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Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very productive and warm week in school! It is lovely when we can use the grounds to their fullest extent – I was reflecting today that we are so lucky to have such excellent outdoor facilities – so many schools in London have so little outside space.

Of course, with the warm weather comes the usual warnings about hydration, sunscreen and hats. We have seen children complaining of headaches because they are overheating and next week looks to be even warmer. Therefore, please ensure your children have a named water bottle which they can refill throughout the day, a sun hat (this should be plain and either a school logoed one, or plain blue or white) and if they have skin that burns, sunscreen with them in school. Please show them how to apply it. If you aren't sure yourself, there are lots of YouTube videos and helpful guides on the internet (Australia, for obvious reasons, is well ahead of us in this aspect of care) and you can also look at [Sunscreen and sun safety - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk). Please do take sun safety seriously; it is the cumulative effect of sun over time that damages skin and causes cancers. Let's develop better sun habits with our children than we may have had ourselves when we were growing up.

### **Praying as a family**

Sunday's Gospel is Mark 4 26-34, where Jesus talks to his disciples about the mustard seed – the small seed growing a mighty tree. It made me reflect on our example of faith for our children; we sow seeds of faith in them that we may never see come to fruition; the reasons you have chosen a Catholic education for your children is to assist you in providing this spiritual example. The small ways we communicate our faith with them; through daily prayer, through our own example and by talking to them about how God touches their everyday lives are powerful and vital.

In school this week we have been discussing Pope Francis' encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti'. Pope Francis has written a letter to everyone, asking us to reach out to our sisters and brothers in need, whoever they are, wherever they may come from. We are all challenged to turn outwards and think of ourselves as one global family, becoming neighbours to all, and he gives the example of the Good Samaritan who reached out to help the injured man that he didn't know. For more information see:

[Fratelli Tutti national assembly for primary schools | CAFOD](#)

### **National Assessments and in-school tests**

As you are probably aware from the national media, all national testing for primary and secondary school pupils has been suspended this year, owing to the impacts of the pandemic. This includes all statutory primary school testing, including end of Key Stage assessments, and national phonics testing in Year One. While national testing has been suspended, our school has been continuing to conduct its own assessment and testing procedures. Your child's class teacher will have discussed the spring term assessments with you in consultations at the start of this term. Those assessments were carried out prior to the Easter break after we had returned to school in March, and were designed to assist our teachers in analysing gaps in

**Caring, Learning and Achieving together as part of God's Family**

learning and planning to address these. We are carrying out further assessments over the next two weeks with all year groups. These assessments will include some nationally moderated materials that we will use to ensure that our judgements are in line with other schools and will also be based on good quality teacher assessment from the work the children have been doing in class. Our teachers have also been engaged in Croydon-wide moderation of writing in online meetings with colleagues. All this information will provide us with an end of year set of assessments. In our end of year reports, we will be sharing with you specific next steps in learning for your children. Because of the suspension of national testing and moderation, it is not possible to provide school level outcomes; we are told not to do so. We expect that national level testing will be recommenced in 2021-22.

### **Croydon Libraries Consultation**

Please see the item below. Croydon are consulting on the future of the library service. If you value the library service and feel that it is an important community asset, please do take the time to share your view. As you will be aware, Croydon has to make huge savings in public services in order to redress its budget deficit, and there is a real concern that the libraries service will be a significant casualty, or even cease to exist altogether over time. We feel this would be a tragedy. Not all families are in the position to purchase books and the libraries offer many other community facilities that, once lost, are unlikely to ever be restored. This is a chance for you to have your say. Don't miss it.

#### *From Croydon Culture and Heritage Department:*

Thank you for taking the time to share your views and ideas for the service. Your feedback has helped us work through all of the options available to achieve the savings needed for 2022/23, while maintaining a statutory library service.

Following a meeting of our council's cabinet where it was agreed to start the second phase of public consultation on proposed changes to the service, we now want to hear people's views on the following options developed to make the £500,000 savings target outlined in detail in the [cabinet paper](#).

- Reduce service hours by 21% across the borough
- Outsource all libraries
- Hybrid – reduction in service hours (two days per week) to eight libraries and five community run libraries

You can find more [details for each of these options](#)

There will be two webinars:

Saturday 12 June 11.00am <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/157775293149>

Tuesday 15 June 6.30pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/157787846697>

The survey is available online at: <http://www.croydon.gov.uk/library-consultation> or request a paper copy from any Croydon library or email [librariesconsultation@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:librariesconsultation@croydon.gov.uk).

Please return your paper copy to any library by 21 July 2021. The online survey ends at midnight 26 July 2021.

### **School uniform**

Please remember that school uniform applies at all times. As the weather is very warm, ties do not need to be worn next week. This rule is relaxed for one week at a time, so I will update this advice week by week.

School shoes are part of school uniform and should be as in the uniform policy. I do understand that if shoes are outgrown you might prefer to wait until the end of the summer holiday, however we have 1/6 of the school year left, so we must insist on school shoes. Earrings are NOT allowed and I will be sending individual notes home to families of pupils who wear earrings. If your daughter had her ears pierced in a lockdown period, it should be sufficient time to ensure that piercings stay. School uniform is important and our policy is set by our governors. We will be consulting on some aspects of the uniform policy later on.

## Dogs in school

A reminder to all dog owners – dogs MUST be kept in the designated areas at the end of the playground/car park. They are NOT allowed on any other area of the playground. If we are to maintain our policy of having dog-friendly areas this rule HAS to be adhered to. Please come and talk to me if you have a query, dog owners.

In order to help educate our children about dogs, I have requested an information pack for each child. We will be distributing these soon and running a short dog awareness session. Please keep dogs under close control and we will all be able to get along well.

## Stars of the week

Congratulation to all our stars of the week:

Class	Stars of the week
RED	Alexia & Ines
ORANGE	Aanya & Thandi
YELLOW	Matilda & Jamie
GREEN	Stephen & Sophie
BLUE	Katrina & Leila
INDIGO	Rajarshi & Lawrie
AMETHYST	Lidia & Bobby
VIOLET	Daniel M & Emma

**Happy Birthday** to Santi in Year Three and Andrew in Year One who celebrate birthdays this week.

## This week's attendance awards are as follows:

Y3 - 99.58% Attendance and 100 % Punctuality – Well done Green Class – double whammy again!

Have a good weekend. Use lots of sunscreen!

Mr Mooney, Miss Holloway & Mrs Garcia