



# St Michael's CE Junior School

## Message from Mrs Tyler

As I sit writing this message, the sun is shining over the playground outside my office and the sky is bright blue – it cannot fail to give me hope for sunnier times to come for us all. I am so looking forward to 8<sup>th</sup> March when we can have all of our children back in school – the school will seem complete again. The nice weather will also mean far more opportunities to be outdoors which, in my view, is always a positive thing. We have missed everyone so much. I know there will be apprehension by some about the return but we need to remember we have done this before and we can most certainly do it again! Please do remember to let us know if there is anything specific that you want us to be aware of ahead of 8<sup>th</sup> March – it is so important that we work together to make the transition for everyone as smooth as possible.

It is of course World Book Day next week – and everyone should have received a letter about this from Ms J Gregory. We have reproduced some of it elsewhere in the Newsletter to remind you of our theme “We all belong”. Books are important every day, not just on World Book Day, but the day itself does give us a reminder of the importance that they play in allowing us to learn about and have an understanding of matters that we may not otherwise consider. I know the staff are looking forward to sharing books each day next week – that time to share is so precious and so key in our children’s development – and indeed our own!

We have also included information about Comic Relief below (Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March) and the way we will be celebrating that within school – we could all do with some laughter and smiles at any time, but especially in current times, so I hope that you will join with us on that day. Parents have undoubtedly all been superheroes during the last year – and beyond - so it seems fitting that we celebrate with our masks and capes!

Finally, just to make you aware that we are currently in the process of organising virtual Parents’ evenings via Teams for the weeks of 22<sup>nd</sup> March and 29<sup>th</sup> March. Once the children have been back for a couple of weeks within school, it will give you the opportunity just to touch base with the class teachers to see how things are going in those initial stages and also to share anything you may want to celebrate or of course any concerns. Please don’t wait until those times if you do have something specific you want to talk about beforehand – please contact the school office as usual. Details about times and how to book the Parents’ evening slots will follow – please look out for the letter.

Have a lovely weekend, everyone.

## Worship

As a school community we have been continuing to learn the lessons from the story of Joseph, thinking in particular of all the wonderful people around us that continue to encourage us in our lives. As we are now in the season of Lent, we are enjoying the online Lent Calendar of Kindness which tells us more of the life of Jesus and how we can show his love to others. All assemblies and the calendar are designed for everyone at home and in school, so do please watch them; we love hearing from you!

## World Book Day – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March

The theme for World Book Day this year is “We all belong”. The children will be reading and learning about writers from different cultures, religions and backgrounds.

From 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> March, teachers will be sharing a story with their year group based on our theme. These stories will be shared in the classroom at school and on Google Classroom. During next week we will be holding ‘Book Talk’ lessons, where we will invite children to share their favourite age-appropriate book and recommend it to their peers.

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'Book Talks' are powerful ways of promoting books and enjoyment of reading, and because these texts are recommended by the children for other children, they are an effective way to encourage your child to pick up a new title or author. It is also a fantastic opportunity for children to talk about a book they love and use their powers of persuasion to convince their peers that they should read it too!

We are looking forward to seeing and hearing children's book recommendations on World Book Day.

## Red Nose Day

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Pupils from St Michael's Junior School will be channeling their inner superhero for Red Nose Day this year!

Red Nose Day is back on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March** and aims to bring the UK together (although we may be apart) to show just how powerful humour can be through the toughest of times. By channelling their inner superhero, the children will be able to unleash their superpowers to support people living incredibly tough lives across the UK and around the world. The money raised by Red Nose Day will support people in the UK and around the world, and help tackle homelessness, abuse and mental health stigma.

On **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March**, we will be inviting the children to channel their inner superhero for Comic Relief's Red Nose Day by donning a mask and wearing their school sweatshirt as a cape. Please note this is not a mufti day. The children are required to wear their uniform to school or PE kit if it is their PE day, but can still have their sweatshirt in full cape mode!

Before the day, we will be sending a blank mask template home for the children to decorate and wear on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March. We will also provide a link to printable, pre-designed masks for Comic Relief if you would prefer to use one of those.

Each class will have their own collection pot for Comic Relief and we would be grateful for any donations, no matter how small. Any money raised for Red Nose Day will help vulnerable people in the UK and around the world.

It has never felt more important to raise smiles and money for those who are struggling more than ever, as the continued impact of Covid-19 brings unprecedented challenges to many. In the spirit of raising smiles, we would also like to invite you to join us in sharing a smile by printing off or creating your own 'Share a Smile for Red Nose Day' poster. Add your favourite joke and put it in your window at home to bring a smile to your neighbours. We will be doing this in school, so keep an eye out! Please use the link below to print your poster.

[https://assets.ctfassets.net/zsfvzwzfgl3t/6cHgZSeaIe tX3bgtK6jOmr/c717c5b49a47024ad2bec99a8532e1d6/Comic\\_Relief\\_Red\\_Nose\\_Day\\_Poster\\_Without\\_b order-edited\\_1 .pdf](https://assets.ctfassets.net/zsfvzwzfgl3t/6cHgZSeaIe tX3bgtK6jOmr/c717c5b49a47024ad2bec99a8532e1d6/Comic_Relief_Red_Nose_Day_Poster_Without_b order-edited_1 .pdf)

We will send the mask templates and links to the pre-designed masks nearer the time.

## School Crossing Patrol

I have again been in contact with the Local Authority with regard to the replacement School Crossing Patrol Officer. I have received this message from them this week:

*"All the pre employment checks for the replacement School Crossing Patrol (SCP) have been completed. The training of new staff has been on hold during the latest lockdown but I am pleased to update you that following the announcement yesterday that all schools are to re-open on 8<sup>th</sup> March we are planning to re-start the training of new staff after this date. Please be aware that there are currently a number of new*

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*starters waiting their training but once I have a confirmed start date I will contact you again.”*

I shall be chasing them regularly – please be reassured!  
However, in the meantime, please note that there will be no School Crossing Patrol so please be vigilant.

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