

11<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents

This week has been Children's Mental Health week and on Tuesday it was also safer internet use day with a focus on "respect and relationships online".

**Safer Internet Day:** The children have explored using the internet safely during their ICT/computing lessons this week. Some children in the Juniors have told their teachers that when using games (such as Roblox), they have been approached by strangers to become "friends". Please do carefully monitor what your child does online and talk to them about the dangers associated with talking to strangers especially when they might be playing a game and don't forget the risks.

**Mental Health Week:** For more information about how to support mental health, I am attaching some information I received from a parent last year which many of you found helpful when I sent it previously.

**Assemblies** – On Monday Mrs Tottle-Nugent spoke to all the children about persevering. She had a couple of magic tricks, including walking through an A4 piece of paper that she had to try really hard to remember how to do. She was going to give up several times but the children encouraged her to keep going and to persevere so that she was able to do it. She stressed to the children the importance of persevering and not giving up when things are difficult!

On Tuesday Miss Smith led the Infant assembly. She read the story 'Sir Newt the brute' by one of our talented parents at St Monica's, Jamie O'Koro. The story is about Sir Newt who is greedy, selfish and unkind to the other animals. He tricks and lies to them throughout the story. However, Sir Newt changes his ways in the end and becomes a caring character. We discussed the importance of telling the truth, even when we find it difficult. We also spoke about the importance of saying sorry to others when we do something wrong. The children had lots of thoughtful ideas to share.

Miss Freitas spoke to the children about friendship and forgiveness at Wednesday's assembly. Children listened to the story of 'The Angry Bee', who lost his temper and missed out on fun with his friends because he wasted his time being angry. Pupils then listened to the 'Parable of The Prodigal Son (Lk 15:11-32)' and thought about how the Bible teaches us to forgive endlessly. Here is the link for the Angry Bee story if you'd like to listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-aEUjlxOK-Y>

**Altar Servers** – Fr Mehall came in to school to ask if any children who have made their First Holy Communion in Years 4, 5 or 6, would like to become an altar server. Training sessions are on Saturdays between 3 and 4.30pm. He gave out a form which needs to be returned to St Monica's Church by 21<sup>st</sup> February if you are interested.

**Music Lessons with EMS** – Enfield Music Service (EMS) provide peripatetic lessons to children during the school day. We advise that children from Year 2 upwards would consider these lessons. We have been informed by EMS that parents are now able to book music lessons for the Summer term 2022 from the Music Store: <https://traded.enfield.gov.uk/musicstore> **The deadline for booking lessons is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022.** Summer term music lessons will start from week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> April and will include 10 lessons throughout the term.

Lessons are available on violin, viola, cello, double bass, guitar, ukelele, piano, keyboard, flute, clarinet and saxophone. If you are interested in anything else, please speak to Ms Phillips first as we have a limit on spaces for other tutors to teach anything else.

**Important Dates to note:**

- **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – World Book Day.** Children may come in to school dressed as a book character. For those who don't like dressing up, there are plenty of book characters who are children in ordinary clothes!
- **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Book sale after school.** The Friends are holding a book sale after school. If you have any books that you no longer want and are in good condition, please would you bring them into school in the week beginning Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February.
- **Week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> March** – Parents evening will take place this week. This will be online and you will be sent information about how to make an appointment the week before.

**Shoe boxes wanted!** If you have a shoe box with a lid that you no longer need, please would you send it to school on Monday after half term as Year 3 need them for a science experiment. Thank you!

**Last One Standing** – All the details are attached again if you missed this last week. You have until midnight to enter!

I hope you all have a lovely half term and I look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February.

Kind regards

Kate Baptiste, Headteacher