



Newsletter

A Busy Start!

Autumn term has had a busy start and our wonderful pupils have adapted to the many changes in school with great resilience. We are all adjusting to the new safety routines we have in place so that we can protect one another but at the same time we are having lots of fun.

Thank you for your support with drop-off and pick-up arrangements. Whilst the "one-way" systems we have in place may be inconvenient, we hope that this is preferable to staggered starts and ends to the day. Please ensure that you maintain strict 2m distances on the school site at all times. If you would like to speak to a teacher please telephone school to arrange an appointment as it is not possible to chat in our usual way at the end of the day. Thank you.



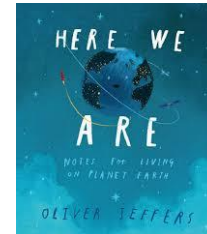
First Holy Communion

We are delighted that, after a very long delay due to coronavirus restrictions, our Year 5 children are making their final preparations before receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation in school and then First Communion. Whilst the celebrations will be somewhat more simple than in other years, we are thrilled to be able to accompany the children during this wonderful part of their life journey and we wish them all the best of luck in the coming weeks.

Times Tables Rock Stars

After a fabulous day when we all dressed up as rock legends, the enthusiasm for Times Tables Rock Stars has been fantastic! The children have loved creating their own avatar and playing their "gigs" and as a result they are able to answer multiplication and division facts with increasing speed. We are looking forward to celebrating our very own "rock heroes" soon. Good luck everyone and rock on!

Here We Are



During the first weeks of this term all our pupils enjoyed learning based on the book *Here We Are* by Oliver Jeffers. The book was written by Oliver to his newborn son and in it he talks about our incredible world. In lessons, the children painted; wrote poems, letters and stories; shared prayers; made models and spoke about their own "wise words" for the world. Mrs Hockey put together all the children's ideas and our video can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNqR_Ww3Gv4&feature=emb_logo

The work was shared between classes in both schools and ended with a day in which we all dressed up in bright colours that reflected the beauty of our world.

During the week beginning 19 October both schools in our federation will be enjoying a "superlearning" week and we will all be doing special activities linked to the book *Stanley's Stick* by John Hegley. On Thursday 22 October the children are invited to wear clothes to represent the colours of autumn. Watch this space for further information! During that week we will be collecting donations for Durham foodbank; tins and non-perishable items will be gratefully received.





We are delighted to say that £184 was donated for Macmillan Cancer Care on our Rock Star Day. Thank you to everyone who joined us at home and sent in photos of your own “coffee morning.” Hopefully it won’t be too long before we can welcome everyone back in to our schools for these special times. We are missing you!

Well done to all our pupils who took part in the “Virtual School Games” in September. The children practised the important skills needed to play rounders and then scored points based on those skills. Many of our pupils performed exceptionally well. Congratulations to you all.



Travelling to School

We have had concerns raised by residents surrounding both schools about parking. Please be mindful of our neighbours when dropping off and picking up your children. The government have begun a campaign to encourage children to walk, cycle or scoot, so perhaps now is a good time to change the way you travel to school?



Support for Families

During this challenging times many families may be experiencing hardship. The Parish of the Durham Martyrs has established a “Hardship Fund” and anyone in need of financial support is able to apply for amounts up to £300. A simple application form is all that is required and the payments do not need to be paid back. Please contact school if you would like further information or help with an application. All requests are dealt with confidentially.

As well as financial worries some families may be experiencing emotional worries. In school we have the support of Lily, our Positive Futures Advisor, and she is able to work with pupils and their families during challenging times. Please telephone school if you would like to speak to Lily. We are also running four weekly sessions for some pupils delivered by Heads Up CIC Ltd. This charity are able to support young people to develop emotional resilience and positive self-esteem and the sessions in school are proving to be beneficial.

Further support and advice is available here:

www.Childline.org.uk; <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>;

Durham Mental Health Outreach:

http://search3.openobjects.com/kb5/durham/fsd/organisation.page?id=50_zc3Lw1dM ;

<https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/self-care/> ;

Dr Barnado’s See Hear Respond - Freephone number 0800 151 7015 and via the online referral hub

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/see-hear-respond?>

Dates for Your Diary:

Friday 23 October: School closed for staff training

26-30 October: Half Term Holiday



Weekend Mass Times

St Joseph’s Church: Saturday: 5pm Sunday: 11am

St Godric’s Church: Sunday: 9am

Recommended Reading

EYFS: The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

KS1: The Cat in the Hat by Dr Seuss

KS2: Goodnight Mr Tom by Michelle Magorian

Adults: To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee



Please note: Due to Coronavirus restrictions, the parish secretary must be informed if you intend to attend Mass. She can be contacted at secretary.stjandstg@btconnect.com