



Parents' Update: Friday 22nd January

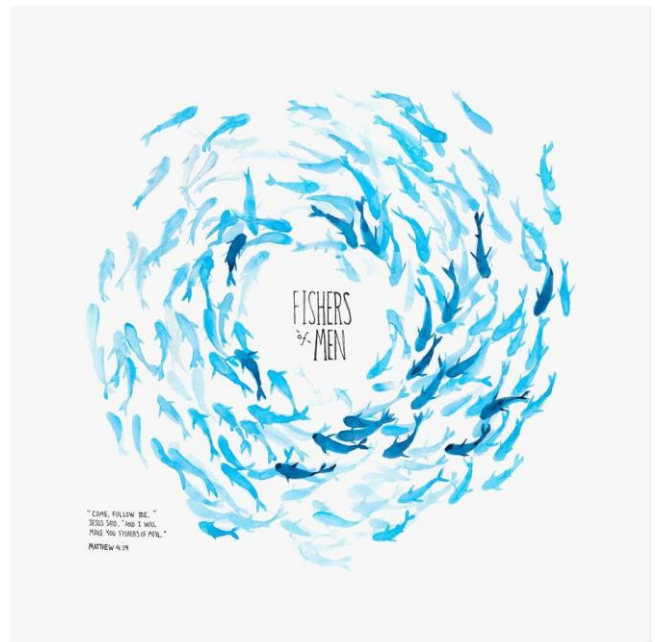
Dear Parents,

Pope Francis's prayer request for January asks us to consider our Human Fraternity:

May the lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

At the end of a busy week in school, I am reminded that it is a year since the school's Ofsted inspection. We have continued to work on the priorities for improvement, even despite the major lockdowns that we have faced. I thank the staff for their hard work, their dedication and their unfailing commitment to making the school a better learning centre for your children, and I also offer my thanks to you for your support at this time.

At the end of this week, we are also reminded that during these difficult times for our families, we are surrounded by the signs of hope for the future, whether this is in Sunday's Gospel passage with Christ inviting us to follow him (Mark 1: 14-20), or in the sight of a beautiful day like today where the natural world calls us to enjoy it, or even where there is a change of administration in one of the world's "superpower" nations! We must continue to seek this hope in everything that we do.



School Website

We have completed the reconstruction of the [school's website](#), with the aim of creating a more user-friendly space to locate information. In doing so, we intend for this to become a more unified place for communications. Please visit the site and navigate your way through some of the links. Any feedback on the site would be welcome, via the office@sspp.merton.sch.uk email.

Hot Chocolate Friday

Having informed you about the return of hot chocolate Friday, as part of our behaviour management strategy, I am pleased to announce the first set of successful HCF winners. All are doing really well with remote learning, and you will see that there are a mixture of children working at home and those working in school. Click for a [short celebratory video](#).

Cafod National Assembly

As part of our ongoing work as a Catholic school community, the class teachers will be presenting the latest [Cafod National Assembly](#) – and I invite you all to take part too. It takes place on Thursday 28th January at 9:30am, but can be accessed any time after that through their website. We have engaged with previous national assembly is on various themes, and find them very engaging for children. Next week's theme is entitled Water for Life and may well be linked to Cafod's Lenten campaign for us to walk 10,00 steps during each of the forty days and raise funds. Fancy a challenge for a good cause? [More details here](#).



The Wednesday Word

Please click on the link to find this week's [Wednesday Word](#), In preparation for Sunday's Gospel reading. This is an excellent way to keep children engaged with scripture during this current lockdown period.

Available Food Support

Thanks to one of our mums here at the school, we have learned that the Power Centre Church, in the centre of Mitcham (where MacDonald's used to be) is offering food to local people and families every Thursday between 10.00 - 2.00. Of course, donations there are always welcome too. Follow [this link](#) for contact.

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing for staff

This week we received the delivery of the LFD testing kits for staff working in the school at this time. The members of staff who are working in the school will be testing themselves twice per week, receiving a result after 30 minutes, and without the need for sending the test away for analysis. This will enable the school to monitor any positive cases, where members of staff are asymptomatic. This move, driven by the government and the NHS, is designed to keep us all safe.

Return to School

Some parents have been asking if and when the school is going to reopen. I would like to reassure you that we are not given any additional information ahead of any national announcement. As with many aspects of this changing pandemic situation, there does not seem to be any advance information provided for schools in order to make preparations. In short, we are usually informed when you are. I will always endeavour to keep you updated.

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to the many parents who completed the online questionnaire. The deadline for this has now closed and we will be able to begin our analysis of these results, communicate them to you and to make any changes to the remote learning plan following these results. Please do keep sending your messages and comments to the office@sspp.merton.sch.uk email.

Wishing you well for a calm, bright weekend – with a risk/promise of snow perhaps!

David Hennessey
Headteacher

