

1 April 2022

Dear Parents

This term has truly been a celebration of a return to normal for many of us, especially the parents at St Faith's. I must admit that over the years we have taken so many things for granted and not appreciated the people around us like family and friends. I now savour daily events like play time and delight in watching the children as they enjoy the fun and frolics of simple play. To see the pleasure on parents faces as they watch the class assemblies, matches, concerts, reading competitions etc is also a joy to behold. I forgot as to how proud I am of our purple and gold army in all that they do, their behaviour and work ethic is impressive and their excitement and enthusiasm within the school is palpable.

I am so grateful to the staff who work hard to produce excellent results in the classroom enabling us to have an enviable track record in the Dover and Kent tests. In all my years as a headmaster I consider that I have the strongest team ever under my leadership who are loyal and dedicated to making sure your children are safe, happy and challenged. Our sports teams under Jamie Burrett continue to flourish with everyone having the opportunity to put the new kit on sponsored by LUNA. Under the direction of Paul Ainsworth our music is developing at such a pace that we now have two children working on grade 8 ABRSM, an achievement I never thought possible with grade 6 being GCSE standard.

This term, has also witnessed a coming together of our school community to help raise funds for the Ronald Macdonald Trust. We have walked from Lands' End to John O' Groats, baked cakes and sold items, all for a common goal, and so successful were we that we have raised enough to have a room named after our very own Evie Dove who sadly passed away after a long battle with cancer. Evie will leave a legacy of friendship within our school, for that was the one aspect that was all important to her. She will never be forgotten and be there always in our hearts, as will the Dove family who have always been so loyal and supportive of our school. It was extremely fitting that the last day of term was spent celebrating Evie's life at St Nicholas Church, a place she visited frequently during her years at St Faith's and more latterly as a member of the Chamber Choir.

On a lighter note, I am extremely excited to inform you of some amazing developments in the forthcoming 12 months. To facilitate the classes coming through from Nursery we will be knocking the two Year 2 classrooms into a larger classroom, with a SEN Room attached, and extending Upper Nursery into the current Year 1R classroom. To compensate for the loss of these two rooms we are making Guilford Hall Gym into two modern classrooms for Year 6. Plans have been submitted to replace the gym with a brand-new sports hall on the site of the play trail which will be moved to the side of the lower football pitch next to the outdoor classroom. This for me is a thrilling investment on behalf of Wishford and one that I can't wait to see the completion of. Plans and designs for the sports hall are being submitted on 8th April.

The Summer Term will be a roller coaster packed with many traditional events that we have all enjoyed before lock down, with Sports Day and Speech Day being the jewels in the crowning glory of the St

Faith's academic year. I am also looking forward to the whole school photo which has been postponed two years in a row.

We will also be returning in the Summer Term to even further relaxed COVID guidance, inline with the Government's Living with COVID-19 strategy (please see attached letter in this regard), and would like to outline the following for your information:

The population now has much stronger protection against COVID-19 than at any other point in the pandemic. This means we can begin to manage the virus like other respiratory infections, thanks to the success of the vaccination programme and access to antivirals, alongside natural immunity and increased scientific and public understanding about how to manage risk. We therefore ask that:

- + If your child is unwell and/or as a high temperature, they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can return to school when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.*
- + If your child tests positive with a COVID-19 test result, they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days. After this period, they may return to school if they are well enough to do so.*

Have a lovely Easter holiday and savour every moment together whether you are travelling abroad or just resting and recuperating at home. More importantly, thank you for your continued support and loyalty.

Best wishes



Lawrence B R Groves
Headmaster