



Parents' Update: Friday 22nd October 2021

Dear Parents

Pope Francis's prayer request for October is that we pray for the challenges of humanity and mission of the Church.

We pray that every baptised person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel.

This morning we rounded off the half term's work by celebrating our Harvest Mass together, led by our Year 5 children and Fr Gerry. As ever, it was a wonderful gathering and a joyous occasion. Your children prayed for the poor, heard about the parable of the sower and sang some harvest-related hymns.



The altar was surrounded with a huge number of donations of foodstuffs and toiletries from you, for which I am in great admiration. This must be the best harvest collection that we have had in the last five years here, so a big "thank you" from me. The school's prayer leaders packed up all of the food after Mass in readiness for handing over to the [Dons local action group](#), so as to serve those of our communities who are most in need.

Wednesday Word

Please find three weeks' worth of Gospel readings in this booklet edition of the [Wednesday Word](#), to help you in engaging children with the teachings of Christ.

Ofsted: ParentView

The school inspection process had largely stopped during the pandemic and has now begun again. Many schools have been inspected during this academic year and we will receive an inspection at some point during this academic year – we will only know when this is on the day before.

In preparation for this, and in order to understand your thoughts about the school, it would be useful if you completed the ParentView questionnaire over the next week or so. Please follow the [link here](#) to log in and complete the questionnaire, which is completely anonymous.

Children's Belongings

Although not a new request, please may I remind you to put labels in every item of clothing that your child wears to school, and also their lunchboxes or water bottles. Last week we had a large clearance of lost property and were shocked at how much of it was not labelled. We have now put all of the unclaimed clothing into the PTA uniform sales box or our Bertie bin clothes bank.

Parents' Evening/Afternoon

Thank you for all your co-operation with the parents' meetings. I know that many of you had to revert to a phone conversation, but importantly, we must all focus upon the targets and next steps that the children were given so that we are combining our efforts to keep the children's learning recovering following the lockdowns. Although only a small handful of parents, for those of you who have not had your meeting, your child's class teacher will still be trying to organise to meet with you.



Year 6 Application to Secondary Schools

This is a final reminder to all parents of children in Year 6 who have not yet completed applications to secondary school - the deadline is 31st October. Please remember to complete both the [eAdmissions](#) application, as well as a supplementary information form for each faith school that you wish to apply to.

Parent Teacher Association

Thank you to those members of the Parent Teacher Association who collected mufti day money and ran the doughnut sale this afternoon.

Half Term Week and Inset Day

Please note that the school will be closed next week and also for staff training on 1st November. The school will reopen for children on Tuesday 2nd November.

The staff training day itself is focusing upon improving learning outcomes for children in the classroom and how to make sure children achieve their best progress. We are also looking to strengthen the teaching by improving the day to day assessments that are made. We look forward to seeing the impact of the training during November, December and beyond.

Closing Words

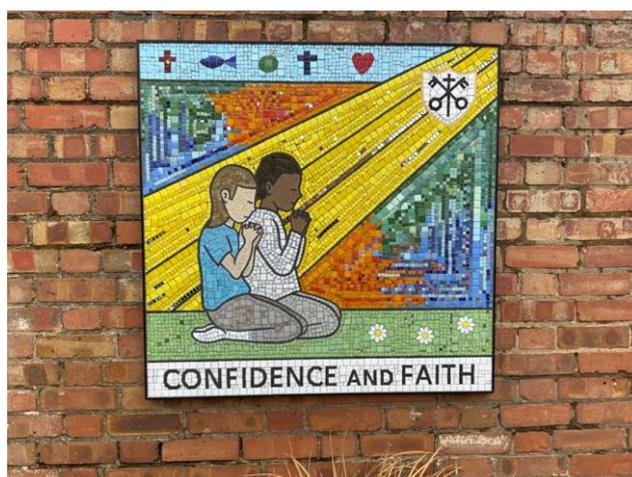
It has been a very busy half term as we have tried to manage our "new normal" but everyone has worked hard to help to rebuild our school community. The children are in need of a good rest next week, as are the staff. I offer my thanks to the staff and especially to Mr Reilly who leaves us today after supporting the learning for our older children in this and the previous academic year.

We have faced some Covid cases in the children, had a small number of staff isolations, faced a wider spread of norovirus in the school and are now seeing some cases of chickenpox! I hope that you are all managing well with both the physical health aspects of this time and the mental health matters too. Do try to find some time getting outdoors next week to enjoy the autumnal colours and beauty around us.

We look forward to seeing you all again on 2nd November

Wishing you well for the coming week, especially if you are able to organise some time off work.

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