

1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

Dear Parents

**The Friends** – I attended a Friends' meeting on Tuesday evening which was a good opportunity to speak about planned events and money needed by the school. We are hopeful that thanks to your donations over last year, we can buy some exciting new things for school – I will keep you updated.

**Friends' Diary Dates** – **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 9.15am** – Friends' meeting to plan the Summer Fête – in school  
**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June after school disco** (not Fri 29<sup>th</sup> April as previously advertised)

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June - Golf Day and Dinner Dance**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July – Summer Fête 12-4pm**

**Congratulations!** Huge congratulations to Mrs Koumpi and her husband who had her baby unexpectedly early yesterday. Welcome to the world Sophie Eleni!

### **Assemblies**

Mrs Roper spoke to the children on Monday about how we are all different. The focus was especially about autism as this week it is "Autism Acceptance Week". We heard that we should all be respectful of each other's differences. You can watch the video clip that the children saw here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=RbwRrVw-CRo>

On Tuesday the Juniors had a Passion Service to prepare us for Holy Week and the celebration of Easter. The Infants had their special service on Wednesday. Ms Phillips prepared some beautiful songs which helped the children to reflect on the events of Holy Week.

On Thursday morning we were entertained by the children who had prepared for last week's Dance Festival at the Millfield Theatre. Fortunately all the children were well enough to be in school and able to dance this week!

On Thursday afternoon Fr Stewart and Fr Mehall came to school to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation to Year 3 – thank you to them both.

**St Monica's Church Food Bank** – On Monday morning, the whole school walked en masse to St Monica's church to deliver food for the food bank. The volunteers at church were overwhelmed by your generosity. They are feeding over 300 people each week, including over 140 children. Gerry talked to the children about the miracle of the loaves and fishes and said it was amazing that St Monica's church would be able to feed so many people thanks to everyone's kindness. Anna finished off the morning with a prayer.

**Big Walk and wheel to school** – A BIG well done to everyone who has walked, scooted or cycled to school over the last two weeks. Mrs Weston has been collecting data and over half the school (54%) of children have travelled actively to school since we started Sustrans Big Walk & Wheel. As a school we have completed a total of 1752 active journeys. Please keep it up if you can as it will not only keep you active but is also good for the environment too!

Well done to **Sofia in 2G** and **Erin in 3G** for their amazing 'Bling Your Bike' creations! Mrs Weston was very impressed with all the entries this year and it was a very difficult job choosing the winners!

Another big well done to all the Year 6 children who applied to be part of the 'Bike It Crew'. Lots of hard work was put into your entries and Mrs Weston is looking forward to working with you all after the Easter break.

**Happy Bag Collection!** – Today lots of bags were donated to the school and £440 was raised! Thank you all very much for your donations and to the parents who helped load the van on such a very cold day!

**Netball Match** – Our Year 6 netball team played against Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School and also St Michael at Bowes on Tuesday afternoon. They beat both schools 14-2 and 13-1 respectively. It must be the expert coaching they are receiving from Mrs Hoey and Mrs Moruzzi!

**Building Fund** – As a Voluntary Aided school you know that we have to pay 10% of all our building costs. To meet this, we request a voluntary payment of £45 from each family each year. So far we have received £6332.25 out of a possible £13,635. If you haven't paid, you are invited to make the payment through ParentPay.

**A Star is Born!** After the miseries of lockdown, we are aiming to hold our talent show for singers and dancers on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm in school. It will be a competition and only for Years 4, 5 and 6. We will

aim to do the show again in January 2023 and will include all year groups for that one. Auditions will take place as follows:

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Year 4

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April – Year 5

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April – Year 6

Each audition will be one minute long. Audition application forms will be given out after the Easter holiday which parents will need to sign. Each child can audition for a maximum of three performances. So get your girl and boy bands and your solo performances ready!!

**Easter at St Monica's Church** – They will have the usual 10.30am Mass on Palm Sunday (10<sup>th</sup> April) and will also include the children's liturgy. Check their newsletter/website for information and times for the Good Friday children's stations of the cross. Easter Sunday Mass times will be as usual.

**School opens as normal on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April.** Don't forget that we are also closed for bank holiday Monday (2<sup>nd</sup> May) as well as the Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May (in lieu of the bank holiday we are allowed to take for the Queen's Jubilee).

I hope you all have a restful holiday.

Kind regards  
Kate Baptiste  
Headteacher