



'Love learning, love one another, love God'

GOVERNING BODY UPDATE

DECEMBER 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We don't need reminding what a difficult year this has been so let's end it by highlighting some of the successes of this autumn term at Holy Trinity School.

September

Schools re-opened fully to all pupils in September and our staff were greeted by a crowd of happy faces, excited to be back at school with their friends and eager to learn. Parents quickly adapted to staggered times and socially distanced drop-offs and pick-ups. Attendance has been fantastic, and well done to Otters, Leopards, Penguins, Eagles, Koalas, Dolphins, Lions, Pandas and Falcons for registering 100% attendance some weeks. The average for the term is 97% which is exactly where we should be – even without a pandemic. Thank you to all our families for proving our risk assessment was robust and for following the rules.

At the end of September, HT introduced Values Champions. Each week two pupils per class are awarded a certificate for doing or achieving something that demonstrates one of HT's core values – Aspiration, Love and Community. Their purpose is to encourage positive behaviour that reflects what our school is about and understanding of the values we hold dear. Certificates have, for instance, been awarded for showing love through kindness, community through inclusivity, aspiration through resilience.

October

In October HT became one of the pioneers of a trial scheme called 'School Streets' along with a number of schools in Richmond and Wandsworth. We closed the whole of Carrington Road to traffic during drop-off and pick-up times only permitting pedestrian and bicycle access. The object is to reduce both the potential for accidents and pollution from cars around school. The response has been very positive both from our community and our neighbours – everybody welcomes the safer and calmer environment at these peak times. Thank you for supporting the scheme and particularly to the volunteers manning the barrier.

November

November saw the resumption of an old tradition of giving books to school on your birthday. As sharing cakes and sweets are not allowed under current restrictions, birthday

boys and girls are encouraged to donate a book to one of the school libraries instead. The idea also supports our aim of encouraging reading and developing a love of books. Each donated book has a special nameplate inside with the date and child's name; we are grateful to many families who are already supporting the idea and please spread the word!

December

Despite the loss of the mainstay Christmas fair, the PTA has achieved wonders with their fundraising and maintaining a strong sense of community among our families. Against the odds they have continued activities like the Sponsored Bounce, second-hand uniform sales, selling and delivering Christmas trees (both to HT and other local schools), the silent auction and the COVID-friendly Christmas Fair just for the children, culminating in raising an incredible £16,000. Thank you to the PTA committee for your energy and enthusiasm and tireless commitment to the school in such challenging times.

The governors particularly want to applaud our wonderful staff for doing an amazing job this term. Miraculously we haven't had to close any of our bubbles due to virus infection and only one class has needed to be sent home and taught remotely, though blended learning has been available throughout the term. Our teachers have worked harder than ever helping pupils to catch up what they missed last year and we owe them a huge debt of thanks. Congratulations to the pupils and teachers on the recent 91% pass rate for the Year 2 Phonics Screening Test; only 69% were on track to pass when school closed in March, so this is a remarkable achievement for everyone involved.

Many parents have scarcely set foot on school premises this term, having patiently queued at a distance behind face coverings to collect children, met with teachers virtually and communicated electronically. We are sincerely grateful for your continued support demonstrated in a myriad of ways this term. Thank you also to the many families who donate to our school Kingfisher Fund which has gained more regular givers this term.

Congratulations also to three of our teachers on the safe arrival of their new babies this term: Laura Griffiths gave birth to Evie, Hollie Dewale gave birth to Evie and Zoe Neal welcomed her second daughter Flossie. All three mothers and daughters are doing well.

May your Christmas celebrations be joyful and wishing you a happy and healthy 2021.

Michèle Marcus
Chair of Governors

If supporting the Kingfisher Fund is still on your 'to do' list here is a reminder of the payment details:

Account name: Holy Trinity School

Sort code: 60-22-03

Account Number: 63531925