

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

## A message from the Headteacher

Welcome to our new style newsletter. While we endeavour to keep parents up to date on ClassDojo and via our Facebook page, we know that many of you still enjoy reading a more traditional newsletter. To limit transmission between home and school and reduce paper waste, we will continue to share this electronically via email, ClassDojo and Facebook. However, if you cannot access our newsletter electronically, you may request a paper copy from the school office.

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your continued support over this first half term. While we have endeavoured to make the school day as normal as possible, we have all had to adapt and work around the restrictions imposed by Covid-19. I believe this has been very successful and want to acknowledge the part we have all played in making this work.

I am very proud that we managed to last until week 6 without having to close a bubble and send a year group home. Over the last few weeks, regrettably several year groups have had to close, however I have been impressed by the standard of home learning that many of our pupils (and parents/carers!) have produced. I myself have had to isolate over the last 2 weeks, so know first-hand the value of Teams, in keeping in touch with colleagues.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy and well deserved half term break. We look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

## Live lessons successfully introduced into remote learning



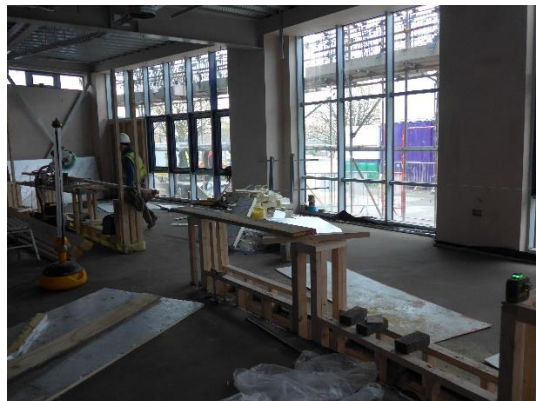
Thank you to all parents and carers who have given permission for their children to access Teams via a Microsoft account. It is now an expectation from the Department of Education (DfE) that all schools provide a blend of learning, including “live teaching”, when children have to be educated remotely at home.

We appreciate that some of our families will have limited access to technology. We have just received funding for 30 additional iPads, which we hope to loan out in the near future, to support pupils who are self-isolating and have limited technology at home. We also understand that in many households, where a device is shared, it will not always be possible for children to connect to live lessons at a given time. For this reason, we record these lessons and they are available to download for a short period of time afterwards. If you do not want your child to be recorded within the lesson, we simply ask that you turn off their video. Alternatively, you can inform the class teacher via ClassDojo and they can disable your child’s video. Wherever possible, we ask that the video facility remains on, as both staff and children report this level of interaction enhances the learning experience and children enjoy seeing their friends!

**Continued...**

## New Learning Resource Centre (LRC) nearing completion

We are delighted to announce that building work on our new computing and library hub is progressing very well, despite the pandemic, and should be completed by the end of November.



Our new Learning Resource Centre will provide 30 PCs to support the delivery of a high-quality computing curriculum. A new library area will also further promote reading for pleasure within school.

## Harvest Celebrations



A fantastic effort from our staff at Northern Saints!

As we were unable to ask families to contribute food items for our harvest hampers this year, our staff didn't want to see local families, who could do with a little extra help during these challenging times, go without. Their contributions helped make up over 30 hampers which have been shared in the community.

Our annual harvest festival celebration was also a little different this year. We may not have been able to attend church, however all classes joined together via zoom for a celebration service led by Rev. Jen. The children shared poems, art work, bible readings and prayers.

## Keeping in touch – Parent Consultation Meetings

As we are unable to invite parents and carers into school for our usual parent consultation meetings, these discussions will be by telephone this term. Teachers are currently working their way through classes. If your child's class teacher has been unable to get in touch, please either contact the school office or message them directly on Classdojo to arrange a telephone appointment.

## Parent governor vacancy



**Would you like to be involved in the strategic running of our school?  
Would you like to represent the views of parents and contribute to shaping the future?**

If you are interested but would like further information, please contact the Headteacher or Jo Warner, our Chair of Governors, via the school office for an informal discussion.

## Welcome to the team!

Over the next few weeks there will be a number of new staff joining our team at Northern Saints. Mr Staincliffe will be taking over from Mrs Race in 3SR after half term, when she starts her maternity leave. Miss Buckley will be supporting Year 2 in the mornings and teaching 6DC in the afternoons, to cover Mrs Curley's leadership time. Mrs Thompson will be remaining with us to support our reception children for the remainder of the academic year. Mr Johnson will be joining our site team and Mrs McGill will join our admin team in the school office.

## Term dates 2020/21

<b>October Half Term</b>	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 Return to school 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2020
<b>Christmas Break</b>	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2020– Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2020 Return to school Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
<b>February Half Term</b>	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2021 – 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2021 Return to school Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021
<b>Easter Break</b>	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2021 Return to school Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
<b>May Half Term</b>	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2021 – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2021 Return to school Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
<b>Summer Break</b>	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2021 Return to school Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2021

Regretfully, we will not be able to welcome families into school to participate in our annual Christmas performances and celebrations this year, due to Covid-19. However, we really don't want you all to miss out! Further information will follow after half term about our programme of virtual performances and celebrations that will be recorded and available to watch online.