



# Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School

Arch Road, Hersham, Surrey KT12 4QT

Telephone: (01932) 222536

Headteacher: Mrs C Burnham



Dear Parents

As we come to the end of the school year, I am writing to thank you for your support for our school and for our school community of learners, believers and friends. We are blessed with enthusiastic children, supportive parents, insightful governors and dedicated school staff who work together to make wonderful things happen in our community. The final week of the school year seems a good time to celebrate together all that has been happening at Cardinal Newman this year.

Our school mission statement sets out the intention to allow each individual to fulfil their potential knowing that they are uniquely created and loved by God, while our LOVE curriculum intent aims to allow each child to flourish through acquiring **L**ife skills, seizing **O**pportunities for success and challenge, developing Gospel **V**alues and **E**xperience of service for others. It has been wonderful to see these intentions come to fruition this year in the lives of each of our children. I share the below not to boast, but simply to give a broader impression of the rich tapestry of school life of which each of us is only a small part of the whole picture.

## Academic

At open mornings, I always say that our academic results at Cardinal Newman are very good – but that this is not what defines us. I firmly believe that if we only teach our children to read, write, do Maths and acquire ever more knowledge, we have only done half a job, and not the most important half! If we turn out children who are good and kind and well-mannered; children who know themselves to be unique and loved, and who have the quiet self-confidence to love others in their uniqueness; children who ask wondering questions and know how to find and consider some of the answers; children who know that God has a definite plan for them in their lives and who try to use their gifts and talents to help others.... This is a small part of the other half of the job – but one that is less easy to measure and put in a league table!

Nevertheless, a sound academic foundation is important for all of our children and their achievements should be celebrated! This year our children and staff have worked very hard and, supported valiantly by their parents, have fulfilled their potential in all of the national measures for schools. Below, I highlight just two:

**Phonics:** We should especially celebrate the outstanding Phonics results in Year 1, where 95% of our children have reached the threshold (National average 81%).

**Y6 SATS:** At the other end of the school, our Year 6 SATs results demonstrate the sound foundation we seek to build for all of our children as they journey through 7 years at Primary school – 93% of our children reached the expected standard in Reading (National average 73%), in Writing 91% (National average 71%) and in Maths 96% (National average 73%). Almost half of our Year 6 children achieved the Government's "Greater Depth" higher standard in the Reading and Maths papers which will stand them in good stead as they move on to their secondary schools.

Throughout the year, there have been very many individual achievements of pupils fulfilling their potential in a variety of ways: the child who spoke their first word in school; the reader who has read



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more than 4 million words this academic year; the child who has learned to join their handwriting having never been expected to be able to hold a pencil; the child who overcame their anxiety to successfully attend a school trip; the shy child confidently singing solo in front of an audience; the child who arrived in school with no English now fluently telling jokes...It is impossible to list each individual achievement, but every child has achieved this year and we are very proud of every single one of their achievements!

It was gratifying that an independent review of support for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities at Cardinal Newman reported as follows last term: *"There is a positive culture in the school which allows all children to thrive, from the most to the least able. Children's different talents are recognised so that even those who may struggle to reach age related expectations in core subjects still have their achievements in art, music and sport recognised and celebrated."* Dr Jane Oliver, SEND education consultant

## Broad and Balanced Curriculum

As this indicates, we set out to give all of our children the opportunity to shine at Cardinal Newman in a range of different activities. Again it is impossible to list everything, but it is perhaps just worth sharing a few of our highlights:

- Riverhouse Barn Art Gallery – every child in school publicly displayed their artwork and had the chance to take their family to view it
- Winners in a National "Easter Art" competition, in The Coronation Art Competition and in a Royal Academy Portrait competition (resulting in one child having his work displayed at the Royal Academy of Arts this summer)
- Year 4 classes performed in public in a combined choir at Dorking Halls
- Year 5 classes performed very confidently at Elmbridge Music Festival – one of many emails of thanks from parents said: *"It was fantastic to see Cardinal Newman encourage and support every child to perform and create an environment where music is something for everyone to participate in. It was clear they really enjoyed it and that is a gift they will never forget."*
- Members of the school choir performed at the Royal Festival Hall in London and at the Xavier Primary Musician of the Year
- Year 6 Prayer Council attended Mass at Arundel Cathedral
- School Council visited Houses of Parliament
- School Productions in all year groups, including Y2 Florence Nightingale, Y3 Egyptians and Y4 Romans and the phenomenal Y6 Leavers Production of Shakespeare Rocks
- Year 6 Football Team were runners-up in the District Cup Final
- KS2 children competed at District Sports, demonstrating excellent team spirit and support for each other
- Ten Y6 children competed in the National 11-14 Maths Challenge, achieving 2 Gold Awards and 6 Bronze Awards with one child qualifying to compete in the National Maths Olympiad
- Whole School Science Fair for all year groups with winners participating in a Xavier Trust Science Fair at Royal Holloway, University of London



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- “Aim High” workshops for the local area were hosted at Cardinal Newman for children to fulfil their potential in Writing, Maths and Science

## Prayer and Liturgy

“It must be a very good Catholic school.” These words were spoken to me by a Dutch tourist observing our Year 6 children in Bayeux Cathedral on our recent trip to France. The two children had walked confidently on their own around the beautiful cathedral, genuflected as they passed the sanctuary and continued to the side altar where they knelt, made the sign of the cross and prayed reverently. The other 48 children in the school group were likewise appropriate, reverent and confident as they explored the cathedral church – an impressive sight. Another visitor commented on a conversation they had overheard between two of the children, “I wonder who that saint is?” (of the 12<sup>th</sup> century frescoes in the crypt) and the response, “I guess it is St Peter as he is holding the keys to heaven.” The visitor said to me, “These children know more than I do – and they are so beautifully behaved!”

The prayer and liturgy of the school has been filled with joy this year. Our children are continuing to lead some aspects of collective worship and they participate beautifully with the singing of hymns, from the traditional Newman favourites “Lead Kindly Light” and “Praise to the Holiest” to more modern songs of praise like “Here I am to worship” and “Everyone has a mission.” Every child has participated reverently in whole school Mass and their understanding continues to grow. Children in Year 3 upwards have had the opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration in our school chapel throughout the academic year and this has helped their preparation for First Holy Communion and given an opportunity for reflective prayer. It is always moving to see our Reception children begin to learn the whole school prayers and join in with the school community.

## Service

We continue to seek opportunities for our children to serve both within our community and within the wider world. Service of others gives our children an understanding that their gifts and talents are good and are given to them to be able to share with others. Through serving others, our children grow in confidence and self-esteem, but they also grow in a sense of thankfulness for the good things in their own lives and a sense of perspective about what is important. This year, every child at Cardinal Newman has taken part in an act of service linked to their class Mission Week and each of them also participated in the Big Help Out for the King’s Coronation. Acts of Service within school have included litter picking, setting tables, IT support, academic mentoring, leading playtime activities including physical and spiritual activities and writing letters of appreciation on “Blue Monday”. Our Year 6 Prefects, School Council, Prayer Council, Digital Leaders, Sports Crew, Wellbeing Champions and Eco Council are all excellent role models of service within our school. The fantastic work of our Eco Council, developing their commitment to the environment in line with Laudato Si, was recently recognised through the award of our Eco Schools Flag!



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Beyond school, our children have connected with other communities including Auntie Agnes's School in Uganda and Sherwood House care home in Hersham; they have made cards and gifts for residents of Whiteley Village, Arch Road residents and local families. One email received by school said:

*"Thank you to the school for arranging to send letters to residents of Sherwood House. My mum who is 93 read some of the letters and felt a connection. This exercise that was given to the children has given my Mum such joy and she loves their friendship."*

I believe we can be justly proud of our fantastic children who have flourished so beautifully during this academic year, spreading their goodness both within and beyond our community. It is a privilege to work with such wonderful children and to help them grow and learn.

We are deeply grateful for the support of all our community, whether that be volunteering for trips or making financial contributions, sending appreciative emails of thanks or helping out at the summer fair, hearing readers or donating plants for the garden or the many other kindnesses small and large... Thank you for all you have done to support our school this year. We wish you a very happy summer holiday and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

All best wishes

Catherine Burnham

Headteacher