31st January 2020

Dear Parents,

**Weekly Mass- Candlemas**

Mass next week will be the celebration of Candlemas when we remember Jesus’ presentation in the temple. During this mass, Father Stephen will bless all of the candles in school that remind us of Jesus being the ‘Light of the World.’ Please join us and bring your candles from home to be blessed in school. Mass will be led by Year 3.

Mrs Crotty, one of our regular parishioners said of mass this week,

*“It is a fantastic feeling; a feeling of prayer and looking up to God. But, it’s just a beautiful raising up of themselves. It makes me want to pray. The children are really teaching us something.”*

**First Friday of Faith**

First Friday of Faith will starting at Sacred Heart Church on Friday 7th February. All parents and families are welcome all meet at 6.30 pm for a 7 pm start in the Undercroft at church. In this **Year of the Word – The God Who Speaks**, Fr. Stephen will speak on The Bible, our most Holy Book. How did we get it? What is it for? How should it be read? Please get the word around and bring others along with you. Bring a Bible too if you can.

**Children's Mental Health Week 3rd-9th February**

Children's Mental Health Week is run by children's mental health charity to focus on the importance of looking after our emotional wellbeing from an early age. This year's theme is 'Find your Brave'. Bravery comes in all shapes and sizes and is different for everyone. Bravery can be about sharing worries and asking for help, trying something new or pushing yourself outside your comfort zone. ‘Finding your brave’ can build your confidence, self-esteem and make you feel good about yourself.

We're proud to be supporting this week to shine a light on the importance of children and young people's mental health. We will be helping pupils and teachers to explore what it means to 'Find your Brave'.

Find out more at: childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk

**Reading with your child workshop KS1- Friday 7th February**

Thank you to all of the parents who have been supporting their children at home with their reading. It means so much to your child and their progress. **There will be no ‘Let’s Read Together’ next week but it will restart on Thursday 13th February.**

We are holding a workshop in school next Friday to support parents with reading at home with their children.

Creating a love of reading in children is potentially one of the most powerful ways of improving academic standards in school.

A letter will be sent out next week with more details and a reply slip to show if you wish to attend.

**After school sports clubs**

It is brilliant to see so many children taking part in after school activities run by Mr Miller, Miss Weston and Miss Joseph. It is important to ensure that your child is collected on time at the end of the session. Please remember that it is not possible for staff to supervise younger children or siblings; arrangements must be made for them to be collected at the end of the school day at 3.15pm.

**Dates for your diary**

KS1 Reading workshop Friday 7th February 9.10.am

Year 3 First Holy Communion Parent’s Meeting Monday 10th February 3.30pm

Online Safer Internet Day Tuesday 11th February

Year 3 Class assembly- Reconciliation Friday 14th February 9.10am

Half term holiday Friday 14th February

Spring 2 term starts Tuesday 25th February

Please not that **Monday 24th February** is a school INSET day and so school will be closed to pupils on this day.

**Gifts from God**

Please log into our school website for photographs of all of our wonderful children whose Gifts from God have been celebrated recently.

**Congratulations**

**House Points**

This winning house over the last two weeks was St John House. Please make sure you child wears their house saint badge with pride.

**Commendations**

Well done to the following children: Nicholas Prom, Archie Phillips, Efrata Yohannes, Karen Mhlanga, Nouraya Kassam, Michael Ansah and Omarion Foster.

**Presentation award:** Chiamaka Medukam, Nicoly Faquim Dos Santos, Remiya Daley, Chidera Afoka Obieshi, Kevin Sledz, Charis Okunodu-Ejiofor and Daisy Idemudia

**Gospel Virtues**

This half term pupils are growing to be compassionate towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and loving by their just actions and forgiving words.

This week the following children have displayed their wonderful virtues: Mercy Adedire, Anayah Foster, Nathanial Glorified, Christian Adjei, Nikola Rosa, Benjamin N’Guessan and Milcah Yosef.



Hope is a virtue which strengthens us through life’s greatest difficulties.

To hope is to believe that God’s love will always be with us. In what ways can we bring hope to people who are sad or troubled? Perhaps we can: be a good friend; be a patient listener; tell others about the hope that God brings into our lives; let us others know we are praying for them.

“Lord, open my heart, mind and ears to receive your Word.”

When Jesus was a baby, his parents, Mary and Joseph, took him up to the Temple to present him to God and make an offering of two young pigeons. In the temple was a good and holy man named Simeon. The Holy Spirit had promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen Jesus, the Light of the World. Simeon took Jesus into his arms and praised God saying, “Now, I can die in peace because you have kept your promise. This child, Jesus, will be a light for all nations.”

**Wednesday’s Word is**

**Hope**

*“Always know in your heart that God is by your side. Let us never lose hope!”*

Pope Francis

Yours sincerely





Mrs G Elliott

Acting Head of School



Mrs D Cooper

Acting Vice Principal

Mr G M O’Hara

Executive Principal