



To follow Jesus' footsteps, caring for each other when we work, play and pray.

Newsletter No.4

Wednesday 20th October 2021

Dear Parents,

The lockdowns we have all faced and the disruptions to life in general, as well as our schooling provision, has created its challenges and has left a mark on our society, nationally, and at local level. Our aim, with your support, is to use the experiences- for the greater good of the school and the community. All children have had different experiences; some have grown in confidence, *some have not*. It is our duty now, as teachers and parents, to build on the "good" practices we have inherited from Lockdown, in school and at home, and mend the areas that need a little care and attention. We are putting together a short document of our findings, this will be shared with you after the half term break.

It has been a very busy first half term and we are sure all of the children and staff are ready for a welcome break. Well done to all of the children who have settled back into school life so well. We hope you have a safe and restful break and can recharge the batteries!

Y6L Class Assembly

We would like to start the newsletter off by saying a huge well done to Y6L for a fantastic assembly on Black History Month. Throughout October we remember and celebrate important people from the past and also those who contribute to and help our society today. Y6L prepared really well for the assembly and presented an informative and inspirational assembly. A big Thank you to Mr Lynch and Mrs Bowkett for helping the children with this amazing assembly. -KS2, *ask your children about it.*

This week's award winner. The awards are as follows:

Key Stage Two

The Tidiness Award	Y5S	Lining Up award	Y6L
Lunchtime Behaviour Award	Y3B	The Attendance Award	Y5S
The Travel Tracker	Y3B		

Goodbye to Mrs Porter

It is with sadness, at the end of this week, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Porter who has been working in class Y3G. We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Porter for all her hard work and wish her the best of luck in her new role.

Phonics Workshop

Thank you to the parents of FY who attended the parent workshop which discussed ways in which phonics is taught at our school and helpful advice on how it can be taught at home. Thanks to Miss Wood and Mrs Terry for hosting.

We are planning more workshops for all classes across the school, but due to the increased H&S risks with covid at the moment, we are holding onto the dates until we are sure they can go ahead.

Changes to Parents Evening Meetings

It was unfortunate that as a school we had to make the decision to change Parents Evening from in person meetings to phone calls. This decision was not taken lightly, when we originally booked the consultations face to face, the covid cases were declining and we hoped everything would be able to take place as planned. However, over the weekend we had a number of positive case confirmations in our school community. Sadly, the cases are on the increase in our area. In light of this new information and the H&S risk caused by allowing 200+ parents into the building for face to face meetings we had to take the steps we did and revise our plans to protect the community. We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their understanding and support in this matter.





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Principal: Mr G. O'Hara

STJPII Multi Academy Mass of Commitment

On Tuesday 19th October, the school took part in a JPII Multi Academy Mass of Commitment, using Zoom. It was a fantastic opportunity for all the schools within our Multi Academy to come together, celebrate and give thanks to God for all the amazing opportunities we have to collaborate with schools within the Academy. It was also a great opportunity to take a moment to be still and remember St John Paul II, as his Feast day is this Friday. Thank you to Kaeto, Andre, Evie and Tilly for representing the school so well, when reflecting on the words of St. John Paul II.

Y6 Alton Castle

Y6 had an exciting Trip on Tuesday to Alton Castle. Here they did lots of practical activities which have helped them prepare for their Confirmation. Miss Harris and Mr Lynch said how well the children represented the School on the trip, with the children showing reverence throughout the day. Well done Year 6!

Here is a reminder of Y6 Sacramental Masses:

Sacrament of Confirmation Commitment Mass at **9.00am on Sunday 7th November.**

Father Michael and Deacon Daniel would like to invite parents and children to a sacramental meeting on **Wednesday 3rd November**. This will take place at **6:00pm** in the school hall.

Sacramental Masses:

- **Y6L – Saturday 13th November at 6:00pm**
- **Y6H – Sunday 14th November at 11:00am**

INSET Reminder

A polite reminder that as previously mentioned we have two INSET days on Friday 22nd October and Monday 1st November. The school will be closed for staff training on both days.

We are going green!

Here at school we are taking the opportunity to 'go green' and ensure we are doing our bit to recycle more. Mrs Pritchard has organised new recycling bins for all the classrooms and office spaces, the children will be encouraged to recycle paper and cardboard they no longer need.

Lord-Lieutenant's Active Young Citizen Award



It is with great pleasure to share with you that Freya and Orla were presented with a very special certificate last week from the Lord-Lieutenant Active Young Citizen Award. We nominated Freya and Orla last year for the award due to the amazing commitment they made to the community by raising funds for the NHS. The girls started singing and playing the violin during the first lockdown after the 8pm clap for the NHS heroes. The girls did an amazing job and they soon had a big gathering with lots of people donating money. They raised an incredible £4,000 for local hospitals. It was wonderful to see both Freya and Orla recognised for their hard work by the Lord-Lieutenant's Active Young Citizen Award. Well done girls, as a school we are so proud of you.





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Cultural Capital for October

Musician of the Month- Fats Domino

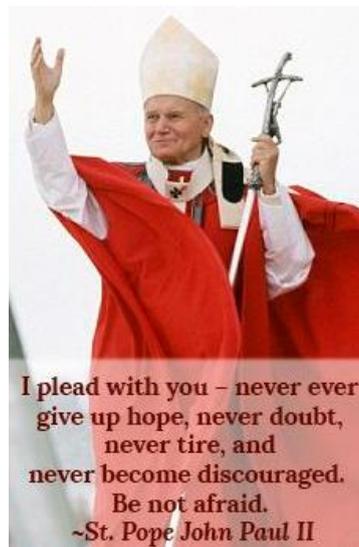
Artists of the Month – Faith Ringgold

Word of the Month- Integrity

Inspirational person of the Month – Maya Angelou



This week, we are focusing on asking St. John Paul II to help and guide us, to not be afraid and to let Jesus into our hearts and minds.



Loving Father,
We praise you for the gift of our unique academy family.
We ask for your guidance and wisdom to proclaim the Gospel.
Support us, in the challenges we face.
Inspire us, as we live out our vocation.
Guide us, to make wise and faithful decisions.
Let us not be afraid, open the doors for Christ.
In Jesus' loving name we pray. Amen.

St John Paul II, Pray for Us
St Joseph, Pray for Us

Yours sincerely,

G M O'Hara
Executive Principal

Mrs N Hill
Acting Head of School

Mrs L Chambers
Acting Vice Principal

