

25 June 2021

Dear Parents,

It's been another wonderful week in school, filled with exciting hooks into learning, lots of hard work and plenty of fun too! Our Nursery children have enjoyed retelling the story, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' with actions, they even created a bear hunt map to find their way. Our Reception class have been exploring our Wonderful World. They found our school on Google Earth and then went on a 'Senses Walk' in our Secret Garden. They then drew what they loved about our world. Year 1 have particularly enjoyed their French lesson with Mrs Hillard this week and Mrs Burdis, their PE teacher, praised them for their outstanding behaviour. As part of their Humanities work, Year 2 have been learning about why it is important that women have the vote. They wrote speeches to outline reasons women needed the vote. They also designed our own rosette in the colours that the Suffragettes used. Origami club has been a hit with a group of Year 3 children and, as well as learning about Sound, our Year 4 class were left amazed by their 'WOW Wednesday' scientific investigation- you can ask your child about this at home. In Upper Key Stage 2, the oldest children in our school have been working exceptionally hard in their maths work. Year 5 have been exploring the British Empire and Year 6 are writing their final narrative piece in Literacy, based on a villainous character.

Well done to our Headteacher award winners this week- I'm very proud of you all.

Language of the Month

Language of the Month this month is Sinhala, the first language of Sri Lanka.

LANGUAGE
OF THE MONTH

Sinhala is the first language of Sri Lanka.

It has a population of 21.4 million people.

Sinhala is spoken by nearly 16 million Sri Lankans.

Sri Lanka is in Asia and is an island just below India.

Popular food in Sri Lanka is Kukul mas curry which is a chicken curry.









SIMS Pay System

Thank you to those of you who have set up your parent SIMs Pay account. If you haven't registered yet, please do so as soon as possible, as this will speed up the payment process when paying for school trips, meals or after school clubs. **From September, we will not be accepting cash** so if you have any questions or would like support in setting up your SIMS Pay account, please contact the school office.

Self-Isolation Payments for low-income families

Any pupil who is identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 is required to self-isolate for a period of 10 days.

If a parent or carer on low income needs to take time off work to care for their child while they remain at home (and this results in a loss of income), they may be eligible for financial support.

Newcastle City Council administer a Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, for which eligible parents or carers can apply for a £500 one-off support payment. To qualify, they must meet the following criteria:

- The parent or carer of the child or young person must live in the same household, **and** needs to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate (this is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person 's self-isolation period), **and**
- They are employed or self-employed, **and**
- They are unable to work from home while undertaking caring responsibility and will lose income as a result, **and**
- They or their partner are currently receiving either Universal Credit, Working Tax Credits or Income based Employment and Support Allowance.

And

The child or young person they care for:

- Is aged 15 or under (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and normally attends an education or childcare setting), **and**
- Has been told to self-isolate by NHS Track and Trace, or by their education or childcare setting, because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Applications can be made online at:

<https://newcastle.gov.uk/TestandTraceSupportPayments>

Supporting evidence will be required with the application, including a copy of the letter from the child's school instructing them to isolate.

As part of the verification process, the Test and Trace Support Payment team will make contact with the school via telephone and email to confirm the applicable child has been asked to self-isolate by the school, due to being a close contact. The payment will be made within three working days of a successful application.

Community Engagement Week

'Kindness is doing what you can, where you are, with what you have.'

Our children have been sending kind messages to our local community this week. Each class chose who they wanted to send their cards to. Some chose local businesses such as McColl's shop and

Boots, while others decided to send theirs to the parishioners at St Michael's Church, a local residential home and the local mosque. We hope our thoughtful cards brighten up someone's day.

First Holy Communion

This Sunday (27th June), Igor, Fenay, Taylor and Scarlet will be receiving their First Holy Communion at St Michael's Church. We continue to pray for our Year 5 children at this special time of their lives.

The Year 4 Sacramental preparation programme starts next week. The first after school session is taking place on Tuesday 29th June, between 3.15-4.15pm in the school hall. Our Year 4 First Holy Communion children are also expected to attend mass at St Michael's Church on Sunday 4th July, at 11am.

As we slowly move towards the end of the academic year, I would like to thank you all, once again, for continuing to support our school. I'm grateful for your response to the school's Covid-19 risk assessment and ask that you continue to work with us to help protect our school community. I appreciate that in many ways, the world appears to be moving on from Covid and towards a sense of normality. However, one of the difficulties we face as a school is the need for isolation periods if an adult or child tests positive for Covid-19. There are schools in the local area who have a large proportion of staff and pupils in self isolation and confirmed positive cases are continuing to rise in Newcastle. We must work together to do everything we can to avoid the possibility of a class needing to isolate.



Have a lovely weekend with your family.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'C. Chapman'.

Mrs C Chapman
Headteacher