

Newsletter



St. Anselm's Catholic Primary School

27/11/2020

Dear Parents

This term we have been working on developing diversity within our curriculum. We feel it is important that the history and achievement of all races are taught as part of the curriculum, rather than as a separate unit. Teachers have worked hard to research links with black history, and a range of different cultures, so that children are exposed to greater diversity within our day-to-day teaching. As part of this, we are undertaking an audit of all our texts in school, both those used for teaching, and books in the classroom. Once we have completed the audit we will be investing in new books in order to ensure that diversity is well represented in the books we have in school. We will have an 'Inspirational People' display in the hall which will have a different theme each term such as scientists, musicians, authors etc. A range of people of different gender and race will be included in the display. In addition, the focus of the assembly today was 'success'. I asked the children to define this, and then shared with them the successes of some of the 'BBC Women of the Year 2020' in order to show that success comes in many forms and can be achieved by anyone.

We will also be having some 'culture days' across the year. Our first culture day will be on 7th January and, on this occasion, we will be focussing on each person's personal journey, and their family's, and how we all have our own identity as well as a shared identity. As part of this we will be asking the children to bring something to school on 7th January that represents their cultural heritage. For example they could wear a national costume (no football kits please!), or bring an artefact, or a photo, or a piece of art, some food or some music. It would also be nice if the children could talk about their item or costume to their class, or bring some information in to school so that it can be shared.



In the week when the inevitable happened, and we had to close one of our bubbles, I would like to extend my thanks to the Year 2 staff, Miss Ogilvy and Mr Rakic, who have worked so hard to ensure the transition from school learning to home learning has been as smooth as possible. Despite all the planning we have done in preparation, it was still a challenge to implement our new procedures in such a short timeframe and we are grateful to the Year 2 families for their support this week. We look forward to seeing the children back in school next week.

As lockdown lifts on 2nd December we urge families to continue to follow the rules that apply in tier 2 in order to try and mitigate the risks and do what we can to protect our whole school community. With tier 2 it is still not permitted for households to mix indoors and so we hope that families will respect this and not arrange playdates unless they are outside, in groups of no more than six. We will allow other parents to collect children again, with the hope that people are abiding by the rules and staying outdoors. It is disheartening for us when the children tell us what they have been doing outside of school, when it clearly contravenes the rules, as all of us are working so hard to keep everyone safe.

It is lovely to hear the music booming in the hall whilst Mr Dobson and Mrs Varyawa put Year 6 through their paces during the pantomime rehearsals. Likewise, it makes me smile when I walk past reception and hear the children practising their songs. The delight from one small child about her role as a chicken in the nativity is effusive! Whilst there is a sadness for us that we can't do things in the way we are used to, the children are all rising to the challenge with remarkable acceptance and resilience.



We love Reception's Elmer collage!



Year 3 have been working really hard on their singing project. This year the Winter Sounds concert will be virtual with all the participating schools submitting videos which will be brought together. The Music Service are so impressed with Year 3's singing prowess that they came in this morning to do some extra filming and recording which will be used to bolster the final sound in the concert. We look forward to watching it and sharing it with parents.

Thank you for your harvest contributions which raised £1205 for Spires.



On 11th December we will be bringing some festive cheer to school by inviting the children to wear a Christmas jumper or Christmas accessory to school. This will be a fund-raising opportunity for a local charity – more details to follow.

December

11th Christmas Jumper Day

15th Christmas lunch

16th Christmas parties

17th Whole School Mass (virtual)

Term ends at **2:00pm**

January

5th INSET

6th Term begins



As we enter the season of Advent, and prepare for the coming of Christ, I have been working with the Pupil Chaplains who have led an assembly on Advent. During their recorded assembly next week they will share facts about Advent and remind us of the significance of the wreath.



Best wishes,

H. Elwes

Headteacher