



Do Everything with Love (1 Corinthians 16:14)

June Newsletter 2019

Update from Mrs Christopher

Welcome back everyone to another busy half term.

Firstly, I would like to say a huge 'WELL DONE' to all our Year 2 and 6 children.

I always say to them that no one can do any more than their best and I am pleased to report that every single one of them did this. I was very proud of the calm, serious and hardworking way that they approached their tests- a real skill in itself. Thank you also to all the Year 2 and 6 parents for the support you have given your children leading up to SATS and, of course, the staff who were involved in access arrangements and Year 6's breakfast preparation.

As we approach this busy half term, we must all remember to take time out every so often to step back and review where we are. Mental health and well-being is a hot topic at the moment and because of this, we have been pursuing strategies which will support the children not just through their schooling but through their life to help them become resilient individuals in a busy world. On the first INSET day back this half term, the staff participated and discovered the benefits of Spiritual Meditation. This is a discipline that we will be introducing to the children in a few weeks' time so it is important for us to share the reasons with you. Meditation, as you may know, is a discipline which has been proven to improve attention skills, self-regulation and also, relieve anxiety and stress all done by resting the mind and body. Spiritual meditation has the addition of resting the spiritual side and having Christ at the centre of the meditation. In spiritual meditation, the Aramaic phrase 'Maranatha' is used at the beginning of the meditation which means 'Our Lord is coming', the idea being that this helps the children to empty their minds of all other thoughts and just listen to the silence, others of greater faith will use this silence to allow/ invite the Lord to be with them. Other catholic schools in our diocese have already introduced this and, having worked in one of these schools myself, I know and have witnessed the benefits it has for children, hence why I am keen to introduce it to the children. It worked so well that some of the children would ask if they could have more of this time as they felt they needed it- and I really do believe, they do need it. If you would like to find out more or be involved, please contact me via the school office. Otherwise, ask your child about it and maybe they can teach your family how to participate in Spiritual meditation.

Another focus for our summer term has been our mission to look after our earth. The children have been learning more about Pope Francis' letter: 'Laudato si' and Greta Thunberg's passion for something to be done now. Our Year 5 ECO group update the school family each week on ways that we can be more responsible in how we look after our world. They've given us a mission each week eg. No paper in the compost bins; turn off the lights when you're not in the room. Ask the children what our action is each week. This message of action has made us all wake up and realise the importance of our part in protecting the earth's future.

During this season of Pentecost, we pray for the Holy Spirit to come alive in each one of us as we participate in this action to protect our earth if not for ourselves, then for the sake of our children, the future generation.



"Listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor"

Greta Thunberg: 'I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if our house is on fire!'



Staffing News

Our congratulations go to Mr Trevett, who has been successful in his application to teach at St Augustine's Catholic Primary school, Weymouth starting in September 2019. It is with a heavy heart that we say good bye to him but we wish him all the best on his new teaching journey. Mr Trevett will be missed by us all. We will keep you informed of any further staffing news.

ATTENDANCE

As you are aware attendance at school is closely monitored by the Government. This means that the County Attendance Officer visits schools to check registers and attendance data. We have just had our visit; our whole school attendance is currently at 95.18%, which we are pleased to say is in line with the national average.

The Attendance Officer noted that our number of 'Lates' is higher than the expected – please be aware that if your child arrives in the morning after the register is closed it is an unauthorised absence. The school door opens at 8:40am and children are expected to be in class settled by 8:55am for learning. Between 8:40 and 8:55am children have their 'MUST' activity to complete which builds on and consolidates Maths and English skills that the children are learning. Some children are often arriving with no time to complete this activity.

Also, please remember that term time holidays may result in a penalty notice. If you intend to take a term time holiday, you must inform the school office explaining why you need to go on holiday during school time.

SPONSORED FUN RUN

Well Done to all the children who took part in our Fun Run!

So far, we have raised an amazing £1750 from our Sponsored Fun Run. Thank you for your kind generosity.

Please send in any remaining sponsor money by Friday 21st June, so that we can do a final total. We have had some quotes for the extended soft play all-weather surface and are looking forward to getting the work started.

FOREST SCHOOL NEWS

We have had a fantastic start to our Forest School sessions. The children have all been very enthusiastic and have engaged brilliantly with all the activities. We have built dens, hunted for bugs, learned how to recognise different types of trees and have begun whittling some hazel.

Please can all parents ensure that their child is suitably dressed for the sessions. Even if it is raining, we will still be outside for a minimum of two hours. Wellies and waterproofs are essential!

Sports Day

Friday 21st June

12:30 - 3pm

We will have an early lunch on Sports Day next week at 11:30, so that we can fit all the events into the afternoon. You are invited to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy with your children on the school field.

Please ensure that your child has correct school PE kit (navy shorts, school PE shirt, socks and trainers or plimsolls) for the day. Hopefully, the sun will be shining - so please ensure that your child has a water bottle, sun-hat and comes to school with sun-tan lotion already applied.

Thank you.

This month's Eco Top tip from Amelia, Edie, Vaneska & Megan:

Don't buy plastic bags. Remember to bring a bag with you. Be plastic free! Help our earth!



Flags of thanks



Some of our children have been taking part in an art project creating hand crafted flag. Lt. Col Neil Stace – the sewing soldier- has been leading the project along with Alabare- a charity who supports homes for veterans. The flags will form part of the 2019 Armed Forces Day in Salisbury this month. The flags demonstrate our support and gratitude for the Armed Forces Community. Afterwards, the flags will be joined to make quilts, sleeping bags and ponchos for veterans.



ROCKLEY SPORTS SUCCESS!

Our sailing team who went to Rockley this week returned with 2nd and 3rd medals. Congratulations SMSJ Team! Photos coming soon on the website in the news page for June.