



Parents' Update: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents

### FOR THE CHALLENGES FACING HUMANITY AND THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

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 that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.**

We welcome back the children and yourselves as the school has reopened. I hope you were able to find some family time last week and that batteries are recharged for this coming half term's work. As you know, the second part of the autumn term becomes very busy, especially as we enter the Advent and Christmas season. Before that we are focusing upon November as the month of Remembrance. We are selling poppies on behalf of the Royal British Legion and will be sending a representative group of children to the cenotaph in Mitcham for our local service of remembrance. As it is the 100th anniversary of the Royal British Legion, on 11th November the children's learning will be focused upon Remembrance Day - of course, all of this is alongside our remembering November as the month of the Holy Souls.

We will send out a separate information sheet regarding the Advent and Christmas services and celebrations.

### Wednesday Word

In our whole school assembly on Monday coming, we will be focusing upon the theme of Remembrance and so I will not be addressing the messages within the weekend's Gospel reading. Therefore, it would be good that you help children understand Sunday's reading through this week's [Wednesday Word](#) together.

### School Day

At the end of the previous half term, the school's leadership team reviewed the curriculum and timetable to see where we could improve children's learning and progress. As part of this we have reorganised the end of the school day. Classes will (unless they are having Music or PE lessons) be ending the day with a focus upon reading, meaning that the school teaching day will finish at 3.15. Therefore, please expect a couple of minutes' delay between the children finishing their learning and being dismissed for the day.

### Reading and Books

As I am sure you know by now, following the impact of the pandemic and lockdowns, we are focusing upon making sure children are reading more, whilst also being read to more. Research tells us that reading **to** children provides them with great learning and insight into expression, intonation and articulation, helping to expand their vocabulary (words encountered through books are often those not used in everyday language - we call these Tier 2 and Tier 3 words) and also to provide models for punctuation and grammar. All of these benefits can be given to children without a great deal of effort - and not forgetting how snuggling up with mum/dad/another family member gives huge emotional benefit too! Please keep reading with your children - and in your home language too.

Did you know we have created an Amazon book list? Staff at the school have added a number of books to the list, books that we know will inspire the children. You can browse the list and then purchase a book (or several, if finances allow for that!) for the school. This lets you know that you will be helping many children across the school. Click here for details. [https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3G74TG8PUPQGY?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3G74TG8PUPQGY?ref=wl_share)

Along with our drive to improve reading, we are sending more books home for the children to share with parents. However, some of these are either not being returned, or being returned in an unfit state. We know



that accidents can happen, but it is unacceptable for this to happen. Therefore, we will be sending letters home to you if this happens and we will expect parents to either replace lost books or to pay £5 to replace them. We are not a profit-making enterprise, so please avoid this cost by respecting and teaching your children to respect books.

### **Maths across Key Stage 2**

We are celebrating "Barvember" once again, which aims to provide the children with a useful tool, the bar model, in solving problems and calculations. Although the resources are for in-school use, you might find them helpful when undertaking any home learning with the children.

<https://whiterosemaths.com/resources/classroom-resources/barvember/>

The White Rose Maths website also has a section dedicated to parents, helping you to support the children's in-school learning.

### **Wilson Hospital: Testing and Test Kits**

In meeting with members of staff from the Wilson Hospital nearby, you can now visit the hospital for a Covid test (Monday - Friday 9.00-5.30), collect any LFD testing kits and they can also help and advise if anyone is having difficulties with any form of the testing process. NHS staff are there to help.

### **Children's Clothing**

Many parents have come to the school to find lost property belonging to your children. A large part of this problem is that there are several items that are not labelled with the child's name. Please make sure all school clothing items (including PE kits) are labelled so that we can return them to their rightful owners.

### **Reminder - 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.

### **The Pope's Monthly Prayer**

Good Father, who looks at your sons and daughters with love, we know that you have deep compassion for those who suffer the most. Your Son Jesus healed so many, restoring sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, speech to the mute and walking to the disabled. Today, we pray for those whose heart is clouded by sadness and pain; brothers and sisters lost in depression and extreme exhaustion. Send your Spirit upon them to find rest and comfort; and give us a heart to love and support them, opening to them paths of hope and new life. Amen.

Wishing you well for the weekend – do take care if you are using/seeing any fireworks.

**David Hennessey**  
**Headteacher**

