

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA (Hons) NPQH



Let your
light shine

26th January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

It's hard to believe that we are entering into our fourth week back from the new year and spring term! With a successful ski trip and OFSTED visit having taken place, it has already been an extremely busy start to the term. As we begin this new decade, we look forward to an exciting time in Browndge St Mary's journey.

Our recent OFSTED inspection verified that we remain to be a GOOD school and there is much to celebrate in the formal report which will be sent home with this newsletter. The inspectors identified the great work that is taking place in our school to ensure that our pupils are happy, well cared for and love learning. The very first line of the report describes **"This is a school where pupils are confident, full of life, and considerate of others. Pupils are known well and cared about. Pupils behave well and work hard in class."** A true reflection of what we see day in, day out. Please take time to read the full report and to enjoy with us the family we feel that is described. I would like to also take this opportunity to thank parents and pupils who participated in the surveys and to those parents that came in to speak to the Inspectors themselves.

And so, as we start a new year, I would like to update you on some key information about school since my Christmas letter.

Parent Governor

There is a vacancy for Parent Governor on the governing body of our school. These governors are elected by the parents of pupils at this school to serve a 4-year term of office. If you wish to put yourself forward for election, please complete a nomination form and return for the attention of Mrs V Chester, Heads PA. Further information and the required nomination form will be sent out later this week.

Holiday Pattern 2020-21

Details of school holidays for 2020-21 have now been published on the school website. A summary is attached to this letter. With children from many feeder primary schools, it is not always easy to ensure our holiday pattern fits in with all other schools. However, next year we have followed closely the Lancashire pattern. I hope this will help reduce the number of requests for holidays to be taken in term time, which as you will know, I can only approve in **exceptional circumstances**.

E-Safety

I cannot stress more highly the important role you play as parents in monitoring your child's use of social media networks such as *Instagram* and *Snapchat*. Some children, even after our repeated educational messages, are putting themselves in danger by sharing information with strangers posing as "friends". On top of this, some pupils still use social media to spread malicious gossip about others or to post offensive images. When this happens, the fallout almost always spills into school. This then becomes a school matter and school sanctions will be used to address it. As I often say to our pupils, "think before you post as once posted it can NEVER be taken back. Even if deleted, it is still out there, often already passed on or copied by others." We will be spending the week beginning 10th February to carry on our continued education in keeping our children safe online.

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Uniform

Thank you for your support in ensuring high standards of uniform are maintained. Hooded tops are not part of the school uniform. In the recent cold weather, more than a few students chose to wear a hooded top under their blazers like a jumper. School jumpers can be purchased as an optional part of the school uniform otherwise a suitable coat (not hooded top) is required.

Big Question Week

In the final week of this half term we are showcasing the best at what we do in relation to Big Questions. In this week we will be challenging pupils to open the door to Big Questions and stimulate thinking about the possibility of the divine and spiritual in the apparently ordinary. In a Catholic School we try to make the links between all aspects of learning and to bring things back to: **“celebrating and reflecting on the love of God which is at the heart of all we are.”** Pope Francis has declared 2020 the year of the word and during Big Question week we will be celebrating, living and sharing God’s work. Although this is something we do daily, Big Question week will be a time for us, as a community, to really explore our faith. Don’t forget to ask your children what Big Questions they were contemplating over the week.

Dates for your Diary

Year 11 Reports home to parents	03/02/20
Year 11 Parents’ Evening	05/02/20
Year 9 Immunisations	05/02/20 and 12/02/20
INSET 4	24/02/20
Year 11 GCSE Information Evening	27/02/20
Review 2 for Years 7,8, 9 and 11	Week beginning 18/03/20
Year 10 reports home to parents	Week beginning 18/03/20
Year 8 Parents’ Evening	19/03/20
Year 9 Parents’ Evening	24/03/20
Pupil Voice - House Council Meeting	Week beginning 23/03/20
Charity Afternoon	02/04/20

Yours sincerely

N Oddie

Mrs Nicola Oddie
Head Teacher