# Autumn 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

The autumn term got off to a flying start and it is hard to believe we are already approaching half-term. It feels like we achieved a great deal in a short space of time, and I would like to thank all the parents, children and staff who have supported me and Mr Sallis during the transition.

**Catholic Life and Celebrations**

Stations of the Cross – Last Lent, each class produced amazing artwork of the Stations of the Cross which were displayed in the hall. In September of this year, we were able to use a donation to purchase good quality frames and photos of these pieces of artwork are now displayed at the entrance to all classrooms and above other significant doorways in the school.

Saints – In September, all classes studied the life of a significant saint and produced beautiful displays for the hall and dining room. Well done to all the children who went a little further in researching facts about their class’ saint at home.

Mercy Mass – The Mercy Mass was a great celebration of the history and values of our school community. Great fun was had at the picnic despite the rather windy conditions.

Prayer Friday – We had our first prayer Friday at the end of September with over 30 families joining in quiet prayer and reflection at one of our two prayer areas. Feedback from parents and children was very positive and we will continue to offer Prayer Fridays on the fourth Friday of each month during term time.

Harvest Assembly – Thank you for your tremendous generosity and support at our Harvest Assembly. The amount of food and other essentials we were able to donate to FEED, a local foodbank, was incredible. Mr Sallis took a representation of pupils from the school for a tour of ‘Feed’ so they could gain a deeper understanding of how our donations are shared.

Cafod visit – We were visited by representatives from The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. At a whole school assembly, these visitors reminded the children of the organisation’s mission to campaign for global justice and to stand beside people living in poverty – whatever their religion or culture. The children were told how the money they donate help people all over the world so that everyone can reach their full potential. A true call to the Common Good.

Parish priest – Father Francis, the new parish priest of St Bartholomew’s, came for a tour of the school in September. He was delighted to meet our wonderful pupils and they enjoyed meeting him. We welcome him to his new role and hope to build very strong ties between the church and the school over the coming weeks, months and years.

**Awards and Merits:** Congratulations go to our new Head Girl and Boy, Cara and Roshan and their deputies, Sophia and Liam. Dante, Freya, Max, Orla, Tecla, Joe, Camille, Sophie and Nelleke were also appointed as School Prefects. Our Chaplaincy Team is formed byFreya, Cara, Ava, Orla, Caitlin, Sophie, Keira, and Nelleke. Gabby and Corey were appointed as Sports Ambassadors while Tecla and Joe became Health Leaders. All four went for a day of training at Cavendish School in Hemel Hempstead. Sophie, Ronnie, Olivia, Harry, Nathan, Camille, Freya and Thomas were appointed House Captains. Melanie, Joshua, Sophie, Noah, Sunny and Violet were elected by their classes to be School Council Representatives. Thank you to all these children who have put themselves forward to serve their school community.

The new merits system has become well established and is proving a very positive and powerful motivator for our pupils. This merit system is intended to promote positive behaviour and has been designed to encourage, reward and promote exemplary work and good behaviour. It has also been designed to give recognition to pupils who make a positive contribution to the school that may otherwise go unnoticed. The pupils certainly enjoy discovering which class and House have achieved highest at our weekly Celebration Assembly.

**New rooms:** As most of you know, we had significant building work undertaken in the summer break. The new teaching rooms and the refurbished toilets have significantly enhanced the environment for the children. As a voluntary aided school we are required to contribute 10% of any grant we receive for improvement work. This demonstrates the need for the appeals we make to parents to support our Building Fund through monthly direct debits.

**Published results:** FFT Aspire is an organisation which provides education data, analysis and research to schools. They recently published their report on our exit data for last year’s Year 6 cohort. The detailed information will be available at the Governors’ Parent Information evening on November 6th but, as a taster, I would like to share that in the four main areas they report about St Adrian’s pupils came in the top 3%-7% nationally. A wonderful achievement by all concerned.

**PTA:** The PTA have been as busy as ever and have held a very successful and enjoyable Nursery and Reception welcome coffee morning, a quiz night and an infant film night as well as an open committee meeting published live on social media. They have many exciting events coming up including Fireworks Night and The Christmas Fair. Please check their section of our website and do all you can to support their fantastic fundraising activities.

**Playground and safeguarding:** The safety of everyone is always an important concern for us so I am reminding parents that at the beginning and end of the school day children are **not** allowed to play on any of the apparatus. Nor should any pupils be playing football or other ball games before or after school unless as part of an organised and supervised club. This rule applies to everyone, school age and pre-school age children. Also, it is lovely to see our children cycling or coming to school on scooters and parents are asked to ensure that children are not riding bikes in the playground.

In the interests of safeguarding, may I remind parents and carers that, should they need to visit the school office, their entry to the school should be through the main entrance. Many parents are entering the school via other doors. Should you need to get a message to a class teacher at the start of the day then this can be communicated via the office. It is not appropriate for parents to enter classrooms or corridors at this time. We have had a number of adults entering the school prior to the school day beginning and again after school. This includes parents helping their child change for after school clubs. While it is well intentioned to support your child, I would point out that there are many other children changing in the vicinity and therefore only appointed staff should be in the area. Although this sounds dramatic, it is a serious safe-guarding issue and we cannot have unauthorised adults in school. In many schools I visit, all entrances to the building are controlled by pass cards. This is not something I want to introduce at St Adrian’s so I ask for your support in this matter.

**Consultations:** Parent consultation evenings are on Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th October.

**School closes** for half term at 1:30pm on Friday 26th October and reopens on Monday 5th November.

**Future dates for your diary:**

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| 3rd November 6:30 pm Fireworks Night6th November 7pm Governors’ Parents Information evening23rd November 9:00 am Year 5 Class assembly 23rd November 1:30pm Prayer Friday1st December 12:30 pm Christmas Fair4th December 10:30 am Y6 Abbey Carol Service | 12th December 7 pm KS2 Carol Service St Bart’s TBC13th December 10:30 Foundation stage Concert & 7 pm KS1 Christmas Concert14th December 1:30 pm Sharing Friday 19th December Nursery finishes for Christmas21st December 9:15 am End of term mass TBC & term ends and school closes 1.30pm |