



St Teresa's Catholic Primary School,
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Headteacher: Mrs Nuala Cashell
MA Ed NPQH

15th November 2020

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for parking safely and not stopping in the road outside of the school. There has been a great improvement and it is much safer for our children.

Our new gate times are working well so we will continue to open gates between 8.30-9.00am for drop-off and 2.30-3.00pm for pick-up.

We would like to welcome Mr Morris our new caretaker to St Teresa's.

Class Masses

Over the past month Father Rick has visited schools to celebrated mass in classrooms and we thank him for this. From next week, class masses will take place via Zoom for the children.

Food Bank

As our local food banks have been inundated with requests, resulting in limiting the number of visits per family, we have decided to start our own food bank in school. I thank parents and staff who have donated food, your generosity has been overwhelming.

If you need support with food, please call the main office and ask to speak to Mrs Fuller. These calls are confidential. As a Catholic school our ethos is to look after one another so please contact the school office if you require support.

Keeping children warm

In order to limit the spread of Covid and keep children and staff as safe as we possibly can our classrooms are well ventilated by doors and windows being opened. We also employ additional cleaning staff to keep the school clean and spend a great deal of the school budget on cleaning materials, sanitiser and PPE equipment. Keeping the classrooms and school clean is manageable but keeping the classrooms warm is difficult as well ventilated classrooms mean the heating system cannot maintain classroom heating.

With this in mind, I am going to purchase a school body warmer for each child as children cannot learn in comfort while wearing a coat. The body warmers will be kept on the back of each child's chair so when they enter school if they feel cold during learning time they can wear their body warmer (body warmers will stay in school). This additional cost is one I did not budget for so I have asked companies to support us. So far Adam&Eve DDB (the company who make the John Lewis Christmas Advert) have offered to donate twenty body warmers but I need to purchase one hundred and eighty in total.

With this in mind over the next few weeks I will be holding fundraising events such as a Hot Chocolate Sale on Thursday 26th November and an individual class Christmas film night (date TBC) in hope to raising additional funds.

I am also organising a **Sponsored Polar Bear Staff Swim** where willing staff will swim at Southend Seafront in December (no wet suits allowed). I have lived in Southend for 15 years and have avoided getting into the water, however, I will be getting in if it means we can raise money for much needed body warmers. So far Mrs Taylor and Rhys will be joining me but I know we will encourage more staff to join! I am in the process of setting up a just giving page so once I have a date for the swim, willing staff and the page set up I will share the details. To prove the swim happened it will be recorded and shared with the pupils.

Online platform and survey

We are in the process of getting an online learning platform, it should be up and running by the end of November.

Outdoor Carol Service

We will not be able to hold our outdoor carol service as planned so instead we will be recording a Carol from each class, combining them and making a zoom carol concert. The link will be emailed out on 15th December.

Reminder of dates

26th November Hot Chocolate Sale

26th Flu Vaccination

December Sponsored Polar Bear Staff Swim

6th December Christmas Dinner and Christmas jumper day

15th December Zoom Christmas Carol Service

Friday 18th School finishes at 1.30pm

Monday 4th January School returns

Have a good week,
Mrs Cashell