



We continue to enjoy new ways of working in school. Today, I held an online 'virtual' celebration assembly for children in all foundation phase classes. It was lovely to see all the children but I look forward to the time when we can celebrate together properly. Our attendance for this week has been 95.1% with Year 5A achieving 100%. Well done to each and every one of you. That is fantastic news!

We have a commemoration stone near the entrance to the basement of our school which states the school was opened on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1930. We had hoped to plan a whole school 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party, but it will have to wait for our 91<sup>st</sup> birthday! Thank you to Miss Pitson, our chair of governors, who has provided a history of the school which I have published below.

## 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Joseph's School

6<sup>th</sup> October 2020, the Cathedral School would have been celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the official opening of the building at the junction of Llangyfelach Street, and Caepistyll Street. Due however to the current situation these events had had to be postponed, but perhaps a little history can be shared.

In 1920 there were over 385 children at the school, which meant overcrowding, some were in the Parish Hall, others in various other buildings – funds had to be found for a new school. With the poverty and hardship at that time, this was no easy task. Most of the money was raised by children's concerts. Dressing the children for these and buying the tickets to go to see them was a real problem, the sisters from the convent helped to ease this by going round from house to house once a week to collect one shilling, allowing parents to pay in instalments.

By the time the full amount was collected it was almost time to stage the next concert, no parent would dream of not attending the concert and many even brought their own chairs!

It was due to the foresight and acumen of Fr Harrington that this site was acquired. Due to the hilly nature of the district the restricted area of the site, as well as the large number of children to be accommodated, it was necessary to plan the building on four floors, and, with something that is unique, a playground on the roof. This building had a very spacious basement, which served as an air raid shelter during the Second World War.

It cost £19,267, a considerable amount of money at this time, Fr Harrington raised a sizeable sum during a visit to America to collect funds for this project.

On 6<sup>th</sup> October 1930 the new school was officially opened by His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Bourne the following account is taken from the Cambrian on the day of the opening:

*There was excitement and pride of the Catholic Community of the wonderful achievement of the opening of the new school, it was a red letter day, Caepistyll Street and Llangyfelach Street, presented a veritable sea of faces as the St Joseph's Band (conductor Brickley) led a procession from the Priory to the school, following the bandmen were several little girls carrying a banner of Our Lady of Lourdes, then came the Cardinal, Archbishop of Cardiff and other local clergy, followed by Mayor (Councillor Lovell) and other dignitaries, lastly the girl scholars of the school in gym frocks with green braid bands.*

*Flags and bunting flew from many of the surrounding houses in glorious sunshine.*

Infants occupied Top Floor, and the girls school Junior and Senior the other two floors.

## Covid 19

Thank you for your support with changes to routines and organisation in school. We really appreciate your help. Please continue to maintain social distancing when collecting and dropping off your child – this is crucial to safeguarding us all.

In order to avoid transmission of covid 19, children must not come to school if they or any member of your household is suffering from symptoms of covid 19.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste

## What to do if your child has symptoms

If your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

- Get a test to check if they have coronavirus as soon as possible.
- Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get the test result – only leave your home to have a test.
- Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get the result.

## Changes to contact groups

Following a detailed review of school operational arrangements for lunchtimes, it has been agreed with the LA health and safety officer and governing body that our class contact groups will be extended into year contact groups. This is in line with Welsh Government guidance.

### **Collecting at the end of the day.**

Please do not park on the double yellow lines on Caepistyll Street, it is illegal and you are putting the children in danger as well as causing an obstruction. Please park your car further up Llangyfelach Road or in surrounding streets. I will continue to stand outside and ask you to move on, although, it would be much nicer if I didn't have to do that.

### **Times of the school day**

Breakfast club is available until 8:30am for essential use only. Main doors into school will be open at 8:40am for reception, Y1/2, Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 entrances. These entrances will close at 8:50 and the register will be taken at this time. Nursery will open from 08:50 – 9:00am. At the end of the day, Reception can be collected from 3pm, Year 1/2 from 3:10pm, Year 3/4 from 3:20pm and Y5/6 from 3:25pm. After school club is available if it is essential. Please ensure you are prompt with these times and continue to adhere to social distancing rules. Many thanks for your continued support, we appreciate it.

| <b>Class</b> | <b>Opening time</b> | <b>Collection time</b> | <b>Entrance/Exit</b>                  |
|--------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Nursery      | 8:50                | 11:20                  | Nursery Main door & Conservatory door |
| Reception    | 8:40                | 15:00                  | Reception grey gate on Convent St     |
| Year 1/2     | 8:35                | 15:10                  | Main gate from Convent St             |
| Year 3       | 8:40                | 15:20                  | Learning Pod Fire Exit                |
| Year 4       | 8:40                | 15:20                  | Caepistyll Street near garage         |
| Year 5       | 8:40                | 15:25                  | Basement door                         |
| Year 6       | 8:40                | 15:25                  | Main entrance                         |

### **Home time arrangements for bus children**

Please notify us by email as early in the day as possible if there are any changes to home time arrangements. Children will be sent home on the bus unless we receive email notification.

### **Online learning**

We are in the process of setting up Microsoft teams for every class. This will replace hwb classes which was used during lockdown. Your child will continue to use hwb and will log in to their classroom 'Team' via hwb. Usernames and passwords have been sent to children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1. Please support your child in accessing this area where homework will be shared with you. Children will also be using this teams area in class. If your child does not have access to a computer or tablet, please let me know so we can make alternative arrangements.

### **Holy Cross Parish**

Names are being taken and arrangements made for those children who wish to make their First Holy Communion in 2021. Registration forms are available from school and should be completed and returned to Fr. Cyril.

### **Welcome**

We welcome Miss Thomas to our Year 3 class as a new teacher. Mrs O'Brien will continue to work in school running the accelerated learning programme which is a Welsh Government Programme, designed to support children in school with their literacy and numeracy skills. Mrs O'Brien will be in contact with you if she is going to work with your child.

Thank you for your continued support, have a lovely weekend

**Angela Heald**  
Headteacher