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Friday 1st April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We come to the end of a very busy Spring Term and the weeks fly by. I hope you all enjoy a restful Easter holiday and, hopefully, we will get a little warmer weather – we were spoiled last week, I think!

Yesterday I sent you a letter from Dr Sawyer, our Chair of Governors, which I hope you saw. I am always thankful for our governors and the work they do, all the school year, behind the scenes in supporting school leadership to ensure that our school is successful and offers the very best opportunities and outcomes. They are not recognised publicly often, but they work very hard indeed.

Covid-19 Update

Please see below information regarding the recent government announcements.

On Tuesday 29 March, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, set out the [next steps for living with COVID-19](#) in England from Friday 1 April.

Free COVID-19 tests will continue to be available for specific groups, including eligible patients and NHS staff, once the universal testing offer ends on Friday 1 April.

Updated guidance will advise:

- adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature
- children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend
- adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days.

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.

For education and childcare settings from Friday 1 April:

- regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in any education or childcare setting, including in SEND, alternative provision and children's social care settings. Therefore, settings will no longer be able to order test kits
- residential SEND settings may be advised by their local health protection team to re-introduce some time-limited asymptomatic testing. This would be an exceptional measure, for targeted groups of staff and pupils or students (secondary age or above) in the event of a possible COVID-19 outbreak. These

settings are scheduled to receive an automatic delivery of contingency supply test kits during the week commencing Monday 28 March

the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) will publish new guidance. Most of the specific COVID-19 guidance for education and childcare settings will be withdrawn from GOV.UK on Friday 1 April. The operational guidance on the [testing in education settings document sharing platform](#) will also be removed on the same day.

Please remember that if your child is unwell at home, they should not come into school, especially if they have a temperature or has vomiting or diarrhea. Please ensure that, if your contact details have changed, you update us through the office email, so that we can contact you if necessary.

Praying through Lent

Indigo Class led us in a very lovely and prayerful solemn liturgy this morning as we followed the stations of the cross. With narration and acting, they helped the whole school to reflect on how we look to ourselves to examine our consciences, look to God for help and inspiration and look to others to live out our mission. (Photos below)

Our school is not in session during Holy Week, as Easter is very late in the year, so please take the opportunity to attend some of the Holy Week services in church with your children. The Easter Triduum services (that is, the three days from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday and encompassing the mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday, the solemn liturgy on Good Friday and The Easter Vigil on Easter Saturday evening) are the most important feast in the liturgical year.

St John the Baptist Parish is also running a children's stations of the cross, which would support what we have been doing here at school. I attach a flyer. There is a practice on Maundy Thursday at 10am in the church for children who want to participate as part of the liturgy and the stations is at 11am on Good Friday. All are welcome. Please make the effort to join in with parish liturgy.

Finally, a prayer from our assembly this morning:

At the end of term, we give thanks to God

For all the teaching and learning that has taken place in our school, our classrooms and our homes,

For the talents and gifts that have been shared and the challenges that have been faced.

We give thanks for the friendships that have just begun and for those that have grown,

For the faith that has been lived in our daily lives,

For the hope that has lifted our hearts on the difficult days and for the love that has kept us going.

We give thanks for the community that we are and we ask you, Lord, to bless our families as we begin our holidays.

Pour out your love on us that we may return renewed and refreshed to continue our journey together.

Walk against hunger

We've got to the end of our walk against hunger appeal in school and the children have walked 315 miles this week; an incredible total of 1197 miles over the four weeks of the appeal. This week we chose a variety of places to visit – we could go to Seville, Helsinki or Palermo in Sicily. You can choose where you would like to go.

To date, we have raised a whopping **£959!** That's outstanding and a real credit to you all. Remember that returning your sponsor forms with gift aid boxes ticked will enable CAFOD to reclaim 25pence for every pound gift aided. We will be sending of the sponsor forms after the Easter holiday, so please do send them in to us. I imagine we will surpass £1000 by the time we finish, so thank you so much – your generosity will enable CAFOD to help so many children who are malnourished. (pics below)

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

Our walking music this week is @Walking on Sunshine' by Katrina and the Waves. [Katrina & The Waves - Walking On Sunshine \(Official Music Video\) - YouTube](#) A little throwback for fans of the 1980s!

Sports News:

On Monday 28th March, Margaret Roper Football team played against Regina Coeli in a league match. Both teams battled well, but in the end, they beat us 3-0. This was just our second loss of the season.

On Tuesday 29th March, Margaret Roper football team played another match against Trinity. This was the Quarter-Final of the Croydon Cup. We knew they would be a good team because they are a private school and they had got that far in the competition. Unfortunately, they were the better side on the day and they beat us 6-2. We are now second in the league, in the final of the Small Schools' Cup and, unfortunately, out of the Croydon Primary Cup. Hopefully, we can bounce back from this not so good run of form.

Report by Lawrie.

Girls Golf Rocks

I talked to a few parents on the playground about this fairly recently, but was waiting for the next courses to be released by England Golf which happened today. My daughter took part in a course last Autumn and it really fired her love of golf from being a total novice. Girls Golf Rocks is aimed at starter golfers, although improvers are also welcome, and is intended to get more girls into golf. It is heavily sponsored by England Golf and is comprised of 6 sessions (I think mainly on Sundays). Equipment is provided, range balls, tuition with the pro, goody bag with a t shirt and water bottle – all for £35! I know Farleigh GC have courses starting on Sundays in April/May and Addington Court (we used this and the pro is lovely) in June/July and again in Sep/Oct. Reigate Hill GC and Walton Heath GC are also in the scheme. If interested see:

[Girls Golf Rocks 2022 - England Golf](#)

I advise booking early if you're interested to avoid disappointment.

A writing competition for Y5/6 that you may be interested in:

Something to do over the holidays?



The poster features a teal background with a faint image of a fountain pen. At the top, the word 'WHITGIFT' is in small white letters above the word 'together' in a large, white, lowercase font. Below 'together' is the tagline '...with local primary schools' in a smaller white font. The main title 'WHITGIFT PRIMARY CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION' is written in a bold, yellow, uppercase font. Below this, a list of details is provided in white text, each preceded by a yellow arrowhead. The list includes: 'For pupils in Year 5 and Year 6', 'Prize - book vouchers for the winning entry, for the pupil and for their school', 'Entries - poetry or a short story, can be hand-written or typed and must be no more than 2 sides of A4', 'Theme - Home', 'Submission - the deadline for submission is Friday 6th May', and 'Please email entries as a Word or pdf document to community@whitgift.co.uk'.

Stars of the week:	Writers of the week:	Mathematicians of the week
Lucia & Millie	Olga	Matteo
Chimdi & Ines	Estefanio	Caterina
Aadish & Florence	Rajvivaan	Olive
Jarede & Ashvini	Gabrielle & Maya	Whole Class
Hector & Athena	Armaan	Felix
Leila & Jaydan	Alice	Sorcha
Oli R & Maja	Elias	Kaylie

This week's Attendance Awards are as follows:

Y2 - 95.5 % Highest Attendance and 100 % Punctuality this week - well done Yellow Class!

Happy birthday to Thandi Y2, Nathan & Joziah Y5, Laurence Y6 & Anna & Zoe Y2, who all celebrate their birthdays around this time. We hope you have/had a good day.

Have a lovely, restful and prayerful Easter holiday.

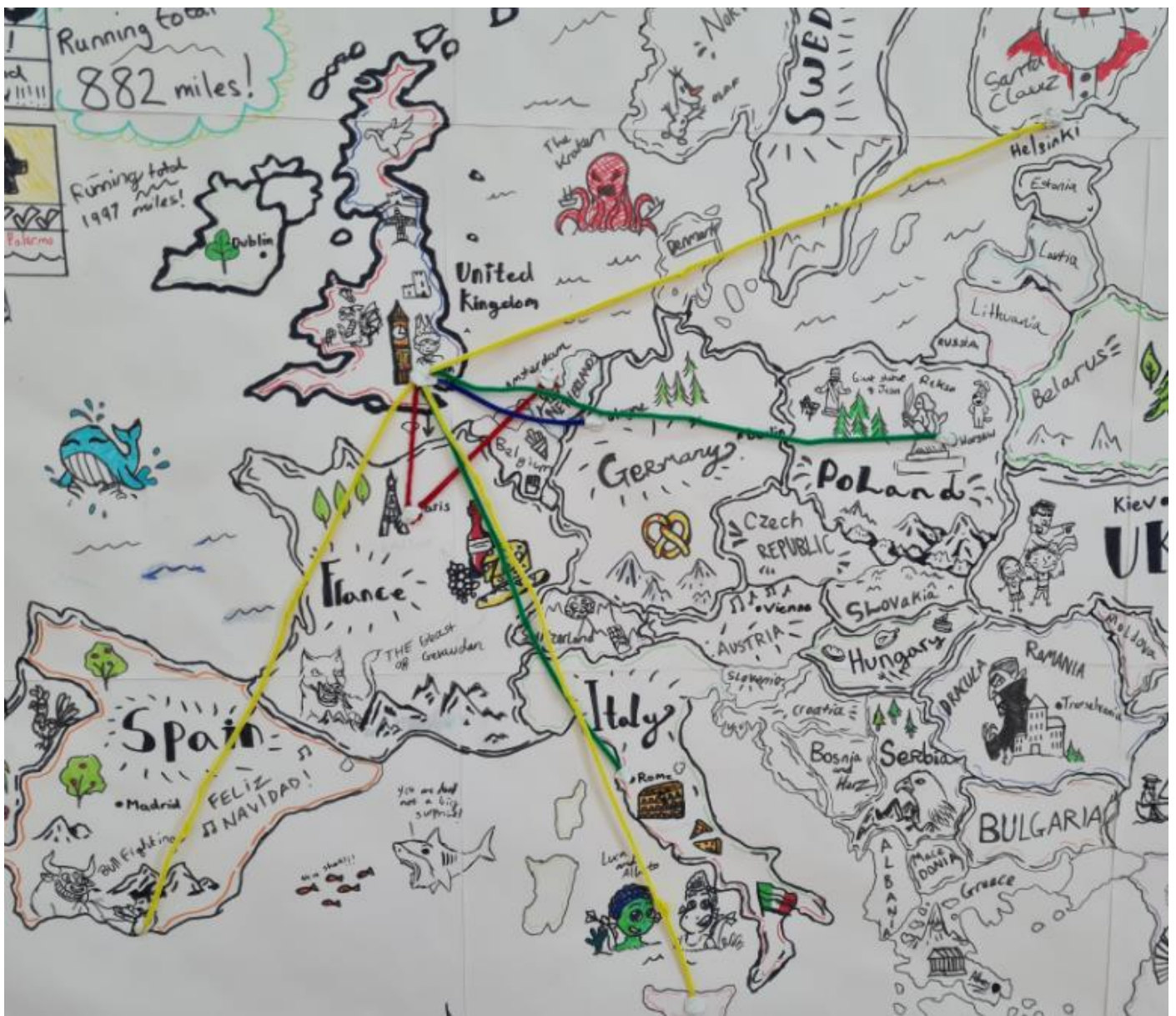
D Mooney

Attachments

- Wednesday Word (also sent on Wednesday)
- Children's Stations of the Cross Flyer – St John the Baptist

Walk Against Hunger..





1997 Miles walked. £959 raised to date. Well done!



Some pictures from our very moving Way of the Cross, led by Indigo Class



School re-opens to pupils on Tuesday 19th April

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