

# English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Dear Parents, We have reached the end of our first half term and it has been wonderful to see all the pupils and parents back together. It has been a challenge in some ways, however I am so proud of the way our pupils have adjusted to the changes we have put in place and grateful to parents for your cooperation and support.

As you are all probably aware, the Covid virus is still amongst us and precautions to enable us all to be as safe as possible are still a priority, please continue to follow the guidelines, Hands, Face, Space and ensure you and your children wash hands regularly, wear a face mask where required and maintain a sensible space from one another.

We will continue to monitor the daily updates from the DfE guidance for schools, we are still working together to ensure that our pupils' education is not effected but ask that you please also do your bit to ensure that your child and family remain safe and well.

Although we miss our interaction with the parents, we will continue with having no visitors inside the school premises until further notice and remind parents to please contact the school by phone or email if you have any questions or concerns, we will always do our best to keep the lines of communication open to help support you in any way we can.

Please see below some of the news our class teachers would like to share with you and what we have done this half term and planned for the next term.

Inset Day – school will be closed to pupils on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October for staff training, Pupils will return to school Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

## NHS Flu Jab

Pupils from Reception – Year 6 were given their annual flu jab on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October. This is very important for pupils to help strengthen their immune system and protect them against the flu. The younger pupils were very brave

## SEND

Ms Sudell held her first SEND Zoom meeting with parents this week, to help parents understand more about what the SEND team do in school and ways to help support parents. There are more meetings planned and parents will be kept informed of the dates.

## Welcome New Staff

We have three new Mid Day Meal Supervisors who joined our team this half term, Ms Katie, Ms Veronica and Ms Matimbe.

## Nursery and Reception

We welcomed Nursery pupils to EMS this half term and are pleased to say they have all settled in well. The children that moved from Nursery to Reception have made a good transition well as well as new pupils who joined our Reception class.

## Sports Teacher – Mr Longley

Well done to every child in the school for completing the **Daily Mile Mini Marathon**. They have been running for 15 minutes without stopping and I have seen a huge difference in their stamina. The children have been telling me all about the benefits of exercise, including getting healthier, feeling happier, getting a stronger heart and muscles and improving their concentration and attention. Also, a big shout out goes to the whole of key stage two for participating in the **Cross-Country** event. The children ran 10/16 laps of the playground as fast as they could and their times were recorded. I was especially proud to see everyone cheering for each other and not giving up when they found it difficult

**Year 1** - I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you for your support and the sacrifices that you have made this term. Thanks for the support given to your children in making sure that their books are read and signed each week, the Mymaths home work is completed and PE kits are worn to school every Wednesday. The children are making steady progress in all areas of the curriculum. Keep up the good work you are doing.

I look forward to your continued support and wishes for you and your child/children a blessed and happy half term.  
Mrs. Russell - Class Teacher

**Year 2** - Thank you for all of your continued support this half term. In year 2, we have been reading the story called 'Tadpoles Promise' by Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross. We used our skills of prediction to predict what will happen next in our story and wrote some amazing adjectives to describe the characters! To end our topic, we were the authors and illustrators of our very own published re-telling of the story. We created our own front covers, illustrations and blurbs to our books and are very proud of the finished pieces. Please continue reading with your child and checking Purple Mash and Mymaths regularly for online learning.

**Year 4** - In 4G, the children have settled well in their new routine and most of the children have been making great effort in doing their reading every evening and doing the other homework they have been given. However, due to the long break, they sometimes find it challenging to recall what they were taught in Year 3 and to deal with new concepts. So we have been using the recovery curriculum to help them to make progress quickly.

**Year 3** - Our Year 3 students have settled into the new way of school life very well. We have discussed the pandemic through the children's books Everybody Worries and Sadness, as did the whole school. Our English work has been on the pirates that the children have really enjoyed. In maths the children started working on place value in number, addition and subtraction, 2D shapes and right angles and now multiplication. Regarding reading please can we reiterate that the children must have their reading record signed on a daily basis with the DATE and a brief comment. Children's books get changed once a week as we have to quarantine the books on a weekly basis.

**Year 5** - Year 5 are still settling into class. We've been working hard at maths, and the children have made progress. We've worked on spelling and punctuation and need to practice apostrophes. We're also practicing handwriting, especially neatness and joins. In PHSE we've looked at our worries, healthy eating, physical activities and how to cope with our worries. In RE we learnt about our class saint, the creation of the world and God's helpers of the Earth. Homework is set every week, with spellings on Monday and Purple Mash and Mymaths during the week. In the few weeks we've been at school, the class have made progress.

## School Photos

The school photographer will be in school on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November. More information on this will be given to parents soon.

**Year 6** - We would like to say a big thank you for your continued support since the return to school. The children have adapted very well to the new routine and continue to understand how important the new measures are. Please could you remind your child to read daily and complete homework tasks on My Maths and Purple Mash to reinforce learning in school. Our expectations are that reading should be for a minimum of twenty minutes and all homework should be completed weekly. For those who are struggling with My Maths, use the tutorials on the My Maths website to help you. We wish you a restful break and look forward to the new term.