

Weekly Newsletter for 9th September 2021

Prayer of the Week



Lord, as we come to the end of the first week back, help me to see when I was closest to you, when I felt your presence, when you had a message for me, when I felt consolation. Help me to see when I am distant from you, when the thinking I indulged in, my actions or lack of action, prevented me from hearing what you were saying to me, when I felt desolation. Help me to cope with the tireless first week back so that I don't say or do anything that is not me, not my better self, the self you want me to be.

I look forward to the weekend, a time for rest, a time to spend with those I love, a time to restore my balance, visit the wells, wander the hills.

Give me a heart for the vulnerable of the world and give me a desire to spend some of my time, helping others where I can.

Amen.

(Prayer taken from 'At your side' by Raymond Friel)

Welcome Back!

Thank you for the warm welcome you have given to me this week. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting the wonderful staff, parents and children; I'll do my best to learn the children's names as quickly as I can! The first week back has flown by and the children have settled back into their learning beautifully. Mrs Waide and I are looking forward to leading the school this year and supporting the staff and children in their journey to excellence.

An effective parent and school partnership is crucial. I believe, by working together for our children, we can continue to raise standards and make Christ the King Catholic Primary School a centre for educational excellence and good practice. As parents, you are your child's first educator and we will support you as best we can to help your children to grow and learn. We would ask that you support us through good communication, excellent school attendance and effective behaviour management.

Over the next few weeks you may see some subtle changes in the way we communicate and work with parents. I intend to introduce a new form of school newsletter that is more interactive for mobile devices and tablets. We will also be updating our school policies, website and Twitter feed to keep you informed of our development targets for this coming year.

As Interim Executive Headteacher I will work between two school sites throughout the week. The main day-to-day operational running of Christ the King Catholic Primary School will be the responsibility of Mrs Waide, the Head of School. Mrs Hartley will also be available to work with parents and support families. Mrs Waide will be writing the school weekly newsletter most weeks moving forwards and will be on the gate most days.

As a school we are still working under tight protocols for COVID-19 and we will continue to encourage increased handwashing, testing and monitoring in school. Staff will test twice weekly

using lateral flow testing kits, all classrooms and communal areas in school will be well ventilated and equipment will be cleaned, as required. As the majority of the national restrictions have been lifted, we can now return to whole school assemblies, worships and celebratory events; this will help re-establish our home school links and develop community cohesion. (It felt very strange delivering an indoor collective worship to the whole school this week as I haven't been able to do one for nearly two years!)

Start and end of the day

For the first half term we will continue to use a flexible drop-off at the front gates and the children will walk into school to complete fluency activities and core tasks in class. The staff feel this graduated approach encourages a calm and relaxing start to the day and helps the children to develop their independence and resilience. Staff will be available to listen to any parental concerns and we will endeavour to support any requests parents may have. We fully appreciate that parents are busy in a morning but could we please ask that you park a reasonable distance away from the school gates so that pedestrians can access school safely. The car parking around school isn't ideal but by adopting a flexible drop-off we hope to reduce congestion and unnecessary hold-ups. School starts at 8.45am-9am and we finish at 3.15pm.



Christ the King Catholic Church

I met this week with Father Neil and we have chatted about our liturgical vision for this academic year. As restrictions on church attendance have now lifted, I would encourage all families to attend weekly Mass again. As a Catholic School we are guided and directed by the Gospel Values and our children need to be educated in the Catholic faith. Christ the King Catholic Primary School is distinctive and unique compared to other local schools because it is Catholic. Each week 10% of the teaching time is dedicated to RE. We need to work in partnership with the church and develop our children to be followers of Christ. Father Neil will be visiting school regularly and talking to/working with the children. We also hope to take a class across to Mass each week. For the church Mass times please see the bulletin:

<https://www.christtheking-holyfamily.org.uk/download/5th-september-2021-23rd-sunday-in-ordinary-time/?wpdmdl=3025&refresh=6139caa37c8581631177379>

Class Newsletters

Class Newsletters will be sent out via Class Dojo as soon as possible. Please make a note of the PE days for the children. Children do not need to bring a change of clothing on PE days; they should come in their sports kit and trainers, ready for PE. For children swimming, they can choose to come in their kit underneath their clothing or bring it in separately. (Whatever the children prefer to do.)

Reading Books and Phonics Scheme

Mrs Jones and Miss Murphy are currently frantically labelling, laminating and indexing a new Phonics Scheme ready for school. 'Little Wandle' is a brand new, interactive scheme for primary schools and parents to use with their children. This new resource is in-line with government guidance for early reading and new sound recognition. Once the scheme is ready to roll out, Miss Murphy will invite parents into school for an introductory workshop. If you would like to know more about the new resources, please see:

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

New Reception Pupils

We are delighted to welcome our new intake of Reception children into our school. This week the children have been learning about the number 1 in Maths and exploring some key concepts in RE. Mrs Smith and the EYFS team are really pleased with the way the children have settled in.

PE update

Thanks to Steve Waide from 'Beyond the Physical' for coming into school last Friday to deliver some high quality PE training for our staff. We are very lucky to be a named 'Partner School' for 'Beyond the Physical' as Steve and his team are in high demand.

Miss Riggs is currently coordinating our PE and Sports offer for this term. When a timetable is finalised letters will be sent out to all parents.



BEYOND THE PHYSICAL

ParentPay and School Money

As we have not been able to visit external providers or invite specialists into school due to COVID-19, some ParentPay accounts may not have been used for a while. Please could I ask all parents to log into their account to check everything is as accessible as it should be. As a Trust school we cannot accept cash from parents as it is against the financial recommendations. The office staff are available, should you have any problems logging onto your account.



School Uniform

The children have returned to school looking very smart and we would just like to give a polite reminder about labelling all items of school uniform. This ensures that any items of uniform can be returned to your child if they get lost in school for any reason. I would encourage all children to wear suitable footwear to school, preferably black school shoes. Crocs and sandals are great for at home but are not ideal for school. I would also ask that only small 'stud' earrings are worn; 'dangly' earrings are dangerous and can be ripped out when the children are playing games.

<https://www.christthekingleeds.co.uk/parents/uniform>

Special Thanks

I would like to thank Mrs Holt, Mr Roberts (our new Site Supervisor) and all of the staff who gave up their holidays to prepare the school for the new academic year. New carpet has been fitted in the EYFS and all displays and classroom working walls have been updated. I'm sure the children will agree that they have done a wonderful job. Thank you everybody, it is much appreciated.

Spread the Word!

Finally, I would just ask that you all spread the word about our school. Most classes have some available spaces and I would love to increase our Catholic numbers. If you know of any families who require a school place, please encourage them to come and have a look around our school. I'm sure they will be impressed!

Have a lovely, relaxing weekend everybody.

Many thanks,

Mr Bowker (Interim Executive Headteacher)

