

SIR JOHN CASS'S FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 5th June 2020

A voluntary aided Church of England primary school in the heart of the City of London



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our latest newsletter and the last half term of the school year.

It has been lovely this week to see more familiar faces in school. Our Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children have all been invited back now on a part time basis. From Monday, our childcare children will also return to school on a part time basis. If your child was able to return on Monday but didn't, please make sure you are still having a go at the home learning and that you are remaining in regular contact with the school. This week we have had approximately 50% of the eligible children returning and they have been getting back into routines and getting used to the one way system round the building! If you would now like to send your child back, please let the school know in advance of your return and then we will be able to welcome them properly!

Unfortunately we have had no further information from the government about opening the school to more year groups. Originally the Prime Minister said that he would like all children back to school for the last month of the school year. Since this statement there have been no updates. We have been told by the regional schools commissioner however that we are not allowed to make the decision to open the school further without the government's go ahead. If and when we hear any further information I will of course let you know.

Given the current situation and the many unknowns we are facing, we anticipate that we will not be able to offer playcentre over the summer holidays.

A few parents have asked about end of year celebrations for our Year 6 children. We are planning on marking the end of the year for the children but we cannot do it in the usual ways. We will not be able to have a leavers evening due to social distancing restrictions, however once these have been eased and we are able to have a whole class of children together in one place I will arrange a get together for them.

Our teachers are busy writing your children's end of year reports at the moment. As the school year has been a somewhat unusual one, we are having to change the format slightly but would still like to give you the information that we can. You will receive these reports early in July. When you have received your child's report you will have the opportunity to have a discussion with your child's classteacher—this is most likely to be through a Zoom meeting but more details will follow.

You might be aware that the end of May is when teachers need to have handed their resignations in if they are not going to return in the next academic year. I am very pleased to be able to inform you that there is to be very little staff turnover in September and I have been allocating staff to their classes this week. Over the coming days I will be meeting with all of the staff individually to inform them which classes they will be working with next year and in a couple of weeks I will be able to let you know the staffing structure.

Mr Bello has now looked at the wonderful science projects that have been handed in and the winners have been chosen. You will find out who these children are in Monday's assembly.

Best wishes,

Miss Allan

Kindness by Year 3 Ironmongers (inspired by Yes by Adrian Mitchell)

A smile says: Thank you.
A laugh says: Be happy.
A letter says: Good morning.
A rainbow says: Hello.

A memory says: I miss you.
A hug says: I am here.
An act of sharing says: You are important.
The parents say: I love you.

The book says: Escape.
A pool says: Dive in.
A present says: Surprise.
The clown says: I laugh.

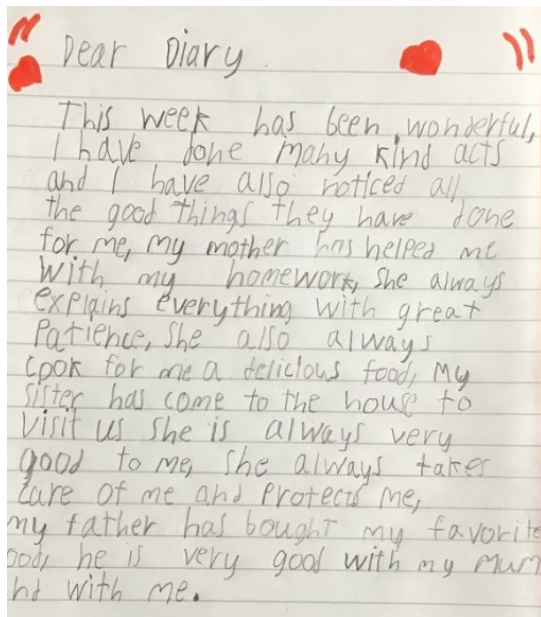
The penguin says: Fish.
The Eskimo says: Ice.
The hairdresser says: Shampoo.
The customer says: Nice!

Friends say: Share.
Teachers say: Learn.
Families say: Hugs.
Doctors say: Care.

A helping hand says: Well done!
A joke says: Ha Ha Ha!
A rainbow says: Rain and sunshine.
A message says: Hi Hi!

A teacher says: Great effort!
A class says: Thank you, Miss.
A school says: We're a community.
A clap says: Keep up your kindnesses!

(Stanzas contributed by Rebecca, Mika, Aurelia, Aomi, Sanchaya, Gene, Ms Stanley)



PSHE including Relationships Education and Health Education Curriculum

In previous newsletters I have mentioned the government's introduction of statutory relationship, sex and health education as a part of PSHE lessons. Here at SJC we have taught relationship and sex education for a number of years and therefore the changes that are coming in are only minimal to our curriculum.

Over the coming weeks I will be informing you of the overview of our full PSHE curriculum (Years 1 to 6) and going over in some detail what the changes are and what your rights will be regarding removal of your child from specific lessons.

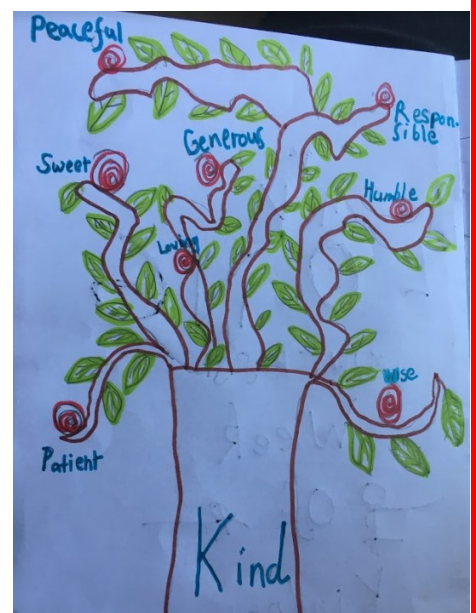
Here at Cass, we broadly follow the PSHE association curriculum, tailoring it to the needs of our community and taking into account the Church of England standpoint on relationship and sex education. When we first began delivering this specific curriculum, we did this in close consultation with you. I hope therefore that there won't be anything that is shocking or concerning to you. If however, once you have been given all the information, you have further questions then please feel free to contact me. In the past we have run a workshop for parents about the relationships and sex education elements of the curriculum for Years 4,5 and 6 at the beginning of each year. We plan on continuing with this and strongly encourage that you attend these workshops before making a final decision about withdrawing your child from any non-statutory elements.

What exactly is PSHE?

Health, relationships, economic wellbeing and successful careers are all linked. PSHE is the glue that binds them together. PSHE gathers all of these aspects of preparing for modern life together into a coherent curriculum subject. Learning about these areas in primary years raises aspirations and broadens understanding of the world of work and beyond.

Questions that we will explore over coming weeks will include:

- What is the curriculum for PSHE for each year group at SJC?
- What does a PSHE lesson look like at SJC?
- What is covered in the RSE part of PSHE in each year group?
- What are the changes from the current RSE components?
- What am I allowed to withdraw my child from?
- When does this all become statutory?



SJC : Virtual Coffee Morning

I'm not spending enough time on home-schooling. I can't get them to concentrate

Being a parent is a hard job at the best of times, no more so than in the current climate of coronavirus. Parents are juggling with a number of challenges and isolation often means parents feel alone with their struggles. We would therefore like to invite you to a 'virtual' coffee morning with other parents from SJC. It will be facilitated by Dr Emma Sinclair, Clinical Psychologist from the Wellbeing in Schools and Mental Health (WAMHS) project . This will be an opportunity to think together about any worries or challenges you may be experiencing as parents.

I'm worried about sending them back to school

Please join us:

**When: Thursday 11th
June 10 am to 12pm**

How: Zoom (link to follow next week)

I can't manage their behaviour during lockdown

I'm overwhelmed by everything going on at the moment

Helping you to support your children's anxiety offer:

You might not be aware that in school we have a mental health practitioner who is able to work with parents in order to support the wellbeing of their children. Sadia, our practitioner is able to work directly with parents who feel they could benefit from support with their child experiencing anxiety or challenging behaviour. The current situation means that many of our pupils and families may be affected. The sessions last for 6 to 8 weeks, running on a weekly basis and lasting for a duration of one hour. Sessions can be delivered remotely using telephone or video calls.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Miss Khan or myself.