

5<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> for the girls and overall the girls came 2<sup>nd</sup> and were awarded medals. Alessandro came 7<sup>th</sup>. 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 11<sup>th</sup> November until Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> November** - Please see the separate letter emailed today about Parents' Evening

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

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November** - photos will be taken of individuals and siblings by a professional photographer

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November** - Happy Bag clothes collection at the front of school in the morning

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November** date tbc quiz at Chi Chi

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** - Flu vaccine

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Southgate20th@outlook.com) or [doreen.oatham@googlemail.com](mailto: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