



# St. Philip's Newsletter

15<sup>th</sup> January 2020



Dear St Philip's Families,

Well, this is not the start to the year we were expecting! After a wonderful first day back at school, with all the staff and 93% of the children back, at 8.00 that evening we found out we were restricting access again. Staff immediately rose to the challenge of completely reorganising the school once more.

## Catholic Life

Due to the sudden changes, we were unable to practise or celebrate our Epiphany Liturgy. According to Dictionary.com, the word "epiphany" means "an appearance or manifestation, especially of a deity. At Epiphany, we celebrate Christ revealing himself in the form of a newborn baby to the Three Wise Men, who travelled from their countries to pay tribute to the Son of God. The Gospel of Matthew describes three Wise Men, named Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar, who were told of Christ's birth and set off, following the Star of Bethlehem, to meet the baby Jesus. Each king brought with him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to represent Jesus' elevated position, divine birth and mortality respectively.

I am very pleased to announce that donations for our Christmas Dressing Up Day in aid of CAFOD World Gifts were £252.58. Thank you so much for your generosity, this money will make a real difference to families in the developing world at this difficult time.

## Home Learning

Thank you for your patience as we continue to develop our remote learning. Unlike many schools, we had no bubble closures last term and teachers have risen to the challenge of delivering learning through Teams.

Well done to everyone who is managing to juggle home learning, working from home and family life. We appreciate it is not an easy task. Please be kind to yourselves and don't put too much pressure on yourselves. You are all doing a fantastic job. Home learning is very different to learning in school in a class of 30. Children will need to spend less time on lessons than they would in school. It is important that they have a break from screens and some time to play and also get outside. Play and physical activity are vitality important to children's development.

## Friends'

Our Friends' have reconstituted in virtual form and have elected new committee members:

Chair: Ruth Colley

Deputy Chair: Michael Conroy

Treasurer: Selina Lewis

Secretary: Gemma Beckwith

I would like to welcome our new and continuing committee members and thank Debbie Rowland for her work as treasurer and Sarah Foot for her work as secretary, as they stand down.

I am pleased to say that the Friends' voted unanimously to release funds totalling £4700, which will enable us to buy; some new books for class libraries, playground games, a picnic table, tee pee and storage for the Forest area and resources for the year 1 outside area.

Do look out for and support future Friends events, as every event raises money which supports our children.

With very best wishes for a lovely weekend

Joanna Sanchez

### Diary Dates

<b>January</b>	
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup>	Reception vision screening
<b>February</b>	
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening
<b>May</b>	
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup>	INSET Day – school closed
<b>July</b>	
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> -7th	Y6 Blacklands Farm Residential
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup>	INSET Day – school closed
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup>	INSET Day – school closed