



NEWSLETTER

Headteacher: Mrs Maria Whitehead



Friday 12th March 2021

Dear Parents,

I am writing this at the end of our first full week back in school since December, and I think it has gone very well. Of course, there are still lots of measures in place to keep everyone in school safe, but the children have adapted well and are quickly adjusting to being here.

The teachers have planned activities to help the children adjust such as collaborative play and brain breaks. We have introduced a snack time with toast, which is separate to playtime, to give the children the opportunity to relax, eat and chat mid-morning – and this has been very well received. This will continue until Easter.

Some children have expressed some anxiety about their return, but the staff are vigilant and have added extra PSHE lessons into the timetable to help children understand their feelings and emotions at this time. We will continue with these activities until the Easter holidays and then review it.

Thank you for your support and cooperation with the staggered start and finish times – these are running fairly smoothly and are helping us to keep bubbles safe.

I receive daily updates from the Department for Education so I will let you know as soon as I do about any changes to the arrangements for after the Easter holidays.

Take care and stay safe



Mrs Whitehead

Easter Term Charity – St Joseph's Penny

We are in the third week of Lent and in our virtual assemblies we are talking about praying, doing something we don't normally do and helping others as ways to prepare for Easter. PRAY- ACT- GIVE. For the older juniors, they could also FAST i.e. Give up eating something they enjoy such as sweets or chocolate. We say our special Lenten prayer together which is here on the right.

As usual our Easter term charity is St Joseph's Penny. There will be no money boxes this year, however the children have been set a challenge to do something for you or their grandparents at home to earn £2. I have suggested that they help doing the washing or drying up, other household tasks like hoovering or dusting, tidying their bedrooms, sweeping the paths in the garden, washing the car etc. That £2 can then be donated to St Joseph's Penny by texting : **SJP to 70460**. Caritas uses all donations to help the poor, vulnerable and needy in Salford Diocese, so our local area.



St Joseph's

PARK HILL

A Special Lenten Fast

Give up unkind words and use kind ones

Give up anger and be gentle and patient

Give up worrying and trust in God

Give up complaining and value what you have

Give up being unforgiving and learn to forgive

Give up selfishness and think of others

Give up sadness and fill your heart with joy

Give up words and listen to others

Give up noise and action and be still

Operation Encompass

You should have received a parentmail on Wednesday about Operation Encompass. Our school is working in partnership with Lancs Constabulary as part of our safeguarding remit. The police contact school if any of our pupils are known to have been a witness to or subject to domestic abuse themselves. This would enable the Designated Safeguarding Leads in school to support that child in school to deal with their experiences. Most schools in Lancashire have signed up to this initiative.



Facebook

We have a school and a Pre-school Facebook page. We do not use these for marketing purposes. They are a quick and easy way to share with you any key activities that the children have enjoyed on any particular day in school. The photos and short videos are lovely and give you parents a sneaky peek into your child's day. Please take a look – you will not be disappointed!

Cont.

Online Safety

We have been reminding the children about how to stay safe online and how to behave online this week in school. Your child will bring home a Pupil Acceptable Use Agreement which their teacher has explained to them and they have signed. Please could you read it and sign it also and return it to school.

Library Wall Competition

Well done to Hanna, Ethan and Zoya who won the Library Wall Competition. Mrs Watson has been busy painting their designs in the library. We think they look fabulous!



School Council

Towards the end of lockdown, the School Council met virtually to discuss their return to school and to discuss if the teachers could do anything to help them. The children were all excited to return and asked for more break times, time to spend with friends, more art lessons and no homework! So, the teachers listened! Therefore, your child will not be receiving any homework for the first 2 weeks. However, we will be encouraging your child to continue with their reading every night! We feel this will help them to adjust to being back in school and relieve the pressure of worrying about completing homework in the evenings when they are tired.

The children would also like more vegetarian options at lunch times so this is something we will be looking into. This week we have introduced a plate salad with crusty bread!

The School Council is your child's voice and we aim to listen to them. We will continue meeting virtually. Thank you.

Miss C Fidoe

Uniform

Grays will be re-opening their shop on April 12th. Until then uniform is available to be ordered online and it will be delivered to your home.

There are a couple of **availability issues**:

Summer dresses – any sizes **currently** out of stock will be available before Easter. You can pre-order online now. All girls should return after Easter in a summer dress. (This is optional for our Pre-school girls.)

Girls' PE shorts – a few sizes are currently out of stock but are due in by the end of March.

Boys' PE shorts – some sizes are out of stock currently. There is no supply date available. So for the meantime we recommend you buy an inexpensive pair of navy PE shorts from a supermarket to put you on until the missing sizes become available. Please only do this if the size you require is unavailable.

All sizes of tracksuits are available to buy **from school**. We will be continuing with PE kit days after Easter so your child does need both tracksuit top and trousers which fit them properly so they look smart.

We also advise you purchase 2 PE polo shirts as each class has 2 PE kit days.

Your child does need white socks and trainers for PE. They also **need to wear PE shorts under their tracksuit trousers** which are removed for the lesson if it is indoors or fine outdoors. Tracksuit trousers are too restrictive to wear for an hour's PE or Games lesson.

If children wear earrings, then these need to be removed at home or covered with a plaster on PE kit days please for health and safety reasons.

Our school uniform is a very important part of our identity and we encourage our pupils to feel proud to wear it smartly, so we ask for your support and cooperation in maintaining our high standards.