

Welcome Back

Welcome back from what I hope was a restful half term holiday. We are very happy to welcome back the children and realise that this is still a difficult time for many children and families. As always we will be supporting our children to be happy, safe and have fun whilst learning in school and will continue to provide them with as much 'normality' as possible.

Mission Statement

This week in school is very special as we are launching our new Mission Statement.

Over many weeks and months we have listened to the ideas of the children, collected the views of parents, carers and our school family and have worked together on designing a new version of our school Mission Statement.

We are delighted with the final version and feel like it is very easy to understand and remember for our children and it reflects the core values here at

Our Lady of Lourdes RC School.



Our Mission Statement

**As unique children of God;
we love, learn, grow and inspire.
Let your light shine.**



To help celebrate the launch of our new Mission Statement in school this week, we have a whole school theme called 'Festival of Lights', that all of the children will be taking part in. There are some really lovely and creative activities, linked to light, planned for the children and we are sure that they will have a lot of fun during their first week back to school!

Remembrance Day

Throughout the coming weeks, leading up to Remembrance Day, the children will be learning all about what 'remembrance' really means. They will look closely at the history of Remembrance Day, some music and art work linked to this and will share stories and poems around this theme. It is a brilliant opportunity to explore and celebrate our British Culture and heritage with the children.



Poppies on sale

Poppies will be available to buy in school, from Wednesday, for a small donation. We ask that when the children buy the poppies they keep them to wear at home to ensure the safety of everyone.

Remembrance Tree

We also remember and pray for, more than ever this year, our own loved ones during the month of November. We usually send home stars for children and families to complete to remember family members that have died, these are then brought into school and hung on our remembrance tree. This year, with the restrictions that we have in place, we will still be having our Remembrance Tree in school but each class will be designing stars linked to a class theme for the tree. All of your loved ones who have died will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers throughout November and will be remembered in a special way on our Remembrance Tree this year.

Children In Need

We are organising a non-uniform day for Children in Need on **Friday 13th November 2020**. Children are invited to wear their own clothes, or spots if they wish, and make a small donation with all proceeds going to Children in Need. A Payment Item will be set up on ParentPay for any donations.



Parents' Evening

This year Parent Consultations will be taking place via telephone. You will be contacted shortly by your child's class teacher in order to inform you of the date and time slot of your consultation.

Please watch out for an email.

Sacramental Preparation

We know that Sacramental Preparation is a very important part of our children's spiritual learning journey in school. At the moment we are unsure of how this preparation will work. As soon as we have more information we will let you know.

Fr Ian Jackson

Since Fr. Frank retired at the end of August, Fr. Ian Jackson is now working with our school Parish as the Parochial Administrator. We offer him a warm welcome to our school and Parish community and look forward to working with him.

Reminder: 2020-2021 Influenza Vaccination Programme

Parents of children from reception up to and including year 6. The flu vaccine is being offered to your child, to consent please visit: www.hdft.nhs.uk/electronic-consent. **School Code: 114278** last date of submission is midnight **03/11/2020**.

If you do not have internet access please contact us on 0300 003 2554

Anti-Bullying week

Anti bullying Week 2020 is being held between Monday 16th and Friday 20th November and is organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. This year the theme is 'United against Bullying'. Children will be taking part in lots of activities linked to Anti-Bullying over the week, which forms part of the PSHE teaching in all schools. If you would like to find out any more information about Anti-Bullying week this year you could visit the website <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week>

Social Distancing

Polite reminder: Please ensure that at all times whilst on school site you keep to the strict social distancing rule of 2m from other people. This is a very important factor in keeping all members of our school community safe and we appreciate your cooperation. If you would like to speak to your child's class teacher, please email or ring school as they will be unable to have face to face conversations for safety reasons.

Sponsored Fun Run

We would like to say a huge thank you to you all for your support with our sponsored fun run event. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and collectively raised an amazing amount of £2157.50.

This will go towards purchasing new computing equipment for the children.

Winter Weather/ Health and Safety

As we move towards the colder months, and potentially inclement weather, we would like to remind you that if school is forced to close due to the weather, you will be informed of the closure via text message and information on our school website.

During periods of snow/ice, where school is still open, please note that in line with our site risk assessments, certain pathways and areas of the school will be gritted and marked out for you to use. For your safety, please ensure that during these times you **only use the gritted and safely identified pathways** in order to stay safe on the school grounds.

Christmas Activities in School



Whilst Christmas will look very different in school this year, we still intend on making it as special and memorable as possible for the children.

We will be unable to have our usual Christmas performances in the way that we are used to, however, the children will still all have a special part to play in creating Christmas cheer that will be shared virtually with you all.

We are also currently working on ideas to ensure that the children can still take part in some fun celebrations, safely, within their bubbles. More information will follow.

Important Dates

Please note that school will **close for Christmas on Friday 18th December 2020** and will **re-open on Tuesday 5th January**.