



St. Felix RC Primary School

July 2020 Newsletter



On the Day of Judgment we will not be judged for our ideas, but for the compassion we have shown to others
Pope Francis 14th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a strange year we have had! It began with Ofsted in September, took us through Father Michael's illness and death and then into coronavirus lockdown. It is not the year any of us imagined or planned last July.

The coronavirus has, of course, had the biggest impact on our way of life as a school. As we prepared for the funeral of Father Michael, which was beautiful thanks to his excellent planning and the hard work of the parish team, the reality that closure was an option began to crystallise. When St Felix closed on 20th March for most pupils, we thought it would be brief. Little did we know how this would look four months later.

It has been strange but not all bleak. Having a small group of children in school from 23rd March to the 29th May was wonderful. We got to know them really well, aided, it has to be said, by the gorgeous weather this Spring. I must commend that merry band of children, some of whom have had only bank holidays out of school since the lockdown at the end of March in order to allow parents to undertake key worker roles. They deserve a long holiday after being so positive for so long.

The return of the 100+ children to school on 3rd June was a highlight. It was so lovely to hear children's voices throughout the site and feel like teachers again. The pupils have learnt new protocols, accepted the limitations and conducted themselves brilliantly. They are a credit to St Felix.

On the other hand we have had most of the school at home with their parents taking on the new challenge of home learning. I know this has not been easy and had we known in March what we know now, different decisions may have been taken. However safety was our main priority and will continue to be so despite the disappointment this brings at times. Thank you for all the feedback and for working so hard to keep your children accessing education in a scenario we never envisaged.

Finally I have to say a huge thank you to my staff for their commitment and willingness to embrace the risks that come with working through a pandemic. The team spirit which is such a key part of St Felix has kept us all strong and smiling at the end of this eventful year. The Home Learning Team have produced hours of materials for all age ranges despite never having the chance to teach any of it which is why we do this job in the first place. The staff in school, across all roles have been phenomenal in their attitude, dedication to the pupils and support for one another and me. We are blessed at this school and I think Father Michael has been working hard from his new home to keep us all safe.

Obviously September brings further challenges but I am really looking forward to working with you all again from 3rd September and hope you have a great summer.

Best Wishes

Mrs A Dodds

Read a Book Day

6th September



Keep reading over the summer. The government has published these guidelines to help:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read>

Thank you for the generous gifts we have received at the end of term. We will all be very fat and somewhat inebriated but very relaxed.

Transition Videos for September

[EYFS](#)

[Inkpen](#)

[Potter](#)

[Donaldson](#)

[Dahl](#)

[Riddell](#)

[Lewis](#)

[Morpugo](#)

[Horowitz](#)

[Rowling](#)



Virtual Sports Week 6th – 9th July



Thank you so much for your engagement with our Sports day. It was great to feel like we were all working together. Huge congratulations to **St Peter** for an amazing result and the House Captains Theo and Rudra were delighted to accept the House Cup on behalf of their house.



Goodbye to our leavers

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." Anne Frank

She was locked away for her own safety in a much more extreme way than anything we are experiencing but she showed that adults don't have all the answers. As you leave St Felix recognise how much control you have over the person you will become. We are sad that you are leaving us today but we have the knowledge that you are all strong enough to write your own life stories.

These are famous first lines from novels:

It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen. George Orwell, 1984

As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams he found himself transformed in his bed into an enormous insect Franz Kafka, Metamorphosis.

"There was no possibility of taking a walk that day." Charlotte Brontë, Jane Eyre

Whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life, or whether that station will be held by anybody else, these pages must show. Charles Dickens, David Copperfield

If this is the start of your story, what is your first line?

The final word I give back to Anne Frank: *The good news is that you don't know how great you can be! How much you can love! What you can accomplish! And what your potential is!*