

23 April 2020

Dear Parents

Welcome back to a new Summer Term and one that we will remember for many years to come.

I have to start off with a big thank you to staff for all their hard work in learning new systems, procedures and teaching techniques. They have worked weekends and evenings to train and prepare for the start of term on developing their skills with Teams and OneNote to deliver their teaching remotely to you all. All this under the stress and strain of an insecurity surrounding their jobs and threat to their livelihoods. Staying with this theme may I also say acknowledge and express my gratitude to the vast majority of the parents who have paid their school fees which will ultimately ensure that the school survives and the teachers receive their very much deserved salaries. Again, when many of you have uncertainties with jobs and businesses your loyalty and support for St Faith's has been amazing and this is very much appreciated by staff, and just reflects the solidarity and community spirit within our lovely school.

Can I also thank the skeleton staff of Julie Haywood, Nobby Clark, Dawn Melliard, Sherrie Earnshaw and Amy Mumby for looking after Key workers children throughout the whole of the Easter holiday period. For some of them this has been the longest Spring Term they will ever hopefully experience. Concerning our own parent Key workers may I say well done and how amazing you all are, especially those working on the NHS frontline as doctors and nurses (including those that have come out of retirement, trainee medics or those that have offered to adapt their medical skills to fight the coronavirus).

One new pupil, Charlie has joined us in Year 1 this term and I would like to warmly welcome him into the ranks of our purple and gold army. Like many of you, he will be subject to the online learning with Teams and OneNote, and I wish him the very best of luck with his future studies until we properly return. Regarding this, may I give a big thank you also to Jonathan Dunn who has steered the IT aspect of our remote teaching with great gusto and expertise. Due to his knowledge and patience, the staff and many parents have managed to master accessibility and delivery of the teaching and learning, which has helped to relieve the pressure of teaching children at home. Teaching your own child is a daunting task and we fully sympathise and understand the challenges you are all faced with.

Over the holidays Mr Clark has completed the giant wooden gazebo in the Nature Garden which houses four picnic tables in readiness for any aspects of outdoor learning needing shelter from the elements. It is looking magnificent. Some children might be pleased to know that the fish are in residence in the pond, still accompanied by Nigel the Newt and a new resident Freddy the

Frog. In fact the pond is proliferating with life and over the holidays we have been pond dipping with amazing results.

Mr Clark's new assistant Chris Philpott has already had a real impact on the aesthetic aspect of the school and refurbished the outside of all classroom blocks. With the sports field mown and the classrooms deep cleaned we are looking good and more than ready for the return of the children.

May I draw to a close, by wishing you all well and saying how desperately keen I am to see you all again and get back to our normal daily life. Keep safe and stay positive.

Best wishes

Lawrence B R Groves  
Headmaster

