

Head Teacher's Update – 22/10/21

Dear Families

I do hope this finds you safe and well and looking after yourselves and each other. As we move towards winter, we've had such a mixed bag of weather, from beautiful sunshine to sudden downpours, so I hope you've been enjoying the puddles if nothing else. Half term is here and in some ways we have sprinted over the line, with so much going on in and around school in the last few weeks, and in other ways it feels like we've crawled over it, with lots of staff and children full of colds and looking forward to the rest next week will bring. I know some of you have got exciting holidays and trips lined up and hope you all have a safe and happy break. If you are doing anything exciting for Halloween, take care – I'm never disappointed when this avoids being on a school day!

I wanted to say a massive well done and thank you to all the children who have just completed their first half term in our Reception classes or in our Nursery. They have come in with such a wonderfully positive attitude and got off to a flying start to their time at St William's. If this is how they mean to go on, we are looking forward to the next 7 years! A huge congratulations to them and to their families.

As you know, we started the term with some aspects of school life returning to their 'pre Covid' ways and others remaining as they were last year. This has meant children learning and playing in their Year Groups, one way systems on drop off and pick up and 'virtual' assemblies. However, many other aspects of school life have returned including trips, sports matches, swimming and Forest Schools. We have had our own Race for Life and the SWA have met new Reception parents, hosted a Year 3 disco and organised the sale of Christmas cards (thank you very much, SWA! . We have had face to face progress meetings with parents and welcomed our Year 1 families in to the building for the first time! We have new murals painted, individual and family photos taken, Chloe Smith (our MP) visited and Dippy was admired. Our Year 6 have been visiting high schools and new families have been visiting our school, all before applying for places for next September. It does feel as if many aspects of school life have returned to 'normal', although we know we all still have to be careful and look out for each other to make sure we are all safe and well. We will keep monitoring the local situation after half term and will let you know if any of our procedures need to change. Thank you to everyone, staff, children and their families, for all you have done to make this term a success so far.

This week has seen a different approach to learning in Year 1 to Year 6 with projects based on Design Technology (sawing and sewing and sticking have taken centre stage!) and RE. There have been some lovely outcomes, many of which we shared in assembly today, so do ask what your child has been making.

We have had some lovely events to celebrate as a staff team in the last few weeks as well as having one sad goodbye to say today. Ant Hill (TA in 4H) has had a baby daughter (congratulations!) and Leanne Davison is getting married and will return to school after half term as Mrs Miles (more

congratulations!). Because of the rules around Covid, Sami James starts working from home from today and we are delighted to welcome Jade Youngman back to school after her maternity leave to teach 1J. One of our Teaching Assistants, Sam Peters, leaves us today for a new job. Sam has worked in our school for 7 years and has been a wonderful support for staff and children alike. She is so kind and supportive... as we always say we won't cry because it's over but smile for all the happy memories she has left us with. Thank you, Sam, and all the very best for the future.

Have a good half term break. See you all on 1st November ready for another exciting half term!