



Newsletter 18
29th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope the weekend has brought a moment to pause and relax in what is such a challenging time for many families. It is a time when we are all challenged to evaluate what is important in our lives and our ability to give to our families, our community and the wider world. It has also highlighted the importance and value of normal things we have taken for granted.

Interaction with others is probably the hardest aspect for our children. It is frustrating for us as a school not to be able to have more children in school because we know how supportive being with their friends in a safe environment can be. Children who would previously have been delighted by a snow day, are now bemoaning not being able to be in school.

This coming week is Children's Mental Health and Well Being Week. Mental Health is something we are passionate about and I feel our biggest support to children are our daily Google Meets when they can see the rest of the class and be part of that class. Year 5, for example, had a wonderful Meet on Friday, dressing up for the occasion and having a fun time. It ties in well with the theme of next week – Express Yourself. We will have an added focus this week on Mental Health and Well Being. If you would like to know more about this please look at the Place2Be website: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

We are also well supported in Hemel by our parishes – West and East – with live streaming of Masses on Sundays and during the week. The parish have also organised First Communion preparations online for our Year 3s. Tomorrow is Racial Justice Day and at the end of this newsletter is the Prayer suggested by the Diocese that you might like to share in your family.

Key Worker and Vulnerable support

We are increasing in numbers for this support and have a limit of 15 in each year group bubble. We are now at capacity and having to make difficult choices – supporting new key worker applications or vulnerable children – all equally in need. We are limited by the number of devices and the number of support staff – all of whom are currently working in school along with senior staff members.

If you are a key worker but have another adult at home, even on some days of the week, please let us know so we can offer a few days to other new applicants. This can be done by emailing admin@cuthbertmayne.herts.sch.uk We have already started reducing days for other children. Year 3 and Year 4 are our most over-subscribed groups.

Devices

Due to the delay in DfE devices, the school purchased five small laptops this week and they have gone to those most in need. We are very aware more devices are needed and we are awaiting more from the DfE. As soon as we get them we will let you know.

Lateral Flow Tests

Home testing has started for staff in school with all staff taking part and adding an additional layer of measures to keep everyone safe. Please continue to be alert for any signs and take a test should there be any symptoms of Coronavirus. Thank you for your continued co-operation with this.

Year 6 PGL Trip – July 5th – 9th

We have had a good response and we are delighted that a booking has now been made and Year 6 have something positive to look forward to in the summer term.

Parent Consultations

We have decided to move Parent Consultations to the Summer Term. We do hope and pray we will be open again before Easter which will give us a chance to review where each child is in their learning and then have a discussion with you. We are hoping that the remote learning currently in place is ensuring that key gaps are not developing.

Work on supporting pupils during lockdown continues to grow and develop with teachers and support staff building on ways they can support children further remotely.

PA Committee

The school is immensely appreciative of the support of the PA – both the committee and all the parents who support the activities to raise funds to enrich the children's experience of school.

The following parents have formed the new Committee:

Chair: Mrs Eugenia Blasi-Colleran

Vice chairs: Mrs Gosia Kelly and Mrs Kerry Fordyce.

Treasurer: Mrs Mai-Wah Lehuby

Secretary: Mr Phil Bowers

Marketing: Mrs Tricia Janes

There were several others who attended and agreed to support in a variety of roles. Your committee need your support – with ideas, running of activities and some of your valuable time. If you would like to get involved please do let a member of the committee know or come along to the next PA meeting – being held remotely – on February 11th at 7.30pm. Details on how to join the meeting will follow.

We appreciate any offers of help in whatever way is possible – we are aware that this is a time when families may be facing additional financial pressures and we do not want to add to that.

Amazing Work

I have seen some fantastic work being carried out both online and in school. Well done to all our children for the hard work, time and effort they are putting in. This is being celebrated in your Google Classroom and will be celebrated as a school. Keep up the great work.

Most importantly please keep joining in the Google Meets.

If there is anything we can do to help you, please be in touch.

Wishing you a good weekend despite the weather!

Best wishes

Mrs Smith
Headteacher

Prayer for Racial Justice

Father, you created each one of us in your own image. Yet yours is a world made glorious by its rich diversity. This we sometimes misunderstand, sometimes fear.

Give us the patience to build on what unites us, to celebrate our differences and to learn from them.

Grant us the wisdom to recognise your Church, beyond the walls of a building, reaching out across all communities, countries and cultures.

Give us the courage to offer refuge to those in need, to challenge prejudice and seek justice for all.

Help us see that you created us in your image.

Neighbour or stranger, always our brother or sister.

Yashoda Sutcliffe

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College Association for Racial Justice