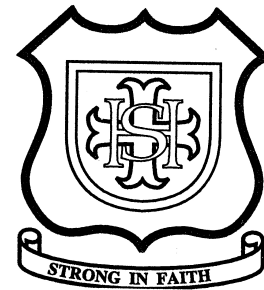


# St. Herbert's R C Primary School

## Summer Term

29<sup>th</sup> April 2021



Dear Children, Parents and Guardians,

Hopefully you are now beginning to see some semblance of normality as everything starts to 'open back up' again. The children have settled back into school life well and are working extremely hard. Thank you for all you have done at home to keep your children progressing in their education; it really does make a difference, even though it is extremely difficult juggling work commitments, home life and home schooling (in some cases several children!) - we really do appreciate all your efforts.

### Google Classroom

As you will be aware, we are continuing to use Google Classroom for homework - this is for several reasons:

- To keep the children and families familiar with the use of Google Classroom (and the teachers!), just in case of any bubble closures etc.
- This system means that work provided is consistent and the transition from working at school to home is seamless.
- Providing work on Google Classroom, enables the teachers to feedback so that parents can view the comments and be part of the discussion if necessary.
- Working in this collaborative and seamless way, has shown that children who are fully engaging with their work are making accelerated progress - it makes a real difference to their work and progress. PLEASE ensure your child is completing all work set by the teachers, as this is needed to assist your child in 'catching up' and securing knowledge and understanding needed at their age-related level.

### May procession - Tuesday 4th May

We have been able to find a way to celebrate Our Lady and the month of May, by laying flowers at Church as we traditionally do every year! Please could we ask that each child brings a flower to school with them on Tuesday, ready to lay at Our Lady's statue in Church.

This year all pupils will be going to Church in their bubbles, laying the flowers whilst saying a prayer to Our Lady, then leaving - a very simple way of paying respect to Our Lady. Unfortunately, due to COVID, we cannot invite families/parishioners to join us as we would normally do, so please do not turn up at Church, as this would result in us breaching COVID regulations.

### Foodbank Friday - 14th May

The support provided by families and staff has been phenomenal; when we reflect on how much you have provided to support families in school the generosity is quite overwhelming. Thank you.

We are still in a situation where families need our support, and we feel this will continue for quite a while - so much so that we are going to create our own pantry where food collected at regular intervals can be stored, then issued as and when needed.

We will hold our next Foodbank Friday on 14th May; please can we ask for dry goods (tins, packets) with as long a 'best before' date as possible, so that we can begin to stock our Pantry! Once again, thank you - I know the response will be tremendous.

### Sacramental Programme

Our Yr 3 & Yr 4 pupils have commenced/continued their Sacramental Journey, and by the end of July they will all have received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers as they continue on this very special journey.

### Beginnings and End of Day

I have noticed that there is beginning to be a bottleneck at our Broadway entrance at the end of day, as most families are coming to collect their children at 2:50pm. This is not the 'end of day' time, it is still 3pm, but we have introduced the extra 10 minutes to reduce number of people entering school at once - please can we spread out a bit more!!

Whilst you are waiting, please keep away from classroom doors, so as not to distract the children as they finish their end of day activities.

Also please can I ask that you do not approach teachers at class doors - when we completed our Risk Assessments to re-open the school, a key action was that teachers do not speak to adults at doorways: reduce risk of infection, but also to ensure they are supervising the children! It is also not the appropriate place to be having certain conversations either.

We then made sure that other members of staff were stationed at various points on the playground to assist with any queries/messages that need to be passed on, and to guide the children into class (KS2 pupils should be being dropped off at the school gates).

I appreciate that frustrations can occur, but please can we keep our environment peaceful and happy; thank you for your patience and understanding - we are all just trying to do our best.

### Face Coverings

Also thank you to the parents who are wearing face masks - again this is decreasing slightly, and until we are told otherwise by the government, all adults on the playground should wear face coverings.

I feel very lucky to be part of such a supportive school community - I have heard different 'stories' of schools that haven't had the same success at dealing with the ever-changing COVID regulations. Making school a happy place is our key driver, and this is only achieved with a very supportive team of parents/carers, staff and the wider community.

And finally, this Monday is a bank holiday, so don't forget school is closed!

Have a lovely, extended weekend, and let us hope the sun shines and we can enjoy time outdoors with our wider friends and family,

Keep safe, and take care,

Kind Regards

Mrs S J Milligan

Twitter: @mrs\_smilligan