

12th March 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope that your children are glad to be back at school. It has been wonderful to hear their animated conversation around the building and in the playground! I wonder how exhausted everyone is now it's Friday? I came home from school on Wednesday this week to find all three daughters fast asleep on the sofa. Getting back into the daily routine of early mornings and a whole day at school has been quite tough! I hope we can all enjoy a restful weekend!

Willow – The children have loved meeting Willow this week! Mrs Roper brought her in to school each day and she met the children in small groups of 15. They have learnt to build their confidence around dogs by learning how to stay safe around them and how to say hello to a dog. I hope they enjoy getting used to her in school. Even those children who were a little unsure seemed more confident at the end of the session. In the coming weeks the children will also have the opportunity to be involved in a virtual workshop hosted by the Dog's trust.

Mrs Harrington – for those of you who have had children at the school for many years, you may remember Mrs Harrington. She taught at the school for nearly 30 years and was dearly loved and respected in equal measure. I attended her funeral on Wednesday and was proud to hear the stories of how much she had loved teaching at the school. As a staff we have done a collection for Parkinson's UK in her memory and we will hold a memorial in the school for her when it is safe to do so. Please keep her grieving family in your thoughts and prayers.

Lent

During Lent, we are called to fast, pray and give alms. Some suggestions for giving to charity are here:

In Sue's Name

One of our Year 6 children, Alex is trying to walk 100km by the end of the month to raise money for a charity called 'In Sue's Name' which supports research into brain cancer. Sue was actually once a mum at St Monica's and her youngest child was in Year 6 when she died several years ago. Alex has raised nearly £250 and walked 60km so far. If you'd like to support him click the link

<https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/alexdon>

Comic Relief Day

On Friday 19th March we will be joining the nation to take part in Comic Relief Day! Children are invited to wear something funny for money. Crazy hair, clothes back to front, inside out or upside down, your parents' clothes – anything that will raise a smile! Alternatively just wear your own clothes and bring £1 (or more if you can afford it).

World Book Day

Last week I was given the short listed entries for the World Book Day Competition. The winners were announced at our zoom assembly this morning. Prizes are to follow, courtesy of The Friends – thank you very much to one of our mums, Anna Venus for organising this event! See winners attached to this email.

Pre-loved Facebook Page

The Friends have set up a pre-loved Facebook page where you can sell second hand First Holy Communion outfits as well as second hand uniform and other items. If you'd like to take a look, click on the link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1416574631881495/>

Road resurfacing south bound on Cannon Hill This will be taking place from Tuesday 16th March at the bus stops outside numbers 2-4 and also 12-16 as well as opposite Greenacre Walk, so expect disruption and avoid parking around that area if possible from Tuesday onwards (until works are complete).

Mother's Day

I am looking forward to Mother's Day on Sunday as it's one of several days in the year that my daughters thoroughly spoil me! I hope all the mums and grandmothers enjoy this special day. My own mum lives on the Wirral and it is now 13 months since I last saw her in person, but at least I can see her on zoom! However, I am aware that this will be a very difficult day for many families who have lost a mum, especially if this is the first Mother's Day since they passed away. Please keep all these grieving families in your prayers.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Kate Baptiste
Headteacher