

29th April 2022

Dear Parents

Friends' meeting this morning – It was great to see so many parents in school this morning to plan the Summer Fête. We are going to have an “All around the world” theme and will be inviting people to help with all sorts of things: stalls, international food and anything anyone would like to contribute! Look out for a letter from the Friends. It's very exciting that after so many years we will finally have a Summer Fête for the whole community to enjoy!!

Ice-creams/lolly ices – The Friends will be selling these after school on Thursdays and Fridays each week!

Girls Football – Two of our dads, Tom Conlon and Jamie Okoro voluntarily set up a girls' football club for Years 4 and 5 on Wednesdays after school. Their enthusiasm has been incredible and they organised a match against Highfield on Wednesday. Two teams played, one drew 1-1 and the other won 2-1. It was such a shame that the teachers had a maths consultant in school doing training and so we missed it, but are delighted to hear it went so well and that so many parents were there to enjoy it. There is another match next Wednesday against Merryhills (which most of the teachers will miss again as Wednesdays is our staff training day – sorry!) Huge thanks to Tom and Jamie for all they are achieving with the girls.



Last One Standing – Tom Conlon has again led an incredible “Last One Standing” competition. His weekly emails about the latest football fixtures have been really entertaining. The last three standing are Mrs Duffy, Leonardo in Year 3 and Xander in Year 1. Best of luck to them all this weekend and we look forward to hearing next week who will be the last one standing! This competition has raised over £1000 for the Friends!! Thanks once again Tom.

May procession – Next Thursday (5th) we will hold our annual May procession. We will start in the main hall at 9.30am (not 9.15am as previously advertised) and then process around the playground to Our Lady's prayer area in the junior playground. If you would like to join us, come to the infant playground and stay there until we start. Everyone is invited to bring in a flowering bedding plant for this occasion. Fr Stewart will lead the service and will bless all the plants before they are planted at the front of the school. Any child who wants to play their instrument must bring it in on Wednesday 4th May to practise.

May is the month of Mary – Next week we will start our daily decade of the rosary prayer in honour of Our Lady. This will take place at 8.50am each morning at the front of the school. Everyone is welcome to join us. Reception children will also be given a miraculous medal on a blue ribbon which they are invited to wear during the month of May. Children may be able to find their medals from previous years and wear them during May.

A Star is Born! – Lindsey, Ms Phillips and I have really enjoyed doing the auditions for Years 4, 5 and 6 this week. We watched 60 acts and it was very difficult to decide who would get through and I hope there aren't too many disappointed children. Letters have been sent out today with the children. If your child got through you can buy tickets to watch the show from next week – all the details are in the letter. Thanks very much to Mrs Tottle-Nugent who has been organising all the music for this.

St Monica's Church Food Bank – Don't forget that you can drop off food for St Monica's food bank on Fridays and Mrs Moruzzi will deliver them to church. Please do not bring food on other days as we have nowhere to store it.

Assemblies – **On Monday**, I read the story Mr Impossible to the children. I then told Sunday's Gospel where Jesus appeared to his disciples. However, Thomas wasn't there and didn't believe it was possible until he had seen it with his own eyes. Once he had seen Jesus he believed and Jesus responded, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." I talked to the children about times when they felt something might be impossible and showed them how this word can change to be "I'm possible" – so don't say "I can't do it", say, "I can't do it YET."

On Tuesday Miss Galvin read "The Word Collector" by Peter H. Reynolds to the infants. It is a story about a little boy who discovers the magic of the words all around him - short and sweet words, complicated words, words that stand out. But one day his carefully curated collection of words gets messy, and that's when Jerome discovers that words can connect, transform and empower. Children were asked to think about how they could be like Jerome and start collecting their own words to extend their vocabulary.

On Wednesday Ms Phillips took all the children who would like to play an instrument at our May procession next week. I took the rest of the school and we talked about how Mary, Jesus' mother, is the focus for the month of May and we practised hymns for next week's service.

On Fridays we have our awards assembly and children are invited to bring in any awards they have received outside of school eg medals/certificates/trophies. **House Captains** – our new Year 6 House Captains were announced today: Aiden, Beau, Clara and Ana-Christina. The Vice Captains are: Lily, Gracie, Darcey and Iris. Congratulations to them all for being voted in by the staff.

Coffee morning Friday 6th May POSTPONED – We were due to hold a coffee morning for parents next Friday to work on how we can improve inclusion within our school community but unfortunately I am going to my aunt's funeral, so we hope to hold this later in the term.

Queen's Jubilee Celebration – **Advance notice** that we will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in school on Friday 27th May. Lots of fun activities are being planned for the children. We will be asking the children to wear red, white and blue on the day (or any combination of these colours).

I hope you all have a good weekend – **don't forget it's a bank holiday on Monday and school is also CLOSED on Tuesday as this is our school designated day for the Queen's Jubilee.** School opens as normal on Wednesday.

Kind regards
Kate Baptiste
Headteacher