

**17<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

Dear Parents

**Parent Teacher meetings - Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

Thank you for promptly booking times for the zoom teacher parent meetings. We are delighted with the positive response with over 85% of parents booking appointments via zoom. Please do contact the office to arrange a telephone conversation with your child's class teacher, if you are experiencing difficulties booking a time slot.

Each time slot is 10 minutes and the class teacher will admit you at the appropriate time. Please be mindful that it will not be possible to exceed time given as other parents will be waiting. Teachers will feedback on areas to develop for reading, writing, maths and general learning. Should there be a need for a follow up conversation, this will be arranged after half term.

Kindly ensure that the following guidelines are followed when participating in the zoom call:

- Online safety protocol must be observed at all times
- You must be in a suitable quiet room/area (not a bedroom) to limit noise, it will enable all users to hear each other.
- You have the option to turn off your video
- Please do not try and make contact with school staff through virtual means outside of the scheduled meeting.
- Please stop other household members from being in the background of the meeting or being close enough for users to hear their voices.
- The teacher will admit you to the meeting at the allocated time, please wait in the 'waiting room' until you are admitted.

We are pleased to be able to offer these zoom meetings and going forward it will be a key part of remote learning and contact, should we go into a local lockdown. We recognise the need for teaching videos to support children's learning and not just during the current pandemic. Online learning has considerable potential to support parental involvement and pupil engagement. It is an exciting opportunity to extend children's learning outside the classroom.



## **Afterschool clubs**

Mr Lutchman will be starting junior football club and infant team sports after half term, details will be sent out shortly. Owing to current restrictions, numbers will be limited and children will not be able to mix bubbles. We are proposing to offer it to Year 4 on a Tuesday, Year 1 on Wednesday and Y5 Thursday. Other year groups will have the opportunity to join the club in the spring term.

We are hoping to offer Guitar club from November but are awaiting confirmation from the tutor and subject to health and safety guidelines.

## **Pupil voice – lunchtime clubs**

Several of our year 5 children have asked to run lunchtime clubs for year 5. To their credit, they have independently thought about time tables, consulted with their peers to find out what they want and then put the proposal to me. I am most impressed with the initiative they have shown and Year 5 lunchtime clubs will start after half term. Suggested clubs: Reading/book circle, technology, Art, speed stacking, debating and many more. Children will organise and deliver the clubs with some adult supervision, but it will be run by our pupils.

I will be offering the same opportunity to all year groups.

## **School lunches**

Please ensure that you are up to date with payment for school meals and outstanding debts have been cleared. We may need to ask you to send your child in with a packed lunch if there is a considerable outstanding debt. If you think you may be eligible for free school meals, we are happy to check for you. Kindly contact Mrs Johnson and she will support you with your application.

## **Black history month celebrated through 'Our Heritage'**

Children have been studying a range of people who have changed society in the past and present. Please do speak to your child about the importance of celebrating diversity and their heritage. Ms Ugbo sent out a letter last week asking all children to come dressed in traditional national attire on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> October and for parents to send in recipes for traditional national dishes. We are hoping to start compiling a St Joseph's International Cook book, but this relies on you sharing your recipes with us.

**Portuguese lessons** – I am delighted to welcome Ms Figueiredo who will be working with the infants. She will be introducing them to Portuguese and comes from the Portuguese consulate. We hope to be able to extend sessions and run a Portuguese school after school in the near future.

<https://www.e-portugues.co.uk/sobre-nos/>

**Harvest donation** - To help support the Brixton foodbank, we are asking for a £1 donation or a donation of your choice to be brought in on Friday. All funds raised will be donated to the Brixton foodbank to support families in need.

It has been a busy term but I am proud of the way the children have settled in and engaged with their learning. The future is looking bright, despite the challenges we face and that's thanks to our amazing young people!

**Mrs Fernandes – Headteacher**

**Together We Can  
Dream big and aim high**



**Early years, where awe and wonder begins .....**



**In the infant school we continue to grow to be .....**



**Critical thinkers, problem solvers, performers, writers and so much more**

**In the juniors we develop our skills that shape our future.....**



**Together We Can**