishes to you all.

Clare Tickel

Headteacher

*faith*  
*hope*  
*love*