

16th September 2022

Dear Parents

I hope you have all had a good week. Mine has been somewhat traumatic with my aunt and uncle dying within six days of each other, my middle daughter being packed off to university (to train to be a primary teacher) and my eldest due to go back to university on Sunday but currently stranded in Barcelona due to a cancelled flight! The highs and lows of life are set to try us, but coming into work each day and seeing happy faces from the children and receiving support from the staff has been really uplifting and for that I am very grateful.

New Reception children – Our new Reception children joined us on Monday for their half day settling in sessions. They will be full-time from next week. It has been lovely to match faces to names and find out who various brothers and sisters are! From next week, the children will continue to be dropped off in the morning at the gate to the far left of the school that they have been using. For the time being, please come for 9am so that the whole class can line up and come in together. For home-time, parents/carers need to come into the school infant playground area to collect from the infant hall. If you see any new parents to the school looking a bit lost, please help to direct them!

Booking a lunch on SchoolGrid – Please can you all remember to book your child's meal for the next couple of weeks via SchoolGrid. New Reception parents should all have received a login for SchoolGrid to enable you to do this.

After School Clubs – The take up for the new after school clubs has been great. However, we have had a few logistical challenges with the huge volume of numbers of children attending; finding the right room to go to and then some of them returning to our school-run after school provision. If your child attends cookery, French, Spanish, netball, football, gymnastics, Sticky Fingers, choir, orchestra/strings, Tiger Teams or gardening/forest school and then goes to our after-school club until later, please can you tell your child they must go to one of the after-school club adults, Mrs Weston, Mrs Johnston, Mrs Pappalardo or Lindsey to say they have arrived. For the current range of clubs, view our website <https://www.st-monicas.enfield.sch.uk/parents/clubs/> For details about our school run breakfast and after school clubs click here <https://www.st-monicas.enfield.sch.uk/parents/breakfast-after-school-club/>

Assemblies – Reception children have not joined us for assemblies just yet and so this week, we have just had Years 1-6 in the hall. On Monday Mrs Tottle-Nugent spoke to the children about the life and service of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

On Tuesday I spoke to the children about ordinary people who, unlike the monarchs, were not born into important roles but made life choices about how they wanted to live and then became saints. Our House Saints are St Theresa of Lisieux, also known as Theresa of the Little Ways. She advised doing small things with great love. St Francis of Assisi, patron saint of the environment and animals. He chose not to live a life of great wealth but to live simply and care for nature. St Cecilia is patron saint of music and helps to instil a love of music in us all. St John Baptist de la Salle is patron saint of education and teachers and reminds us to be grateful for the opportunity to come to school and learn. We pray that these and all other saints inspire us to live a good life – just ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

On Wednesday I spoke to the children about World Afro Day which took place on Thursday 15th. This day was established in 2017 as a way to work against discrimination that people have suffered about their afro hair. You can read more about it here <https://bereamail.co.za/293484/the-significance-of-world-afro-day/> All children should be proud of themselves and whatever hair they may have! One of our parents, Loreta Besong wrote a book called "Nain rocks her afro" which we have in our school library. <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Nain-Rocks-Afro-Lorreta-Chindo-Besong/dp/B08RGN5YFW> If you would like to join the whatsapp group to share stories about your hair/culture/community, you can text her on 07889 952 597.

Our New House Captains – Today we announced our new house and vice captains who are voted in by the staff. For **St Theresa the House Captain is Sadie O'Leary and the Vice-Captain is Aidan Donouzjian. For St Francis the House Captain is Henry Cahill and the Vice-Captain is Alicja Czelusniak. For St John the House Captain is Michela Sidoli and the Vice-Captain is Emma Egan. For St Cecilia the House Captain is Niamh Holly and the Vice-Captain is Martha Mullen.**

Have a good weekend and our condolences to the royal family as they lay our queen to rest on Monday. School is open as normal on Tuesday.

Kind regards
Kate Baptiste, Headteacher