



## **Newsletter October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020**

Dear Parents,

Hurray, we have successfully arrived at half term, and with the exception of Year 2, we have remained open to pupils. Thank you to all families who have been prudent and informed us immediately if a member of their household has been symptomatic of COVID-19 and sort tests quickly. Thankfully most tests have been negative and pupils and staff have seen short term disruption and absence. Nevertheless, each absence impacts on pupil progress and we need on-going parental support with remote home learning. Absence and changes in routine can be challenging for some pupils and can damage pupil engagement in their learning. We are continuing with our wellbeing focus in school with daily journaling and trick box. Please continue reviewing the day with your child each evening; discussing what they have enjoyed, what they are proud of and what they are grateful for. This simple exercise keeps us focusing on the positive and protects our wellbeing.

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

Year 2 to Year 6: Please contact the school if you have difficulty accessing Google Classroom or IXL. Teachers have demonstrated how to log on and use these platforms during lesson time. Well done to pupils in Year 6 this half term who have been our home learning champions – nearly all pupils completing home work on time. ☺

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

Ventilation is a key part of our control measures and this will not change as the weather gets cooler. We will ensure that every room has a flow of air as this helps mitigate the risk of spreading viruses indoors. Pupils will continue to wear school uniform to school, but we advise that as the weather gets cooler they wear an under vest or bring in an additional fleece layer to wear over their uniform. They will also need a winter coat to wear outside.

If your child or a member of your household becomes symptomatic of COVID-19 over the half term break, please follow the Government guidelines and apply for a test. Please inform the school that you are symptomatic via email to [Karen.mandale@ctkcps.com](mailto:Karen.mandale@ctkcps.com) and let us know who is symptomatic, when they first showed symptoms, date of test, outcome of test *and please leave a contact number*. Thank you.

### **Keep Our School Open**

Please be prudent and limit social mixing over half term. When the children come back together on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, after the break, we hope that our bubbles will continue to hold strong in restricting the spread of the virus. The winter months will be the hardest and loneliest for anyone needing to self-isolate, therefore, restricting our social interactions over the break will reduce the likelihood of the virus spreading. and our school closing.



### **Celebrating Special Moments**

There have been many treasured moments in school this half term. Most memorable is the first day back in school after such a long absence – the children brought life back to our school! The children have really enjoyed learning Makaton signing to hymns and music this term, Year 6 have produced some amazing Polar Bear art and Year 5 have enjoyed their computing lessons. Laudato Si and Me, Maths and Art Week, Spanish Day, Harvest Festival, all of these themes have enriched our learning. Our school values of humility, compassion, integrity and justice have all been prominent throughout the curriculum this half term.

### **Individual Pupil Photos**

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). Please ensure pupils arrive at school on time as we will have a tight schedule with enhanced cleaning between each group. Due to the time restrictions there will be *no sibling group photos this year*. Parents can order photos online or through the office staff.

### **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal**

We are supporting the Poppy Appeal again this year. Stick on poppies, bracelets and various stationary items are available for between 50p and £1.00 after half term up until Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

### **No Nuts Policy**

We have a no nuts policy in school – please be aware that we will not compromise on 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. Please keep products in original wrappers.

### **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**

Thank you to those parents who have made the effort to park further away from school freeing up space for local residents. We appreciate how stressful it can be for parents trying to park and pick up their children on time.

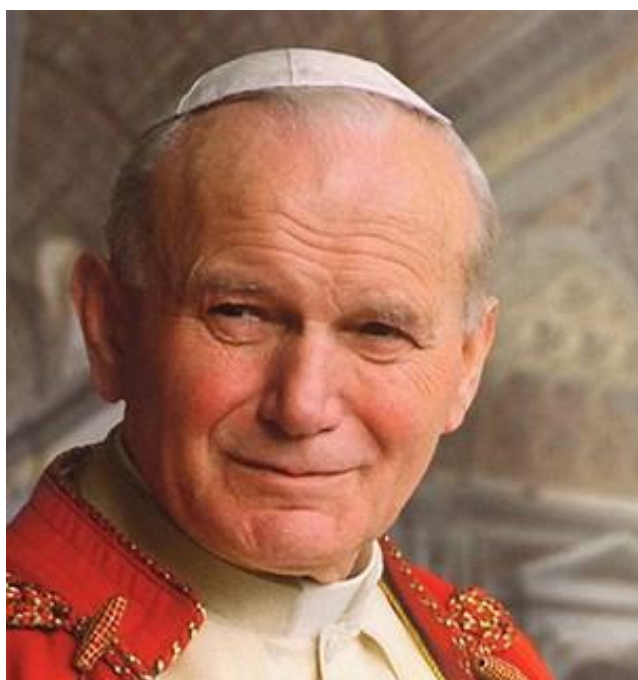
### Parents Evenings

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.

### Prompt Arrival to School

**Thank you** to all parents who have dropped children off on time and collected on time this half term. We are still seeing too many families arriving late and these children are missing the start of their lessons. Pupils who are regularly 10 minutes + late each day miss up to (or over) an hour of learning each week. This disadvantages them and makes it harder for them to keep up with the learning.

### Pope John Paul 11



Feast Day: 22<sup>nd</sup> October - Happy feast day to all pupils and staff who are members of our Blue House group – St John Paul II House. St John Paul II was born Karol Wojtyla in May 1920 in Poland. He became Pope (head of the Roman Catholic Church) in 1978 and died in 2005. Pope John Paul II visited England in summer 1982. I remember travelling to both Manchester and Cardiff to see this gentle pontiff. At the youth mass in Ninian Park, Cardiff, the voices of the young echoed around the stadium as we sang:

***'We're the church of today,  
The hope of tomorrow,  
Called to trust in God's Word.  
He will lighten our way  
And save us from sorrowful,  
He is Christ our King,  
He is Jesus,  
He's Lord.'***

St John Paul II pray for us!

## **Halloween**

With Halloween season fast approaching, families may be wondering whether trick or treating is worth the risk this year.

The police and partners across the South West are asking families to ditch the usual trick or treating plans and channel all their creativity into other activities at home as we all continue do our bit to prevent the spread of coronavirus and keep infection rates low across the region.

## **Let Us Pray**

We give thanks for:

- ❖ The life and inspiration of St John Paul II, calling us to prayer and reminding us that our faith can sustain us in times of trouble.
- ❖ Our sports coaches from Planet Education and for Fit Fridays.
- ❖ Our pupils and staff who have worked so hard this half term.
- ❖ All those with half term birthdays.
- ❖ The small things in life that we take for granted – a warm cup of tea, a smile, the roof over our heads.
- ❖ Our clergy and fellowship with Christ the King Church and other local churches.

We pray for:

- ❖ All families and staff, that everyone keeps safe and well over half term.
- ❖ All those receiving medical treatment, whether corona virus related or not
- ❖ Those who are anxious about COVID 19 and afraid or lonely.
- ❖ Those who need to self-isolate at this time, that hope sustains them and they feel supported and remembered.
- ❖ All children & parents suffering with mental health problems especially those who feel they have nowhere to turn.
- ❖ 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 support this half term; the staff and I wish you all a safe and happy half term.

Best wishes to you all.

Clare Tickel

Headteacher

*faith*  
*hope*  
*love*