

1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

In last week's assembly and in this week's, I spoke to the children about our St Winifred's family. How we are all members of this very special family and how I want everyone to feel happy, safe and valued in our school. We spoke about how we must always have kind words, kind hands and kind feet. We should all be proud of the children, they are a credit to their school and their families.

In school, through our assemblies, RE lessons, PSHE lessons and school rules, the children are constantly reminded of our expectations of behaviour. However, on occasions, due to many reasons, there are incidents where behaviour is not what we would expect and is unkind. It is our job to help the children to develop not only academically but pastorally. We are a Catholic school and by listening to Jesus' teachings, we want to be more like Him.

If there is an issue with behaviour in the classroom or the playground, the children will be helped by staff to recognise why their behaviour is not acceptable. We are all human and we all make mistakes. It is incredibly important that the children understand how much we value honesty, especially as at times it can be incredibly difficult to tell the truth. Reconciliation and forgiveness are Gospel values and the children are taught this.

I would appreciate it if you could reiterate some key messages with your children on the way to school each day:

1. Treat others as you would like to be treated
2. Kind words, kind hands, kind feet
3. Honesty is the best policy
4. If someone is being unkind, tell an adult immediately

In the same way that I expect the children to try to be like Jesus, I expect all adults to do the same. If your child ever comes home upset over an incident in school please come and talk to their teacher or any member of the senior leadership team. Please **DO NOT** approach other people's children. We are all role models to our children. We are here to listen and to help in anyway we can. Over this past week, I have been shouted at a few times, as have my staff. It is **not** acceptable and will not be tolerated. As unhappy as you may be, please remember to treat all of my staff like you would like to be treated. In the same way I want all the children to be happy and safe members of the St Winifred's family, I want my staff to be happy and safe too.

## **Black History Month**

Today marks the first day of Black History Month. We at St Winifred's are committed to the pledge we made with the other Lewisham schools to tackle race inequalities in education. As part of this pledge, some of our teachers attended a conference at the end of last academic year on 'Decolonising the Curriculum'. This year one of our school development priorities is to look at our current curriculum and ensure that it reflects and celebrates our community's culture and history. We will teach Black History all year round. We strongly believe that black history is British history and the teaching of it should not be designated to a single month.

*"This year's Black History Month in October is more important than ever. It's not just a month to celebrate the continued achievements and contributions of Black people to the UK and around the world. It's also a time for continued action to tackle racism, reclaim Black history, and ensure Black history is represented and celebrated all year round. As 2020 showed, and 2021 continues to show, Black history is being made every day, in all kinds of ways. Inspired by Black Lives Matter, Black History Month UK, a new campaign for Black History Month 2021 has been launched called 'Proud To Be'. The campaign will encourage Black and Brown people including celebrities to share what they are proud to be – as part of a month-long celebration of the incredible richness and diversity of Black and Brown heritage in the UK."* <https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/>

We would like our families to support us in this commitment, we have created an Amazon wish list of books that we believe all children should have access to in their class libraries. If you are able to donate any amount to put towards the books we have chosen we would be tremendously grateful. Please click on this link to see the titles we've chosen and donate them to the children of the school. <https://amzn.eu/3TFk1Ja>

Here is a list of the themes, people and books that the children will be inspired by this month:

### Early Years: Food

- 'Handa's Surprise' by Eileen Brown and 'JoJo and GranGran Calaloo Soup'
- Tasting different fruits from around the world
- Cooking some delicious traditional cuisines such as Caribbean dumplings and Ethiopian spiced breads (H'mbasha).

### Year 1:

- Pattan's Pumpkin, a traditional flood story from Southern India by Chintra Soundar, Frane Lessac. The themes of determination and perseverance will be explored in the story of Pattan and this will be related to the stories of real men and women from black, South Asian and mixed heritage backgrounds.
- The children will explore traditional textile patterns and designs, such as Rangoli.
- Traditional music and songs from Southern India including some lullabies in the Tamil language.
- In Science when learning about the importance of exercise and movement in keeping our bodies and minds healthy, Young British black and mixed heritage sports stars including Emma Raducanu, Marcus Rashford and Dina Asher-Smith will be used as case studies.

### Year 2: Black achievers in Britain

- Focusing on Black Britons who are achievers and inspire people i.e. Jessica Ennis, Stormzy, Charlene White, Valerie Bloom
- The children will create a big class book of their biographies and art work for the display.
- In Dance the Anasai stories will be explored.

### Year 3: Black Music

- Looking at how Black music over the last 100 years has shaped the basis of nearly all modern day music.
- Children will listen, discuss, sing and write about a range of genres: Jazz, Blues, Soul, Pop, Reggae
- They will pay special attention to the meaning of '3 little birds' and 'Redemption Song' as they learn to sing them.

Year 4:

- Role of black soldiers in WWII,
- Theme of Freedom through 'Tar Beach' by Faith Ringgold
- Faith Ringgold's art in particular her watercolour paintings

Year 5:

- Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly and illustrated by Laura Freeman in which children learn about the achievements and determination of four iconic women in the space race as part of their science topic.
- Black and British by David Olusoga as part of their reading work.
- 'Africa is not a country' in which the children learn about the countries that make up the continent as part of their literacy.
- The work of Jean Michel Basquiat in art.

Year 6:

- Art- Yinka Shonibare an amazing British-Nigerian artist
- Poetry appreciation (Guided Reading)- Maya Angelou and Langston Hughes
- Writing and History – 'The Windrush Generation' using The Windrush Child by Benjamin Zephaniah A focus on their experience and the positive cultural impact on Britain.

In addition to this all children will be learning about and playing African music. Early Years will be learning songs from Ghana. Key Stage 2 will be learning how to play the djembe and learn about its development in west Africa in the great Malian Empire. The children will also explore African dance in their PE lessons.

The children in Years 1-6 will also attend an interactive story telling workshop delivered by an accomplished storyteller. The workshop will use music, movement and vocal expression to tell stories that have thrived for generations in Africa, the Caribbean and parts of America.

Please ask your children about what they are learning in school.

#### **Cathedral Visit:**

Today I attended Mass at St George's Cathedral with four pupils. The diocese organised this mass for all the schools in the diocese, welcoming them back for the beginning of a new school year. It was a pleasure to escort such well-behaved, polite children. They were shining role models for our school.

#### **Harvest Festival:**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> October we will be celebrating our Harvest Festival. We are very much looking forward to it, as this will be the first time we will gather for an assembly since the pandemic began. Fr Emeka will be joining us on this special day. The children have been busy creating beautiful hall displays and preparing work and songs to share at the assembly.

We will be collecting for the Manna Centre. Could we please ask you to bring in the following donations:

Nursery: Tinned vegetables

Reception: Tinned tomatoes

Year 1; Baked beans

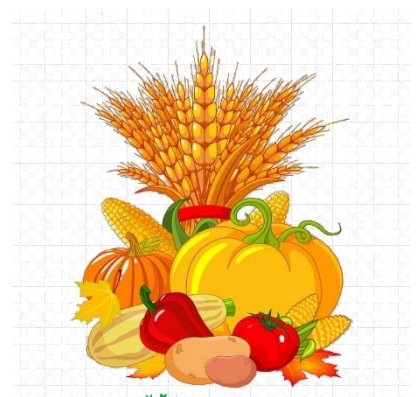
Year 2: Pasta

Year 3: Breakfast cereals

Year 4: Rice

Year 5: Biscuits

Year 6: Sugar



### **Social Media:**

As you all know I have created a Facebook, Instagram and Twitter account for the school. Today I have shared images of our trip to the Cathedral. If you have not started following us, it's not too late to do so! I will be sharing many wonderful things during Black History Month.

I sent an opt-out letter twice (via email) and you will find it attached again. If you would rather your child **not** be included in photos and videos, please return the letter to the school. We will then know which children not to include in our posts.



St Winifred's Catholic Primary School



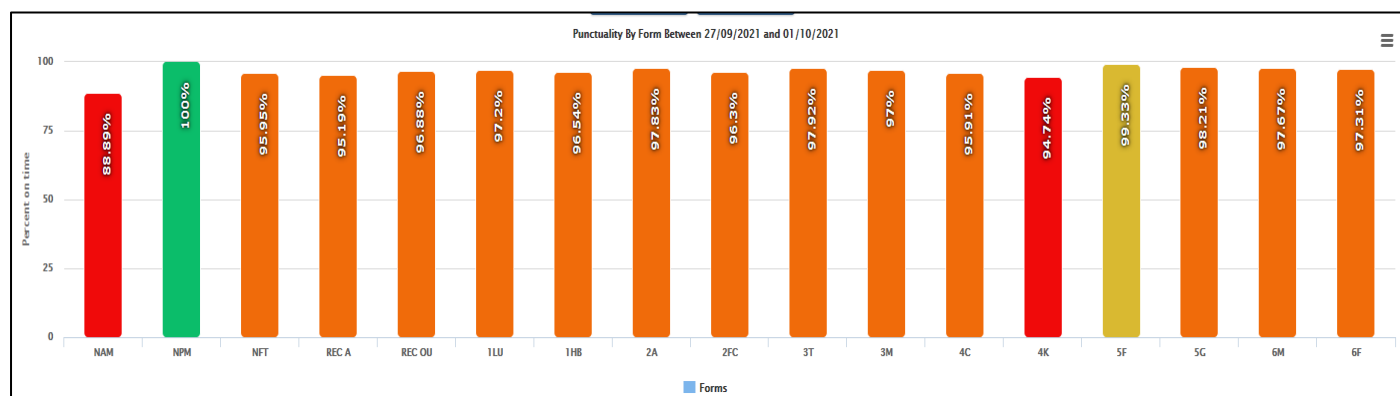
St\_winifreds\_lee



@stwinifredslee

### **Punctuality:**

I am delighted to let you know there has been a tremendous reduction in children arriving late to school. Last week, on average, we had over 20 children late on a daily basis. This week, on average we have had 10 and under.



This graph shows the punctuality for this week. This week's winner is: **5F**! Well done to 5F. Let's see who can win it next week!

### **Wednesday Word**

Please see the link to this wonderful resource to share with your child, to support them in understanding the Mass Readings for the coming weekend. <https://www.swcps.lewisham.sch.uk/thewednesdaywordwebsite/>

### **Applying to start primary school 2022**

Applications for Reception Class places for September 2022 can now be made on line. Please follow this link: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/school-admission/applying-to-start-primary-school>

### **Secondary Transfers etc**

Many of our Year 6 pupils will be visiting secondary schools and sitting tests during the coming weeks. Please ensure that you inform the office if your child is going to visit a school or needs time to sit a test. In order to minimise disruption to their learning in class, please ensure that they are only absent for part of the school day on which the exam or visit takes place.

Link for applying for Lewisham secondary schools: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/school-admission/applying-to-start-secondary-school/completing-an-application-form>

**PLEASE NOTE THAT: you must apply online for a secondary school place by 11.59pm on 31 October 2021**

### **Food Bank**

Please be reminded that the school's foodbank is open. If you would like to access it, please contact the school office. If you are able to donate to the foodbank, all donations will be greatly received.

### **Lewisham Music**

Please follow this link to access new music opportunities:

<https://mailchi.mp/3daffc5bad75/upcoming-projects-5379355?e=cd1b53fba5>

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter, it really is very much appreciated,

Wishing you all a happy weekend,

Claire Gillespie

