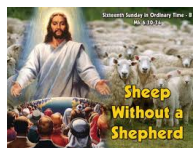




16th July 2021



## Worship and Liturgy -

In the Gospel on Sunday Jesus and his disciples head off to rest in a quiet place. People heard where they were going and got there before them. Instead of being annoyed Jesus described the crowd as 'Sheep without a shepherd,' and he began to preach to them. Later he fed the crowd of 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish.

## Celebrations this week

<b>Whole School Attendance 93%</b>	<b>Top Class Attendance Class 6 99%</b>
<b>Crew Member of the Week</b> F- All of Foundation class- Sailor Sam for showing such amazing perseverance this week! 1 Luca - Sailor Sam perseverance with reading 2 Patrick - Sailor sam for resilience 3 Lena W- Admiral Anne for creative writing. 4 Jaxon - Lieutenant Louise for excellent explaining on our trip 5 Giulio and Joe -Commander Kim for fantastic problem solving on both outh trips 6 - The Whole Crew	
<b>Witness of the Week -Prudence</b> F -All of Foundation class 1 - Dougie 2 Mawgan 3 Zofia, Lena S, Leonor and Alicia 4 - All of class 4 5 - Finley 6 - PGL Blue Army	



## Catholic Children's Society

The Catholic Children's Society is a charity that is dedicated to improving the lives of children. Despite its name, the charity is not only aimed at Catholic children. Over the years many of our families have benefitted in material terms through the purchase of furniture and practically in terms of courses to support parents and children. They have asked me to pass on this message.



I'm delighted to say that the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) is in the customer vote for a Tesco Community Grant.

This is a scheme which gives community projects and charities like us, grants of up to £1,500. Tesco customers will now vote in 7 stores across Plymouth during the period 12th July 2021 until 30th September 2021, to decide how much funding we get.

So if you live in Plymouth, please support us next time you shop at Tesco.

## PGL

As I am writing this some year 6 children are speeding down a zip wire, having the time of their lives at PGL in Beam House North Devon. I have spent the week with the children and could not be prouder of how they have thrown themselves into all activities, games and songs with such enthusiasm and positivity. They truly are a close knit group of friends who are happy to sit with whoever happens to be at their table in the canteen and chat away happily. The feeling of support for children who have found some of the activities challenging has been tangible and the joint celebration when somebody achieves something they thought they could not do is a pleasure to behold. It has been lovely seeing them just being children and I haven't heard anybody pining for their phone!

The chefs told me that they agreed that this group of children are the best behaved that they have seen in their time at PGL. I feel proud that the last year group to go all the way through St Joseph's with me are such a great group of children.



## Class Changes

I have decided to make a change to the arrangement of teachers who will take each class next year. Mrs Penman will teach Class 4 in September and Miss Melley will teach Class 3.

The organisation of classrooms will also be different next year. Next year's year 2 class will be in the present year 3 classroom. The Year 4s will be in what is presently the class 2 room and next year's year 3s will be in the present year 4 classroom.



16th July 2021



## Covid

The rise in Covid cases in Plymouth has affected us in school. You may be aware that we had to close one bubble this week due to a positive LFD test.

In addition to the staff in that bubble three other staff have been advised to self isolate recently due to being close contacts of a confirmed case. Despite the 19th July relaxation of restrictions we have been told by our Multi Academy Trust to maintain our bubbles and other protective measures during the last week. Staff will still be asked to wear masks in communal areas and we would like parents to do the same when in school.

## Covid Contact Tracing

As of next week schools will not be asked to identify close contacts of a confirmed case. That will be down to NHS Test and Trace who will contact you to identify close contacts. Their new advice states:

From 19 July, education and childcare settings (i.e. schools, colleges and nurseries) will no longer carry out routine contact tracing. From this point onwards, close contacts will be identified and contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

- As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will speak with the individual who has tested positive – or, depending on their age, their parent or legal guardian – to identify close contacts.
- Contacts within schools, colleges and nurseries will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as having close, prolonged contact. NHS contact tracers will provide support on how to identify a close contact. **The setting will not routinely be contacted to provide details of close contacts.**

Fortunately all of our children have an encyclopedic knowledge of every child they have played with or learnt with each day. Not only that but they have an inbuilt timer recording how long they were in close contact. Their definition of close contact will be accurate because their estimation of measure skills are so finely tuned they can easily recall how far away each child was from them at each point in the day. How silly we have all been for years when we have asked our children how their day at school was to get a

muffled, "Alright." in response, Who knew that all of this time they have held all of the information YOU will need to pass on to Track and Trace if you get the call. In addition you will need to give the contact details of the parents of any contacts you have identified. Good luck and remember : **The setting will not routinely be contacted to provide details of close contacts.**

Links to documents explaining the new process are [here](#).

[Contact Tracing Letter for parents](#)  
[Tracing Journey](#)

## Sports Day

On a more serious note we are very aware that inviting a large group of parents onto the site together could cause the spread of infections and related self isolation at a time when we all least want it to happen. For that reason I am sorry but we will not be able to invite parents onto the site to attend Sports Day. Apart from the greater numbers, this is an occasion when those on site are likely to be shouting in support of their children, increasing the risk of transmission considerably. The children can still come to school on Tuesday in the colours of their house and will take part in sports events but the events will not necessarily match the timings in last week's newsletter.

Those of you who know me will appreciate that the last thing I would want to do is cancel Sports Day in my last week as a headteacher. I feel it has been a great showpiece for the school over the years with friendly competition being promoted against the trend in many schools where competitiveness has eroded over the years. However, to allow it to go ahead for those reasons would be a selfish act on my part so for everyone's safety parents will not be allowed to attend.

## Leavers' Mass



We are also carefully monitoring the situation around attendance at the Leavers' Mass next Friday. We have already decided that only year 6 children will attend the Mass. We hope that they will be joined by a limited number of guests and parents. They will have their traditional bus ride in the afternoon but the tunnel of farewell will be much wider than normal !