

Newsletter



Sacred Heart RC Primary School

28/05/2021

Dear Parents,

Firstly may I apologise for the lack of Newsletters over the past few weeks. Fridays have become increasingly hectic and last week was no exception. A member of staff called in with a positive test result (luckily her symptoms have been mild...perhaps because of her vaccine) and I had to seek advice from the DfE. Unfortunately, as a result, we had to send children and staff home to self-isolate. It was a sharp reminder that the disease has not gone away and we should still be exercising caution especially with the holiday coming up.

Restrictions easing

Given the above news, I know parents are looking forward to the changes planned nationally for later in the year but I am letting you know now that we will not be making any changes in school in the near future. I also anticipate that we will continue to follow these guidelines in the new Autumn term.

There has been no updates from the DfE but the Church has issued some new guidance. We will be able, in consultation with the Parish, to celebrate an end of year in person Mass but we should not be inviting parents or visitors to any Masses before September. That will include a leavers Mass I'm afraid. This will be on zoom.

Regarding Year 6 Leavers

We will be trying to make the end of the year as traditional as possible for the Y6 children within the restrictions. It is wonderful to see them rehearsing again for an end of a year production. We will be sending more details later but we are planning an outside performance with limited attendance. We are also planning a leaving event but without the attendance of parents. I am aware that some parents are also planning to commemorate the children's leaving. Please look out for their class communication.

Post Covid working

There has been much that we have taken from the changes imposed upon us and things for us to consider if and when guidelines change. Virtual meetings and training have been a revelation. I had overwhelming positive feedback from the staff and parents that I have spoken to about school cloud parents meetings. I know that you lose that personal face to face meetings and parents don't see the books but in every other respect the experience was infinitely better. It was much calmer for school staff in terms of the disruption of collection and supervision. The school environment was maintained and kept tidy. Parents no longer have to wait for appointments running over, they don't need to travel and can take the appointment from wherever is convenient. We even had one parent have their appointment from Nigeria!!

The other improvement is to the start of the school day. Teachers report that lessons start much quicker and with less disruption because children come straight through to class. We will probably be maintaining the staggered start to the school day.

Italian eTwinning Project

The children in Year 4 have had the opportunity to join children from the Istituto Comprensivo in Montabello Parma Italy in live zoom sessions. They have been getting to know each other and finding about the similarities and differences in school life between Italy and Sacred Heart. I am grateful to Ms Piedimonte for organising this opportunity.



School Street

Today I welcome a small number of the Wandsworth Living Streets volunteers into school to thank them for manning the barricades and make Cabul Rd so much safer. Weather permitting we will be having an afternoon tea to say thank you.

The council are now consulting on the future of School Streets "**Have Your Say** on our School Street trial. The online consultation takes just 3 minutes to do and could have an impact on whether the scheme is made permanent. [Consultations - Wandsworth Borough Council](#)"

Catholic Life of the school

Every Friday the children in Years 2 -6 have been saying the Rosary together on zoom to celebrate the month of May - Mary's month. Liturgical Assemblies continue to follow the Gospel on a Monday and we are delighted to welcome face to face visits from Deacon Michael back into the classes.

Sacred Heart Parish

FIRST CONFESSION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2021.

The Parish will be starting the programme for Children in year 3 and above on 6th June. If you missed the two registration afternoons at the beginning of May could parents please contact the parish office before the 30th May to register their child for the programme and to collect the information. The programme is open to those who belong to the Sacred Heart Parish and/or attend the Sacred Heart Church. Further information please contact the parish on 020 7223 2747 or batterseawest@rcaos.org.uk Please note once the programme starts on 6th June we will be unable to accept anybody else.

Parents contributions

I have been humbled by the responses from parents to my requests for support.

A KS2 parent recently donated £300 to pay for the remaining ivy screen to protect the KS1 playground and this complimented the raffle organised by Antos' parent who raised a wonderful £210 for the improvements to the playground.

In addition to this, I believe that parents are supporting Mrs Christie and the KS1 staff by making the seat covers that make life much easier in Year 1 and Year 2.

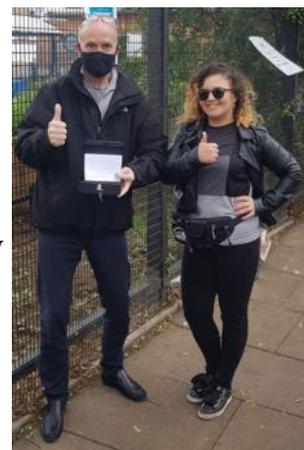
On behalf of the staff and I, thank you to all who have helped out.

Chelsea Football Club visit

Last week 10 children became the first from the school to go on an actual trip out!!

We had been given the amazing opportunity to take children to play football on the pitch at Stamford Bridge! They joined St Mary's children and others coming out to the pitch and having some great training drills.

There were ongoing issues about bus travel but we took the train on this occasion and felt it was safe. After half term we are hoping that children will start to venture out to Battersea Park for geography outdoor learning which will be exciting and other classes are starting to plan trips. I realise for parents trips and visits have started again but they are very much a new start for the schools.



Mr Gash's Wedding

Last Saturday, Mr Gash, our trumpet teacher, got married. It was a really beautiful wedding, despite the Covid restrictions. Many tears were shed, many smiles beamed, and there was some fantastic music performed by his friends (a full brass band!). The wedding was conducted by the Salvation Army at a church in Bexleyheath, and Mr K. was present, representing Sacred Heart. Thank you all so much for your generous donations which helped make this happen. Mr Gash wanted you to know how grateful they both are, and that the money we raised was used to pay for his wedding suit, the bride's dress, and their two wedding rings.

