

*Be like a tree. Stay grounded.  
Connect with your roots.  
Turn over a new leaf.  
Bend before you break.  
Enjoy your unique natural  
beauty. Keep growing.*

# NEWSLETTER

4<sup>th</sup> February 2022



**Holy Ghost Catholic Primary School**

[www.holyghost.wandsworth.sch.uk](http://www.holyghost.wandsworth.sch.uk) Twitter: @HG\_SchoolSW12

**'A child helped by another child is like a strong city'**

**Holy Ghost Catholic Primary School**  
Nightingale Square  
London  
SW12 8QJ

Dear Parents,

## **Children's Mental Health Week – Growing Together**

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week. On Monday we will launch the week by inviting children to dress to express. This means we can use colours and styles in our wardrobes to express how we are feeling. It would be great if children were able to verbalise their choices of outfit for Monday, with your help. We look forward to seeing an ocean of colour in school on Monday. For PE – children may wear trainers with their outfits.

We have planned a number of sessions in school over the week to spend some time exploring how we keep our mental health buoyant, whilst recognising the normality of the range of emotions we feel.

This is also a good opportunity to think with your children at home about how they find help when they are struggling; what they can do each day to remain positive, and steps to take when they are very worried and anxious. As adults we really can set the mood for the children every day, and can alleviate their stresses in very simple ways.

Lolli the P2B therapy dog will pay a visit to each class.

## **Parental Feedback – please see attached pro-forma**

As we move towards opening up school to as near to normal functioning as Covid will allow, it feels like a good time to ask parents for some feedback to help with forward planning. Before Christmas we had the Zoom consultation which was open to all parents, and which yielded some very good feedback. This time we are asking you to submit your thoughts in writing.

Put simply we would love to hear:

Six strengths (in priority order) of Holy Ghost – please try to think about your child's personal and spiritual development; the curriculum and the academic standards:

Three improvements you would like to see next year (in priority order).

The **pro-forma attached** also includes the questions being asked of parents by Ofsted, which you can also answer. The choice is yours to complete all of the questionnaire or some of it. The aim is to allow you some freedom of expression so that your gut feelings about the school can be captured.

Please submit your responses to [office@holyghost.wandsworth.sch.uk](mailto:office@holyghost.wandsworth.sch.uk), or in writing through the post-box. We will close the consultation on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March.



## **Reception in the Forest**

A great day was enjoyed by all



## **Queen's Jubilee Holiday**

Due to the Queen's 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee, we are required to work 189 school days this year, not 190 as normal. We will therefore breakup for the summer half term on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022.



Dates for the 2022-2023 academic year are available on the school website.

### Book Viewings and Parents' Evenings

Reception – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2.40pm

Year 3 – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2.40pm

Year 5 – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2.40pm

Year 4 – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2.40pm

Year 6 – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2.40pm

We have now had two successful visits from parents to look at children's learning in their books. We are delighted to welcome parents back into school class by class. Thank you for the respect you have shown for the timings of these arrangements. If you really cannot make the session, we are able to share the children's books with them, and we will provide more opportunities later in the year. Thank you for helping us by ensuring that just one parent attended per child and for your understanding that classrooms are still out of bounds. Our offer to one family has to be fairly applied to all. The impact of our actions has ripple effects, not least to our children. We are blessed with strong working relationships founded on respect for boundaries. Thank you.

Parents Evenings' appointments may be booked from Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 6.00pm via ParentMail.



### Y5 Parents

There are still some slots available to meet with Miss Lawless and Miss Murphy about secondary transfer on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Please let the Office know if you wish to book a slot.

### Synod

When we submitted the children's responses for the Parish contributions for the Synod, we were asked if members of the Diocesan team could visit to hear from the children and see the outcomes first-hand. Here are our very well informed Year 5s speaking to our visitors Dr Nash and Mrs La Trobe. It was enlightening to hear the children share their learning, and speak about how we live the message of the gospel at Holy Ghost. The visitors thanked both teachers and children for the prayers, attention and creativity that has been "lovingly lavished" in producing the canvases for each class.



### Attendance

At Holy Ghost we have always prided ourselves on the high rates of attendance at school, carefully managing to make every lesson, and every day in school count. As a parent body we are grateful to you for all the support we receive, and for the respect that is shown for the carefully designed curriculum, and the many activities that contribute to a rounded education for the children.

From daily Literacy and Numeracy lessons to the last day of term before a holiday, we plan holistically, and are grateful when parents are able to ensure that their children don't miss out on any of the learning or social activities, not to mention end of term assemblies and Masses – all of which we value so highly here.

The drive from the DfE is that schools must ensure that absences which are avoidable are avoided. We therefore ask you to bear this in mind. We aim to work with parents and to be supportive, but we must apply our attendance policy fairly, and work with the educational welfare officer to help families who struggle. When a child's attendance dips below 90%, the term "persistent absentee" is applied, and more formal intervention is often required.

Our attendance target is 98% and many children have current 100% attendance, despite the challenges of Covid. Some absences are entirely unavoidable, which of course is fully understood, but as attendance is directly correlated with performance at school, and children's well-being, you will understand our reinforcement of national policy.

The attendance this week for the classes is:

Reception	96.6%
Year 1	97.9%
Year 2	97.7%
Year 3	98.5%
Year 4	98.7%
Year 5	96.9%
Year 6	98.3%

## HOLY GHOST PRIMARY - SCHOOL DATES

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>FEBRUARY</b>				
7 <sup>th</sup> Feb  Children's Mental Health Week - Dress to Impress	8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	9 <sup>th</sup> Feb  Y4 Trumpets Y6 - Parents Meeting re school journey 3.30pm	10 <sup>th</sup> Feb Y4 Swimming NCMP - Rec / Y6 Reception - Children's Book viewing 2.40pm	11 <sup>th</sup> Feb Y1 & Y2 Inter Planet Y3 & Y4 Inter Planet  Break up for Half Term (normal time)
14 <sup>th</sup> Feb  <b>HALF TERM →</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	18 <sup>th</sup> Feb
21 <sup>st</sup> Feb  <b>INSET DAY</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb Children return to school	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb Y4 Trumpets Parents' Evening - Zoom 3.30-6.30	24 <sup>th</sup> Feb Y4 Swimming Parents' Evening - Zoom 3.30-6.30	25 <sup>th</sup> Feb Anti Bullying Day Place2Be
<b>MARCH</b>				
28 <sup>th</sup> February	1 <sup>st</sup> March	2 <sup>nd</sup> March Ash Wednesday Y4 Trumpets	3 <sup>rd</sup> March World Book Day Y4 Swimming 	4 <sup>th</sup> March
7 <sup>th</sup> March  Y6 Netball v S&C (selected)	8 <sup>th</sup> March	9 <sup>th</sup> March  Y4 Trumpets	10 <sup>th</sup> March Y3 Book Viewing 2.40pm Y4 Swimming Tag Rugby - Y5/6 & Y3 - selected	11 <sup>th</sup> March Y5 Book Viewing 2.40pm  Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> - 11.30am Y3 - FHC Presentation Mass
14 <sup>th</sup> March	15 <sup>th</sup> March	16 <sup>th</sup> March  Y4 Trumpets	17 <sup>th</sup> March Y4 Swimming Y4 Book Viewing 2.40pm	18 <sup>th</sup> March  Y6 Book Viewing 2.40pm
21 <sup>st</sup> March	22 <sup>nd</sup> March	23 <sup>rd</sup> March Y4 Trumpets	24 <sup>th</sup> March Y4 Swimming	25 <sup>th</sup> March
28 <sup>th</sup> March	29 <sup>th</sup> March	30 <sup>th</sup> March	31 <sup>st</sup> March  The Passion 2.00pm	1 <sup>st</sup> April

<b>2022</b>	
Date	Event
<b>APRIL</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> April	End of Term
15 <sup>th</sup> April	Good Friday
17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Easter Sunday
19 <sup>th</sup> April	Return to School
<b>MAY</b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Bank Holiday
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Class Photos
7 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 3 First Holy Communion
26 <sup>th</sup> May	End of Term (Thursday)
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Half Term starts

**Headteacher:** Miss Susan Lawless  
**Deputy Headteacher:** Miss Gabriella Murphy  
**Tel:** 020 8673 3080  
**Email:** office@holyghost.wandsworth.sch.uk