

14th May 2021

Dear Parents,

May procession and crowning of Our Lady – Thank you for the many donations of flowers which were brought in today in honour of Our Lady. Fr Mehall blessed all of them and they are currently being planted by Tony! A huge thanks also to Ms Phillips who prepared the hymns with the children as well as the instrumentalists who played beautifully. Please have a look at Tapestry/Google Classroom for some video footage. Finally another big thank you to Izzy Chrysanthou for once again making a beautiful garland of flowers to crown our Lady. As is tradition, the oldest and youngest children did the crowning – well done to Adam and Titi for doing this so respectfully.

World Day for cultural diversity Friday 21st May – It was lovely to see an array of colours today representing so many countries! Thank you for the huge efforts that went into this. We hope that the children learnt a lot about each other's heritage.

BAME audit – Following the death of George Floyd last year and the Black lives matter agenda which followed, we have been working at school to ensure that we are an anti-racist, culturally diverse school. You will probably have heard of "BAME" which is an often unpopular term putting all black, Asian and ethnic minority groups together. However, there is such a thing as a "BAME audit" and to support us on our journey, we arranged one of these this week. It involved former Headteacher Marva Rollins visiting us on Wednesday. Her focus was on black children's achievement and experiences. She spoke with leaders, governors, class teachers, children and also a group of black parents – many thanks to those parents who took part. Two of our parent governors, Claire Vincent and Fionnula Hegarty, who took part in this audit, are keen to ensure we continue to make progress with this. We will share the report with you once published but were pleased with Marva's encouraging comments. I would like to thank all the staff for their support in our work with this and in particular Mrs Duffy who invested a lot of time working on our self-evaluation, curriculum and assessment for this review. There is much still to be done but we hope to work in partnership with all parents to achieve it.

Walk to school week – It was walk to school week this week and Mrs Weston did a survey on Wednesday to see how many children walk/cycle/scoot to school. Lots of children said they did! Results will be published next week. If you're thinking about parking your car and walking part of your journey, the attached map shows you 10 minute walking distances from school.

Bikes and scooters – Please would you dismount from bikes and scooters and walk through the gate as we've had a couple of near misses this week with children being knocked over. Thank you

Workshops for parents – Please see the attached fliers if you are interested in workshops for parents. The following are available: "Supporting your child with their fears and worries", "Help supporting your child's behaviour", "Online mental health, well-being and parenting workshop". Also there is a workshop if you have a child in Years 7-13 about body image.

Pentecost Sunday – On Sunday we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, filling them with joy and courage to face any adversity. We pray that this same Holy Spirit will enter our hearts, filling us with light and hope.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Kate Baptiste
Headteacher