

# Newsletter 16 (2020-21)

February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear Parents,

We have all now heard the marvellous announcement that schools will reopen on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. This is the best news and will, hopefully, be the start of a new “normal”. It has been such a long time since we have all been able to think of doing most things that we were used to – I haven’t taken a whole school assembly since March 2020!

The idea of welcoming all the children back to school is very exciting as well vitally important as a means of getting us all back in working mode.

When all the children return, we will be going back to the successful timings used from September – December. We will be sending home a full list of instructions early next week. Children and adults do not need to wear masks – although some adults have chosen to do so.

In line with the Government’s planned roll-out of the COVID vaccination, a number of staff have had their first injection but most are still waiting. Most of us have also volunteered to use the Lateral Flow tests and report results to the Department of Education twice a week.

Sadly, at the moment, the restrictions on movement inside school will still exist and Class Bubbles are under strict regulation about movements around school, times of breaks and lunches, etc. Everyone is so used to this now that we don’t think anything of it but I am **so** ready to have these lifted!

## **Restrictions on Movement and Mingling Are Still in Place**

Although we are desperately keen to see the end of the many restrictions on our lives, these are still very much in place. The virus has not gone away and it will be many months before it is fully under control. Please do not allow your children to go home with other parents/nannies/carers or get into other people’s cars.

## **The First PTA 100 Club Draw has taken place!**

Thank you so much to everyone who purchased a 100 Club ticket. The £60 cost covers six draws and has raised £6000. Each month, £1000 is used to provide a First Prize of £250 (25%) and a Second Prize of £150 (15%).

We asked Father Bradley to be our Official Drawer of The Numbers and he used a really fun on-line generator (<https://pickerwheel.com/tools/random-number-generator/> - try it out it is great!). The numbers drawn are:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Number 85 (The Caines Family)

2<sup>d</sup> Prize: Number 54 (The de Palma Henriquez Family)

WELL DONE INDEED!

The remaining £600 will move into the PTA Fund Raising Account.

## **Friday Try-Day – Pink Grapefruit and Yorkshire Pudding with Nutella**

Today’s Try-Day consisted of a pink grapefruit which had mixed reactions – some loved, some hated, some had just one segment and no more!

Today, the children could choose to try two items. The second was Yorkshire pudding – usually only eaten with a roast lunch – but, this time, with a small amount of Nutella. This was greeted with huge delight and enjoyed by all.

### A Thought for us all to consider

I've lost a year with my children battling over school and I'm done.

My seven year old and I were in the midst of our usual asynchronous day battle. I had his writing homework in my hand from school. He'd written several full, well-thought-out sentences.

But he won't do the same for me, at least not without a fight.

I told him he didn't have to write about his best day like his teacher asked, he could write about his worst. He could write about whatever he wanted as long as he wrote a few sentences.

He said he'd get in trouble. He said he was doing a bad job in Year One. He was on the brink of tears but didn't know why.

And it hit me.

Instead of getting frustrated and pushing the assignment, I sat down with him at his desk in his superhero bedroom. I said "You won't get in trouble and you can't fail Year One. In fact, you're kind of a superhero yourself."

He sat up in his chair just a little and looked at me with disbelief.

I said, "Do you know that no children in the history of children have ever had to do what you're doing right now? No children in the history of children have ever had to do school at home, sitting in their bedroom, watching their teacher on a computer. You and your friends are making history."

A visible weight lifted from his seven year old shoulders, "What does that mean?"

I told him it means I haven't given him nearly enough credit for rolling with the punches. I told him how proud I am of him and his friends. That kids this year are doing the impossible and they're doing a really great job.

I apologized for not saying it sooner and more often. A little tear fell down his cheek.

We've thanked everyone from the NHS workers to food shop employees but we haven't thanked the children enough for bearing the burden of what we've put on their shoulders this year. We've said children are resilient, and they are. But they are the real superheroes in this whole scenario for having ZERO say in their lives but doing their best to adjust every day.

We closed his school-issued laptop and spent the rest of the day playing. This was supposed to be temporary and here we are a year later still trying to hold our head above water. This is our home and I won't turn it into a battle ground anymore over something we can't control. Something that no longer makes sense.

Hug your little superheroes today and don't forget to cut them the slack we've given everyone else.

Christine Derengowski, An American mother and writer

I hope you enjoyed this as much as I did. Thank you to Barbara Schmelling, Vice Chair of Governors for sending it to me – take time also to congratulate and give yourselves a huge pat on the back. Well done!

This week's attachment is from Geoff Biggs at The Westbourne Park Family Centre. This marvellous Christian Community base has started a new venture called The Food Pantry which is offering parcels to families in need. Please call the number on the poster if you need help.

Plus: a video of a very active Belgian Shepherd Dog who has been trained to do the most amazing agility course. I don't think Stanley will be doing this anytime soon!! Here is the link:

<https://twistedifter.com/videos/amazing-dog-absolutely-crushes-obstacle-course/>

Please make sure you know what you children are looking at on line. This video is very exiting but, like everything that comes via YouTube, there are lots of other films to click onto. Enjoy!

I hope you have a restful weekend and keep safe,

With love and best wishes,  
Ms. Woodford xxx