



Newsletter 25
26th March 2021

Safety alert

We have been alerted to an incident this morning affecting Laureate Academy sixth formers who were approached by a group of three men in hoodies and then later approached by a van possibly driven by the same men. We have contacted all the parents of children who walk home alone and suggest that, given the number of incidents in Hemel recently, you reiterate guidance to your child about stranger danger.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We had a special morning today as our end of term was marked with the Diocesan Mass for schools from the Crypt at Westminster Cathedral in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Fr Chris Vipers focused on the children being proud of who they are and that God has given them the trust and courage to be amazing. He asked them to focus on something they have done or made that makes them proud and to use St Joseph as an example of someone who had faith, trust and courage in God. If parents would like to share this Mass at home it is available on <https://youtu.be/fkxsXind5DY>

We are proud of all our pupils as they have coped with the effects of Coronavirus and returned to school with enthusiasm and cheer. For our Year 3s and Year 5s who had an additional self-isolation period, they have shown great resilience – both returning to home learning and back in school. It is ironic that we had no cases in school throughout the Autumn Term when Coronavirus cases were high and, now, when they are lower, we have had two incidents. Let's pray that we can all have a full and fruitful Summer Term. Herts County has asked us to share current national guidance for the Easter holidays which I have put at the end of this newsletter.

Curriculum and Learning

We have completed our initial assessments following the children's return and this is informing our adapted curriculum where necessary. We have seen strong indications of progress since December as a result of home learning and we want to ensure that this learning is embedded and any gaps addressed. We are also putting in place a programme of interventions, mentoring and Rainbows sessions where we feel this will be of support as well as looking at the possibility of taking part in the national tutoring programme. Teachers are looking forward to meeting with parents at our consultations on April 20th and 22nd – the sign up for these sessions will be on the website from the start of term.

Show Racism the Red Card

6Johnson took part in a live interactive Show Racism the Red Card workshop on Tuesday. ITV News had requested to come and film the event and cancelled at the last moment but the children were able to enjoy both the workshop led by Watford FC Community and Sports Trust and ask questions of ex-England and Watford players John Barnes and Luther Blissett, footballer Molly Wheeler and Watford's Christian Kabasele.



Reminders

Start of term – pupils are due back to school on Tuesday 13th April. We will be keeping the same start and finish times to the day and will be following the current parent guidance (on website under Parent Information, COVID-19 updates).

Coronavirus – if your child has coronavirus symptoms in the next 48 hours and subsequently tests positive, you are asked to let the school know as soon as possible via the office email – admin@cuthbertmayne.herts.sch.uk If the symptoms occur 48 hours after the end of term, your child should be tested but you do not have to inform school until Monday 12th April.

Rainbow Day – the PA is organising this day for the children on Friday 30th April. Details and sponsorship forms went out in the Wednesday email.

Parent Consultations – April 20th and 22nd – these will be remote on Google Meet. The signing up sheet will go out at the start of next term and you will be sent a link.

School Journey –the first suggested instalment of £100 should be on the school gateway by April 1st.

Dates

May 4th – 7th Shakespeare Week

May 11th – Class photos and Year 6 individual photos

July 5th - 9th – School Journey – PGL

July 16th – Leavers’ Mass in school

Wishing you all a safe, peaceful and happy Easter,

Mrs Smith

Head Teacher

Hertfordshire County Council has asked us to share this important update with you ahead of the Easter holidays:

As we go into the Easter holidays, and some Government guidance changes around socialising outside and outdoor sport, it’s so important that we don’t let our guard down and increase the risk of Covid-19 outbreaks when schools return.

From Monday 29 March, you can;

- Meet up outside (including in private gardens) with six other people, or as two households
- Take part in formally organised outdoor sports with any number of people (outdoor sports venues and facilities will be able to reopen)
- Childcare and supervised activities will be allowed outdoors for all children

You and your family can continue to keep yourselves and others safe by:

- Washing your hands regularly, for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water or using an antibacterial hand sanitiser if soap and water isn’t available
- Keeping socially distanced, staying at least 2 metres away from those not in your immediate household
- Wearing a face-covering where required and when it is difficult to socially distance
- Self-isolating and getting tested if you develop symptoms or receive a positive lateral flow test (LFT) result
- Not socialising indoors with anyone who isn’t in your immediate household. You’re not allowed to have sleepovers or playdates, even if your child is in a school bubble
- Not sending children back to school ill or with symptoms of Covid-19 after the Easter break – if your child is sick, please keep them at home

If your child is in year 7 or above and taking regular LFT, you should encourage them to continue to take these and report results as normal during the Easter holidays. If they receive a positive test at home, everyone in your household must begin self-isolating immediately and you need to book a PCR test to confirm the positive result. Any positive tests received up until 1 April, should be reported to your school so that they can complete the track and trace process with the Public Health team.

Babies and children in early years settings, nurseries, infant and primary schools should not be taking LFT, please don’t do home tests on younger children. If you are worried about small children or they develop symptoms, please seek advice from your GP or call 111.

Thank you again for playing your part and helping to keep our schools safe and open for face to face learning.

We wish you all a safe and happy Easter.

Hertfordshire County Council