



St Silas

Church of England Primary Academy

A member of **CDARI**

Dear St Silas Church,

I hope this letter finds you all well as it has been a long, hard year. We have missed seeing our church family at our half termly worships in church. Hopefully we will be able to start these again in September.

It has been a very strange academic year in St Silas School this year. We were impacted by Covid throughout the Autumn term with 10 out of 13 classes having to close. Some classes had to close more than once. Throughout this time members of staff and families were losing loved ones. Then in January we had to adapt to remote learning again. All our teachers were teaching lessons in school and children at home at the same time. The teachers and parents did a fabulous job of keeping the children's education going and we all learned new ICT skills. By the end of the lockdown we had over a 100 children in school daily. We also loaned over 100 laptops to children who did not have the equipment needed for live lessons. We had over 90% attendance on live lessons. Then our families suffered due to the pandemic in India. Several of our children lost both grandparents within days. As I write this newsletter we are now in an area subject to surge testing due to the Indian variant and the number of children isolating is increasing daily.

We have managed to have some fun activities throughout this time. At Christmas our Reception children performed a nativity play that was filmed for their parents. We had an online panto at Christmas which the children really enjoyed and a Christmas party. Last week we had an Eld party.

Each class has their own charity. We have supported MND by carrying out the ice bucket challenge. MND is a charity close to our hearts as our former teacher, Mr Johnrose, is now suffering from it. We have supported refugees through Save the Children and had a great Numbers Fun day supporting the NSPCC. We are also raising money to twin one of our taps so that someone in the developing world can have clean water.

We are coming to the end of our 40 days of reflection on twitter. Our children have posted a tweet everyday for 40 days. They have shared prayers including our school prayer; have explained about our vision and values as well as their class charities and described our Silas and Me (S.A.M.) award scheme.

Please follow our Twitter account. https://twitter.com/StSilas_Primary to keep up to date with events in our school.

Michele Battersby



Loving God and each other, we work together to be the best that we can.