



Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School

Arch Road, Hersham, Surrey KT12 4QT

Telephone: (01932) 222536

Headteacher: Mrs. C Burnham

Email: office@cardinalnewmanschool.co.uk



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Dear Parents

First Holy Communion

This week's newsletter starts with some fantastic news – following the opening of our churches for public Mass last weekend, some of our Year 3 children have been able to make their First Holy Communion this week. We are delighted to congratulate Ava and Lily who were joined by their families for this very special celebration on Tuesday.



Let us keep Ava and Lily in our prayers as they continue on their faith journey. We know that very many of our Year 3 children are still waiting to receive Jesus in Holy Communion; we will continue to pray for them and look forward to seeing photos of their special day when it finally comes.

Sports Day

Thank you again to everyone who took part in our first (and let us hope last!) ever Virtual Sports Day last Friday – thank you especially to those who made the extra special effort and took part from home. We know this was challenging. Our list of “medallists” is attached and certificates have been sent / given to our first place winners. Well done to all of you! There is a short video of this historic virtual event [here](#) - we hope the children will enjoy seeing themselves and their friends.

Financial Support

We are conscious of families' ever-changing financial circumstances in the current economic climate. Throughout this challenging period, the school have been working hard to support the vulnerable families we know about – those who are temporarily self-isolating / shielding and those in temporary

financial difficulty, as well as the children who usually qualify for Pupil Premium. We have regularly delivered fresh and long-life food, shopping vouchers and activity packs to our families, as well as supporting access to computers, books and printing as needed. This week, a letter about support for school uniform purchases came out from an Elmbridge charity and can be found attached.

As we prepare to close for the summer holidays, with the backdrop of daily news announcements of job cuts, we are reaching out to any other families in our community who may be in need at the moment. **Please make us aware if there is more we can do to help you financially:** the school has access to shopping vouchers for Sainsburys and Morrisons via the diocese, as well as Foodbank vouchers and other support as needed. Any of us can be financially vulnerable for a short while in the current climate and the school will help if we can – please get in touch with Mrs Burnham or Mr Flower via the school office.

Dates for 2020-21

At this time of year, we generally try to send out dates for the whole of the academic year. At the moment, it is very difficult for us to be sure which regular events we will be able to hold, so we are publishing only a condensed list of events for the first half of the Autumn Term, along with the term dates. We will keep the list under constant review and will update you as soon as we have more information.

Arrangements for September

Following last week's new guidance, the school has put together a comprehensive risk assessment for September reopening, in line with the recommendations from Public Health England. This has been approved by the Xavier Directors and the final details will be shared fully with parents early next week, following scrutiny by the Chair of Governors and local board. Thank you for your patience while we put the correct procedures in place.

Please be reassured that we plan to have all children back in school in class bubbles and plan to have Breakfast and After-School Club running as normal. There will be some minor adjustments to start and finish times and to break and lunchtime arrangements, but we intend to have as little disruption as possible to our usual routines in September, while still keeping the physical safety and emotional wellbeing of our community at the forefront of all our decision-making.

Reports

School reports for all children have been sent out this week. Reports for children who are currently at home were sent yesterday by first class post, while reports for children currently in school were handed out to the oldest sibling today. The reports were accompanied by a covering letter explaining the quite unique context of this year's reports!

Year 6 Leavers

Our very special cohort of Year 6 Leavers will return to Cardinal Newman on Monday for their final week of primary school. We are looking forward to welcoming them back and to celebrating with them as they prepare to move on to secondary school in September; our Year 6 pupils this year are going on to Salesians, to Three Rivers, to Esher High, to Heathside and to Wishmore Cross.

We wish all of them every success and happiness in the future. We know that they will leave Cardinal Newman with the confidence to shine their light at secondary school, using their skills and talents to support others and to become the very best version of themselves.

St John Henry Newman, pray for them. Lead kindly light, Lord Jesus, lead them on.

End of Year Mass

On Wednesday 15th July at 10:45am, all of our school community will join Year 6 in prayer for our end of year Mass, led by the Y6 Leavers. Other year groups will be in their classrooms, joining Mass via YouTube and parents and grandparents in all year groups are very welcome to join us too. The link can be reached via the St Erconwald's parish website [here](#).

Very many of you joined us on a rainy Sunday lunchtime in September to welcome our new Reception children and their families (now about to join Year 1!) and to celebrate the beginning of this school year. Little did we know then what an unusual school year it would be! It would be very fitting to have as many of our school families as possible celebrating with us the end of this school year and praying for our Year 6 Leavers as they move on to pastures new.

This will be the last Friday newsletter for this academic year. I will write again earlier on next week to share with you the final arrangements for September.

All best wishes for the coming weekend.

Catherine Burnham