

5th November 2021

Dear Parents

The Friends AGM – It was a privilege to attend the annual general meeting of the Friends last night and hear that they had raised over £35,000 even though we were not able to have any face to face events. A huge well done to all the parents for a sterling year's work.

Thank you! – Thanks very much to Mr Marengi and other parents who supported and organised a second football tournament for Year 5. Last year, 4G won against 4Y and on Monday (before half term) they had a rematch and retained their title! The trophy will remain in 5G's classroom!

Flu Vaccine

Children will have the opportunity to get their flu vaccine (which comes in the form of a nasal spray) on Friday 3rd December. More information will go out about this nearer the time.

Head Injuries

Please note that if your child bumps their head at school we will provide immediate first aid and a wrist band will be put on to alert you that your child bumped their head. If the bump/head injury is more serious then we will telephone you.

Assemblies

On Monday I spoke to the children about the Feast of All Saints. This was celebrated at Mass on Sunday and so I read the Gospel from that to the children. We thought about the line, "**Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied**". I mentioned three examples of ordinary people who had acted like saints. 1. Ivan Fernandes who could have won a cross country race in 2021 when Abel Mutai thought he had passed the finish line, but hadn't. Ivan could have overtaken him and claimed victory, but he pointed Abel to the finish line and made sure he still won! 2. Roy Hackett who led a bus boycott in Bristol in 1963. He fought racism to ensure that black people could be employed by the bus companies. This led to a change in the law for race discrimination in the work place. You can watch more about this on ITV player with will.i.am programme "The Blackprint". 3. My mother in law along with lots of other parents in the 1960s and 1970s who fought to ensure that her children and others from the Caribbean community could attend school full-time. At first, my husband and two of his brothers were only allowed to attend school for half a day/week. Thank goodness change here happened quickly.

On Tuesday Mrs Duffy spoke to the infant children about how we can be kind. Here's a link to the video they watched about passing on good deeds to each other. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwAYpLVyeFU>

Cross Country Competition at Forty Hall

Ten Year 5 children took part in a cross running against children from Years 5 & 6 in other schools. They all did well on a tough course with uneven ground and quite a bit of mud. Annie came 2nd for the girls and overall the girls came 2nd and were awarded medals. Alessandro came 7th. Well done to all of them and a big thank you to the parents (and grandparents!) who came to help.

Mrs Warrington & Mrs Duffy – PE Leaders

Christmas cards ordering (or tea-towels, or mugs etc)

Your child should have brought home the Christmas card they designed that you can purchase. If you haven't seen it, please search your child's school bag. The Friends receive commission on all orders and so it's a great fund raiser for the school as well as a nice keep sake. Parents will be collecting orders from Thursday 11th November until Wednesday 17th at pick up or drop off (from both gates). You will need to pay cash for this. You must pay the exact amount – no change given. You must give your order to a member of The Friends and **not** the school office or a member of school staff (exceptions are breakfast & after school club – give to whoever answers the door).

Dates to note for your diary:

Week beginning 8th November - Please see the separate letter emailed today about Parents' Evening

Sunday 14th November – tea, coffee and cake on sale after 9am and 10,30am Mass in the Intimate Theatre

Friday 12th November - photos will be taken of individuals and siblings by a professional photographer

Thursday 18th November - Happy Bag clothes collection at the front of school in the morning

Friday 19th November date tbc quiz at Chi Chi

Friday 3rd December - Flu vaccine

Friday 10th December – Christmas disco for children after school until 4.30pm – more details to follow!

Poppies

We have poppies on sale in school. Year 6 children will be at the gates in the morning and afternoon at each gate if you would like to buy one.

Wanted! A Chairperson for St. Monica's Scout and Guide Group Council - For over 60 years Guiding and Scouting (this includes Cubs, Beavers, Brownies, Guides and Scouts) has been provided for hundreds of young people in the building next to the school. These are overseen by a Group Council which is now in need of a Chairperson for meetings which are held three times a year. For more information please contact Southgate20th@outlook.com or doreen.oatham@googlemail.com.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend. If you are going to be doing anything with fireworks, please be safe.

Kind regards
Kate Baptiste
Headteacher