

THE ALDGATE SCHOOL



Friday 11th September 2020

Faith, hope and love abide, these three: and the greatest of these is love.

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been fantastic to see all of our lovely children back in school over the last week. They've got straight back into their learning and are building up their concentration spans and learning stamina again. In class the children have been doing assessments to make sure that we pitch the learning appropriately and identify any areas of need that children may need specific support with. This support will begin to be offered after half term. If your child has been worried about any of the assessments, please support them by explaining that we are not testing them to see how able they are but that we are trying to find out what we need to teach them next.

As well as the assessments, children are all doing work based around the change of school name and getting back into the swing of everyday schooling. They will be considering identity - as individuals, as class members and part of our school. They will be talking about our journey as a school over the last 300 years, the area where the school is situated and their aspirations for the future of the school. We hope to be able to share a lot of this learning with you in a showcase after half term (all COVID secure of course). The children are also following our recovery curriculum in PSHE lessons – learning about the importance of good routines, exploring how people can stay connected and remain part of a community even if they can't see each other and developing strategies to feel emotionally secure and remain hopeful about the future.

Year 5 shared some of their very initial thoughts about coming back to school and they really struck a chord with me. I am sharing them with you so you can see how mature they have become over the recent months:

How I feel about coming back to school:

<i>Excited</i>	<i>Joyful</i>	<i>Optimistic</i>	<i>Nervous</i>
<i>Happy</i>	<i>Confused</i>	<i>Appreciative</i>	<i>Relaxed</i>
<i>Sad to leave my family</i>	<i>Thrilled</i>	<i>Grateful</i>	<i>Surprised</i>
	<i>Unusual</i>	<i>Exhilarated</i>	

Our hopes for the school year:

<i>For the adults and children to feel safe in school</i>	<i>To enjoy the year</i>	<i>For Playcentre to start again</i>
<i>To catch up with the history lessons</i>	<i>To have fun</i>	<i>To neaten my handwriting</i>
<i>To get back to learning</i>	<i>To make new friends</i>	<i>For everyone to have a good year</i>
<i>For everything to get back to normal</i>	<i>That we can go to Wales on school journey</i>	<i>To stay on green</i>

In one of the last letters I sent out I said that I would be sharing a sneak preview of the new school logo. Below I have pasted 2 images – I would like to invite you to indicate your preference (via google forms) for image 1 or 2. Once we have the decision, we will work on any final tweaks that need making in order for it to fit on the school uniform and marketing. I will keep the google form open on the website www.sirjohnncassprimary.org until Thursday 24th September. We have included the following features:

- Leaves that symbolise our Roman historical links
- A hand holding a fish to symbolise grasping every opportunity
- The Aldgate to symbolise our location
- A church and a book for learning and the church
- A helmet to symbolise our link with the City



All of the classes have set their timetables now so you should be aware of which day is PE day, so that your child can come to school wearing their PE kit. We know that everyone is getting back into routines and it can take a bit of time to remember things so if your child does forget and they come to school in uniform on PE day, then please don't worry – we know it will take a bit of getting used to.

You should also have received your child's half termly grids today – so that you know what they will be learning up until half term. If you said you want your child to attend the skipping, the catch up or homework sessions then I am really pleased to say that we can offer you a place and we look forward to seeing you on the appropriate day and time next week. Unfortunately we cannot offer the whole class a space for Multisports. If your child did get allocated a space you will be informed by the end of the day. If your child didn't get a spot this half term and you had asked for one, we hope to be able to offer you a place later on in the year.

This half term we are unable to offer swimming as the pool we use has not yet reopened. We are in contact with the staff at the baths and when it reopens we will keep you updated about our swimming provision. I'm sure you will understand that we may need to change year groups provision around, but the intention is that everyone has their swimming sessions before they leave the school.

If your child didn't come to school with a water bottle this week, please can you send them to school with a refillable bottle next week. This will really help with keeping us safe and reducing waste from disposable plastic cups.

Thank you for all of your support this week. Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Miss Allan