



Parents' Update: Friday 7TH January 2022

Dear Parents

FOR TRUE HUMAN FRATERNITY

Pope Francis entrusts his Worldwide Prayer Network each month with prayer intentions that express his great concern for humanity and for the mission of the Church. His monthly prayer intention is a worldwide call to transform our prayer into specific actions; it is a compass for a mission of compassion for the world.

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognised, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy New Year and also to let you know that your children have come back to school after the Christmas break brimful of energy as per usual. They have thrown themselves back into their routines of learning with great positivity, despite all of the threats and challenges that we face in our country at this time.

We began the school year with an assembly which focused upon some of the key characters of the Christmas story: the shepherds, the three kings, the innkeepers and St Joseph. Children were asked which of these characters they would like to emulate during 2022. Perhaps you could follow this up with your child.

Staffing update

Today, Mrs Mulherin begins her maternity leave and we wish her well for the birth of her first child and the first few months of her and her husband's lives together as parents. We also welcome into the school Miss Doran, who is working in the early years supporting children's learning and development.

Impact of Covid

As you will have seen or heard on the news, the impact of the Omicron variant is being felt throughout many parts of the world. It is no different for our organization too: this week, we have seen many children absent from school (as many as 45 on one of the days) and we have had to manage with our own staff absence challenges. As of today, there are currently four teachers and four teaching assistants absent with Covid and other illnesses. This has put the school under additional pressure this week and I am grateful to all staff members for their flexibility, patience and support for the school at this time. We have worked hard to make sure that no year group has been closed or that any classes have had to join together (a directive that the Department of Education has authorised for schools at this time). Your child may well report that their teacher is not in school and that they have another teacher or teaching assistant working with them. I do appreciate that this is disruptive, but not as disruptive as merging classes or even closing year groups. Please do all you can at the school to stop the spread of the virus by wearing face masks once on premises, using the correct entrance and exit gates, socially distancing yourselves and reporting to the school in a timely manner of any LFD outcomes or associated Covid symptoms with your child.

Good news!

We begin by thanking Fr Gerry for coming into the school on Thursday and enabling a celebration of the feast of the Epiphany. I have posted some images and videos on the school's Instagram site for you to see, but above all, it has been wonderful to be able to celebrate together - children from Y1/2 were present in the hall and other children watched and celebrated within their classrooms.

If you are a keen Instagram user, or Twitter for that matter, you will see that we have been awarded the gold standard of Transport for London's STARS travel to school scheme. We are grateful to all of you for enabling your children to come to school in a more active way than they may have done before. As lots of you know, the traffic in front of the school often get stuck in a bottleneck and several parents are still, despite our pleas and requests, either parking or stopping on the double yellow lines or zigzags. A timely reminder for you is that this is both illegal and causes serious danger for your children. Wherever you possibly can, park elsewhere and walk to the school.



SS PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL
'Learning Together, Achieving Together in Christ'
Head Teacher: Mr D Hennessey BEd (Hons), P.G. Dip. Ed., NPQH



Sports Matter

This afternoon, we took delivery of a number of free tickets for an AFC Wimbledon women's football match, kindly donated to local schools. We have given them out to our girls' football squad so that they can enjoy the match on Sunday afternoon with their families.

We wish our Y5/6 boys our very best wishes for their appearance at the borough football finals next Friday. Let us hope that the finals are not postponed and that they do well.

A prayer for January – Pope Francis

Lord Jesus Christ, you invite us to be sisters and brothers, to live in fraternal harmony, loving and respecting each other in our differences and valuable diversity; send your Holy Spirit into our hearts so that we may learn to look at each other and treat each other with love, with the same love that you have for us. Grant that we may feel beloved children of the same Father, brothers and sisters capable of welcoming each other, promoting dialogue and encounter. Welcome into your heart those who are discriminated against for living their faith and give us a big heart to bring them comfort and peace in their pain.

Amen

Wishing you well for the weekend,

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