



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another busy five weeks - in fact it is now only four - until the end of term. There is so much going on...

The staff on our Non-Pupil day enjoyed a **Spirituality Day** at Notre Dame with the other Plymouth Catholic schools. We gave a lot of thought to Pope Francis's Laudato Si - caring for our common home. We see this as an important driver in our curriculum. We continue to explore our Gospel values, Laudato Si and it is also currently Fairtrade Fortnight. Please ask your child to talk to you about these areas - they really understand their importance.

Thank you to those who joined us for **Ash Wednesday** whole school mass this week. It was a fitting way to start Lent. Over the next four weeks, we invite all to walk closer with God through this Lenten time. This term we are going to move forward with giving children the opportunities to help lead the school - and the School Council and Pupil Chaplains will be central to this. Already they are considering what we will do for the Lenten Service and how we can be a wider part of our community.

It has been great to see our **Nutrition workshops** now carrying on with our Foundation Stage children. Premier Sport have been delivering units of work to all the classes as a result of feedback last year and it has been pleasing to see how the children have responded.

Our **Chipmunks After School Club** continues to look at changes over this term. The staff have worked really hard to freshen up and organise the 'house' areas as well as sort the resources available. The food has already been expanded in quantity and choice and a weekly timetable will soon be created to share what is offered. A group of children have helped us think about what more we can do during this time.

I would especially like to thank Eugene and Gabriel's parents for their recent generosity - they have given us a donation that has allowed us to purchase a range of items - SEN resources, games and books for every classroom. This is very much appreciated.

Our Friday celebration assemblies are more proactive, with a wider response to what we see across the school. We are continuing this 'I noticed...' theme by including the children in recognising others.

We are introducing some changes to the **Parents' Evenings** next week in order to maximise what we can offer over the course of your visit. All teacher meetings will take place in the school hall so that classrooms are free for you to enjoy seeing the children's work. I know some have had difficulty logging in to the booking system but please let us know and we can try and help. We like to see all parents and we don't want the booking system to be the reason why an appointment hasn't been made.

Whilst the timed sessions with teachers are appreciated by the parents, we want **your children** to share their learning with you and to guide you when looking at their books, viewing the learning in the classrooms and for them to talk about their learning. They can do this comfortably in their classrooms. You will be able to visit classes either before or after the appointment and we know that you will only look at your child's books. When in the hall, please wait on the altar before your meeting with your child's teacher. We will also be inviting the governors and the PTFA to be available so that this is a bigger experience for all visitors. Mrs Cotter and I will also be available to meet anyone who wishes. Target cards will also be presented to you for your child.

Along with our Parents' Evenings, we want to take this opportunity to carry out our yearly **Parent Questionnaire**. In the past we have asked you for your thoughts in July. Whilst this is good from a whole year perspective, it leaves us less time to react to your comments in-year. We hope that a March timetable will be a better timescale. Currently the questionnaire is being set up by CAST Central team onto a portal. I will provide more details as soon as I have them. Please remember that the comments section is so important and valued - both constructive criticism and compliments!

Next week, we also celebrate **WORLD BOOK DAY** on Thursday so I am sure it will be a great day. Our school library has had a sorting of books this week and the School Library Service were very impressed with the quality of the books we do have. We know you share with us the importance of reading and our desire to always promote a love of reading.



COVID-19, Coronavirus

Please see an important update regarding the Coronavirus issued by Public Health England on 26th February 2020. We will continue to keep abreast of Government advice and guidance and share with you where appropriate.

As of 26th February, advice for returning travellers is as follows:

If you have returned from the following areas since 19 February, call NHS111 to inform them of your recent travel, stay indoors and avoid contact with other people **even if you do not have symptoms**:

- Iran
- Specific lockdown areas in Northern Italy as designated by the Government of Italy Bertonico; Casalpusterlengo; Castelgerundo; Castiglione D'Adda; Codogno; Fombio; Maleo; San Fiorano; Somaglia; Terranova dei Passerini; Vo.
- Daegu or Cheongdo, Republic of Korea)
- Hubei province, China (returned in the past 14 days)

If you have returned from the following areas since 19 February and develop symptoms, however mild, you should stay indoors at home and avoid contact with other people immediately and call NHS111. Based on current evidence, novel coronavirus (COVID-19) presents with flu-like symptoms including a fever, a cough, or difficulty breathing. You do not need to follow this advice if you do not have symptoms:

- Northern Italy (see map)
- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Laos
- Myanmar

If you have returned to the UK from any of the following areas in the last 14 days and develop symptoms of cough or fever or shortness of breath, you should immediately stay indoors and avoid contact with other people, call NHS 111 to inform them of your recent travel to the country.

- Other parts of China outside Hubei province
- Thailand
- Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Hong Kong
- Taiwan
- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Macau

This guidance can be found in full online here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public

A full list of affected areas, including maps, can be found online here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas. If this applies to you or your child please contact the office.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Cotter, Headteacher

Liturgy in School

Parents and parishioners are invited to join us for liturgy, 9am, Monday mornings.

The theme for our prayer and worship next week is:

Love Everyone



Dear Jesus, it's really hard to be kind to people I don't get on with. Be with me and help me as I try to live as you ask. Amen.





Thank you to Gabriel and Eugene's parents.

The children are enjoying reading a wide range of new books that have been purchased through their generosity.

Thank you!







Don't Forget parents' evening!

PARENTS EVENING 4TH & 5TH MARCH

BOOKING CLOSES 05/03/2020 @ 12.15PM

Remember to book your slot to speak with your child's teacher and find out their progress this academic term.







Morpurgo class went to Pitt's Hall twice this week to develop their gymnastic skills. They were taught by primary school teachers who provided close support and guidance. They loved it!



Monday 2nd March CLASS PHOTO DAY



Friday 13th March KS1: 4.30pm – 5.30pm £2.00 Admit 1

DISCO TICKETS ON SALE FROM

MONDAY 2ND MARCH

(FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE)

£2.00 PER TICKET



WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Do you have a DBS Certificate?

Can you volunteer to help school disco taking place on Friday 13th March?

If you are able to help out please put your name down on the list in the office. Remember, all volunteers need to have a DBS check so if you are new to volunteering at the school, please see Mrs Leach who will be able to help you obtain your DBS Certificate.

FS & KS1 Disco **KS2 Disco** 4.30pm - 5.30pm **5.45pm**—**7.00pm**

Reminders for next week

MONDAY CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS

WEDNESDAYPARENTS EVENING

THURSDAY
PARENTS EVENING

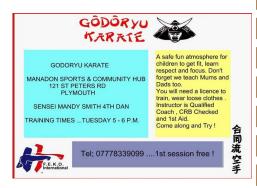
THURSDAY
WORLD BOOK DAY

THURSDAY— SIMON JAMES CLASS MASS

Coming soon

6th to 15th March
British Science
Week





Thank you all for your support, as always. Have a nice weekend.

Mr Cotter, Miss Buscombe and all the staff at Holy Cross.



Julia Donaldson (FS): Oliver M

& Dolly

Simon James (Y1): Faith
Eric Carle (Y1/2): Darcie
Roger Hargreaves (Y2): Sonny

Roald Dahl (Y3):

David Walliams (Y3/4):

Michael Morpurgo (Y4):

Emma Carroll (Y5):

Anthony Horowitz (Y5):

Colling

Anne

Evan

Saffron

Shalintha

Henry

J K Rowling (Y6): Fraser



EACH WEEK, WE RECOGNISE AND REWARD THOSE WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE FOR ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY.

THIS WEEK THE AWARD GOES TO: -

Eric Carle Class (Y1/2) &
Roger Hargreaves Class (Y2)

Well done on your excellent punctuality

YES AGAIN!!!!!
Come on everyone else, let's knock them off the top spot!



St Andrew
St Jude
St Julie
St Teresa

DATES TO REMEMBER

Here is a list of some important dates confirmed for this year.

All information is available on our website calendar.

Monday 02/03/20 Class Photos

Wednesday 04/03/20 & Thursday 05/03/20 Parents Evenings

Thursday 05/03/20 Simon James Class Mass

Friday 13/03/20
PTFA School Discos

Thursday 26/03/20
Whole School Mass

Friday 27/03/20 Last day of term

Tuesday 14/04/20 Summer Term commences

Friday 8/05/20
Early May Bank
Holiday for VE Day

Friday 22/05/20 Non-pupil day

23/05/20 to 31/05/20 Half Term

Monday 01/06/20 Non-pupil day

Tuesday 02/06/20
Term Begins

Tuesday 21/07/20
Last day of term