

15th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today we celebrated our Harvest Festival. We were joined by Fr Emeka and had such a wonderful celebration. It was a joy to gather together in worship. Thank you to Father for joining us in our first celebration of this school year. It was incredibly emotional to hear the children sing together beautifully after all this time. After half term, we will gather daily in an act of collect worship.

Thank you to all of you who donated so generously to our Harvest Festival. We were overwhelmed by the amount of goods the children brought into school. All the food will be shared between our school food bank and the Manna Centre. Please visit our social media sites to see all the photos of this wonderful celebration.

October:

19th & 21st: Parents' Evenings
20th: Friends Meeting
22nd: Last Day of Term

November:

1st November: children return
6th: Garden Volunteers
8th November: INSET day



Lastly a huge thank you to everyone involved in this celebration:

- Mrs Abbs who organised this fantastic assembly for us.
- Mr Howell, who prepared the children with the singing of the hymns, the playing of Ukuleles and accompanied the children on the piano and the trumpet.
- Mr Cunningham and the Mini Vinnies, who gave up their time to collect and display all the donations.
- The children who read so beautifully.
- The Ukulele club who performed for the first time ever. They were fantastic!
- Mr Toynton, for ensuring all the technology worked this morning.
- To all the children and adults of the school for participating incredibly during the assembly; listening attentively and singing wholeheartedly!



What a fantastic way to end the week!

Uniform Reminders:

PE Uniform: Tracksuits / Shorts / Sweatshirts need to be **PLAIN** black or navy blue, with plain white T-shirts. (There should not be any branding / patterns / colours on the clothes). Sweatshirts should not be hooded.

Trainers: Trainers may be worn with the school uniform, but again they should be plain black. There should not be any white / colourful logos or soles.

Hair Accessories: As lovely as they are, the colourful / glittery hairbands, scrunchies, bows and beads are not allowed. The children who use them, must have plain hair accessories e.g. maroon bows.

Black History Month



This week we have received so many more books. Your generosity is fantastic. We now have 26 books and at least one of each title we asked for. Thank you! The list is still open and it's not too late, if you still wish to gift us a book. The list of books include titles 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>

Parents' Evening:

You should all now have been contacted by your child's class teacher inviting you to a meeting with them. It is incredibly important to attend this meeting You will be offered a 10-minute telephone / video catch-up. In this meeting you will be able to discuss the progress your child has made this term, how they have settled and their key targets for development. These calls will take place on the 19th and 21th October.

These meetings will take place remotely, via the phone or video. I have taken a very cautious return to school this half term as you know, and I want to keep everyone safe, which is why I decided to hold the meetings remotely this time. My hope is that in the Spring term, we will be able to hold the meetings in school.

You will have been invited to book a 10-minute slot on these two evenings:

Tuesday 19 th October	4pm – 7pm
Thursday 21 st October	4pm – 6pm

If you are unable to make time on these two dates, I am sure that the teachers will find a mutually agreeable time to meet with you.

May I also take the opportunity to remind you that these meetings are strictly **10 minutes** long. If you feel that after your meeting you would like to meet with the teacher for a longer meeting, to discuss certain issues at length, this can be arranged. The teachers will have pre-booked appointments and will not be able to spend more than your allocated time with you. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Friends of St Winifred's:

Anyone, who has a child at St Winifred's, is a 'Friend'! So, calling ALL friends, we need you! We would like to invite you all to a Zoom meeting, where you can find out about 'The Friends of St Winifred's'. This association is vital for the school. We want the school to thrive and be the heart of the community. The 'Friends' organise and host fundraising events, which then in turn the children benefit from. After the 18 months we have all had, wouldn't it be fantastic to start having the opportunity to have fun, whilst raising much needed money for the school.



Please join Andrea, Michelle and me for a meeting on Wednesday 20th October at 6pm on Zoom, to find out about all the ways you can support the school and this wonderful organisation.

<https://zoom.us/j/96460919880?pwd=bnNURkNKeFpBUk1ISWZMVmQ0T0dsQT09>

Meeting ID: 964 6091 9880

Passcode: Gw4EKN

Football Cards:

Could I ask you to remind the children not to bring in their football cards. The children should not be bringing in these cards as sometimes they go missing or it causes upset when they are damaged.

Class WhatsApp Groups:

I understand that there are many class WhatsApp groups for parent / carers. There can be a lot of benefits from these types of groups, e.g. ensuring that key information is shared. However, these groups should be used for good. For the good of the children and the good of this Catholic community. These groups, if used incorrectly, can cause a lot of harm. Children, parents/carers and staff should not be named and spoken about negatively. If there are issues you are unhappy about, come and talk to us. If you are a member of one of these groups, please remember the reason why they were formed. We are a Catholic family, remember our Gospel values and how we treat one another. Please treat all the members of our St Winifred's family, children, their families and teachers with respect.

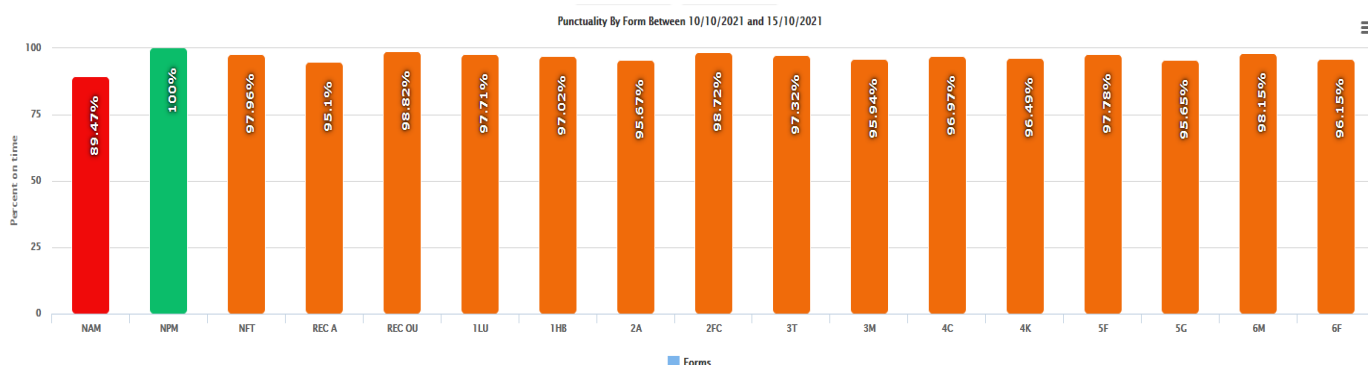
'Tech Abuse' Workshop

There are free 'Tech Abuse' workshop for parents on the 2nd and 3rd of November provided by Lewisham Council, please see the attached flyer. The purpose of this workshop is to increase awareness and provide some useful skills to support parents, by the end of this workshop you should be able to:

- Recognise how modern technology can be used to jeopardise young people's safety
- Distinguish between different types of technological abuse that could affect children and young people
- Assess the risk factors involved in cases where technology is being used to abuse children and young people
- List different ways in which you can empower your children to use technology safely and positively

Punctuality:

This week there has been a real improvement with punctuality. Far fewer children are arriving late. Thank you all for your commitment and support with this matter.



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

Lend a helping hand: Saturday 6th November

The school is creating a kitchen garden in the old caretaker garden. Last term parents helped build raised beds out of old pallets. They will be filled with soil and used by classes to grow fruit and vegetables. We have received a grant for tools, greenhouse and shed to complete it.

We have a few more raised beds to make, that will go around the rest of the school, so there are more growing areas.

Could you help us build the beds? We have the last session on Saturday 6th November between 9am and midday. If you can help, please come with protective gloves plus drills, saws or hammers. Refreshments are provided.

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/>

Parent App:



Thank you to all of you who have downloaded the app! I was delighted to see how quickly the app was downloaded and was being used to contact the office. We now have 110 users, which is amazing!! If you have not downloaded the app, you should have all received an email last Friday with all the information, including a code which will expire after 60 days. If you cannot find it and wish to use the app, contact the office and we will be able to issue a new email.

With this App you will be able to check all of your contact details and update them at a click of a button. You will also be able to report absences. This is a very quick and easy way to communicate directly with the office. All you need to do is download the app and use the code included in the email. Any problems / queries please do contact the school office and we will help you with any issues arising.

Social Media:

As you all know, I have created a Facebook, Instagram and Twitter account for the school. If you have not started following us, it's not too late to do so! I have been sharing lots of the children's wonderful work and I will be sharing photos from our Harvest Festival.

I sent an opt-out letter three times. If you would rather your child **not** be included in photos and videos, please return the letter to the school or send a request via the Scholar Pack app. We will then know which children not to include in our posts.



St Winifred's Catholic Primary School



St_winifreds_lee



@stwinifredslee

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