

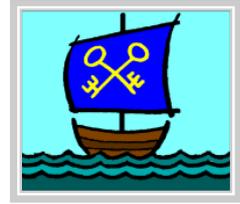
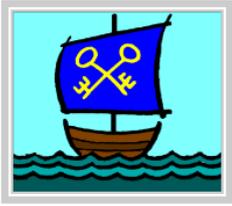
ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs K J Crees MA Bed (Hons)



18th September 2020

Dear All

We will be sending our usual newsletters out from next Friday, but I just wanted to write to you with a few quick updates.

This week has gone well. The children have managed brilliantly, but it has been evident as the days have progressed that fatigue is kicking in. The mornings are going particularly well. The children appear delighted to be back and are working very hard. Enthusiasm drops a little in the afternoons but this is to be expected and behaviour still remains good. It is going to take a while for their stamina to return so please make sure that they get a rest over the weekend.

Teachers have completed some base line assessments in key areas but these have not been in the form of formal tests. Common trends are appearing and will be monitored. The children are continue to do well in reading. This is really encouraging. Spelling is more of an issue with key sounds and patterns seemingly forgotten. There also seems to be a little bit of a dip in mental arithmetic strategies.

Please DO NOT panic. Do not log onto to Amazon or rush to the shops to buy the latest mass produced "catch up guide". (If they don't exist, they soon will!) Please be reassured that your child's teacher will continue to monitor progress this half term and will let you know of any areas that require additional support. Do complete any homework tasks sent home continue to read.

Each class is following a recovery curriculum. The children are receiving regular PSHCE sessions in order to support their well-being. Teachers are following plans that recap the summer term from the previous year as well as new content for this term. Each class has regular timetabled slots for outdoor play to enable them to refresh and refocus.

The children have experienced loss over the past few months. Whilst we were able to deliver the curriculum through remote learning, the children lost out on so much more. They missed being with their friends, coping in a large group, being physically near to people, relationships and routines. We can see that for some, just being in a full class with increased noise is exhausting. This is why we are spending time focussing on a recovery curriculum. We will all get there!

If you are interested in finding out a little more about it, information can be obtained here:

<https://barrycarpentereducation.com/2020/04/23/the-recovery-curriculum/>

Routines appear to be running fairly smoothly at drop off and pick up times. Staff are working hard to get the children in and out as quickly and calmly as possible. Overall, we are pleased and feel supported. However, I do just need to remind parents to ensure that siblings are **closely monitored** whilst waiting in the designated areas.

After school, we have noticed children unattended and running around playing with children from other classes. We work hard to keep class bubbles separate for your safety. In the event of a positive case, we hope that as few staff and children as possible are asked to isolate. If children mix in the playground before or after school, this negates the whole process. This could simply mean an additional class being sent home for reasons that are unavoidable. **Please stand next to your child whilst waiting for a sibling.** The situation is particularly noticeable in the reception class waiting area. We ask that you support us in this as the only remaining solution will be to ask you not to wait on site at all. We really do not wish to go down this route but we will have to if the situation does not improve. We ask that you arrive and depart from the school grounds as quickly as possible.

Please remember to wear a face mask whilst on the school site.

Throughout the summer break, the staff continued to say prayers for you all. We also appreciate your prayers and kind messages. This week we focussed on the theme of forgiveness. We talked about being kind in school and at home as well as forgiving others in order to be forgiven ourselves. The discussion did gravitate towards the behaviour of brothers and sisters and many examples of unjust situations unfolded! Why do they never get told off for this and I do..... I got told off and then when they did it, nothing happened... the list goes on. We listened to the story of the unjust servant and all decided that we all had to just forgive and be kind, so hopefully you will have a lovely peaceful weekend!

Many thanks to you all for everything,

Yours sincerely

K Crees

Mrs K Crees
Headteacher