

Pield Heath House School - Autumn Half Term Update, October 2020

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## Autumn Half Term Update 23rd October 2020



Dear Friends of Pield Heath,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the school year. After what has been such a challenging few months we were delighted to be back at school and to welcome new students who have joined our community.

Although it continues to be a very uncertain time for everyone, thankfully there have also been some lovely moments which we have enjoyed and would like to share. You can read about all of the events in this newsletter.

In addition to our intake of students, we were also pleased to welcome new members of staff. Special thanks to all staff for their ongoing commitment and dedication in very testing circumstances.

I hope that you will all manage to take some much needed rest over the half term holiday. Don't forget the clocks go back this weekend so you will get an extra hour's sleep!

The theme for World Poetry Day this year was 'Vision'. Although we can't see into the future, we hope and pray that in time, everything will settle. So take care and do your best to stay positive.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Eryl D'Souza  
Associate Principal  
Community & External Partnerships



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**A New School Year**

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and Governors attended. The Mass was celebrated by Fr Nicholas Schofield, Dean at Our Lady of Lourdes and St Michael Parish, Uxbridge. Staff and students had the opportunity to follow the Mass on a livestream link at school.



### The Well

For the benefit of new families and staff who have recently joined us this is just a brief summary. Following a successful application to the Cardinal's Appeal Fund, we were given a grant to set up a Community café. The name 'The Well' was chosen based on the encounter of the Samaritan Woman and Jesus from St John's Gospel Chapter 4. This Café Enterprise offers the ideal opportunity to develop many essential life skills including communication, working as a team, catering, handling money. It also importantly acknowledges our students and gives them the recognition that they are making a valuable contribution to society. Another important aspect is to provide a warm welcome to rest and relax. The importance of water for our mental, physical and spiritual refreshment and overall wellbeing is also another central theme.

The Well is open from 10.15am – 2pm daily and serves a wide variety of hot and cold drinks as well as delicious snacks. There is tea and delicious brewed coffee on offer. As well as this staff are able to order meals which include the following selections - Panini, Sandwich and Jacket Potatoes all with a wide variety of fillings. The present menu also includes comforting Soup of the day as well as other seasonal delights. Special thanks to Nicky Grieve, Amanda Fitzgerald and the amazing student team at The Well. When things settle we hope to be able to re-open our doors to our families, Parish and local community.





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## 2B

2B have made a great start to the new term. Returning students have adjusted back into school life and have been happy to see everyone and participate in learning as a class after so long. We have three new students this year who have enjoyed exploring their new school and its surroundings. The Well, our new café, is proving to be popular with the students who love to get a drink and enjoy the nice view.



## 3D

3D have been settling into school this term. We enjoyed parachute games on the field. We made waving hands to remind us to keep our distance when we say hello. We planted a rose bush to remember people who died due to the virus. We enjoyed going to The Well Café. In cooking we learnt how to make beans on toast and chocolate crispy cakes.

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### 3K

This term 3K has been working on acquiring different skills, such as making different types of snacks, identifying what we are grateful for and creating our class 'Gratitude Tree'. It has been fun discovering Shakespeare's work and writing with a quill pen like he used. We have also enjoyed exploring Electricity this term, we created a static fan all by ourselves!



### 3L

In 3L we were really happy to welcome new students who have joined our school in September which gave us all the chance to make new friends. We enjoyed some of the activities in our school grounds.

### 3W

In 3W we visited the Garden Shop in our Maths lesson. Students participated in money exchange and some practised being able to identify how much an item cost and which coin they needed to use to pay for their chosen item. We all enjoyed an ice cream in the sunshine!



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#### 4C

4C have been working hard in Science and the topic this term has been light. The students have been building on their knowledge base from KS3 to separate light into colours with a prism and to explore the properties of the full electro-magnetic spectrum. 4C have also been exploring how the tilt in the rotation of The Earth, relative to its orbit around The Sun, allows us to experience God's wonder through the creation of the four seasons.

#### 4M

During morning tutor time 4M has been practising meditation daily. A student is able to ring the bell to indicate the start of meditation and participate in breathing exercises, repeating a prayer and

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#### 4T

4T have had a good half term and enjoyed many outdoor activities in the grounds of our school and enjoyed visiting The Well, our new Cafe



#### PH+ A

This term we worked on building positive relationships within our class. We developed from working individually most of the time to being able to share certain activities. We are proud to say that we are able to sit in a circle as a group and watch our teacher's presentation. We also ventured outside when the weather allowed us, and enjoyed spending time in the fresh air.



#### PH+ B

PH+B have welcomed students back from their home setting. During the term, students have been learning about themselves and their preferences. We have had some very special moments. The students have also been developing their independent skills and practising brushing their teeth, setting up a table for a snack

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a great start to the new term!



### PH+ C

PH+C is settling in well into the new school year, taking account of the fact that we have made some major changes to the way we work, they have all done very well indeed. We have welcomed a new student, who is a welcome addition to our class. Our students have been working hard at home with new hobbies and skills being encouraged. Dylan has brought his liking for a nice foot spa to PH+C and now all of the students enjoy this activity at least once a week. Kavim also turned 14 which we celebrated, all the students in the class contributed to making his cake and his birthday special.



### PH+ D

In PH+D we have been practising lots of different life skills. We have become really good at using a Hoover and a broom, washing up and using a kettle, toaster and microwave. We have also practised our money skills in the school shop and practised crossing the road at our bike track.



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### VBC A+

This term the students of VBC A+ have had a busy half term. We have been adapting to our new way of life practicing to put on their PPE for work experience. We have also been working hard with our new jobs around the school. We enjoyed our new dance lessons where we are learning to use our feelings when we dance.



### VBC B

As part of our PSHE lessons, VBC B have been learning about Charity. On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October we shot a video of our assembly letting all of the classes know about World Food Day on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October. On Thursday and Friday of that week we promoted World Food Day within The Well with our special International Menu. The student staff served Italian themed Paninis, French pastries and all American hotdogs. It was an amazing couple of days and we raised over £40 for Charity. Well done!



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### VBC C

VBC C students have settled well into the new academic year and have gelled very well as a group, supporting each other. They have wanted to give something back and acknowledge their experiences over the last months. Nicky G organised students to plant roses to remember loved ones. Jason wanted to acknowledge the work of the NHS and remember those who struggled over the Lockdown. He sang his cover version of "Safe Inside" - James Arthur". Thanks to Dean for his support.



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Students have enjoyed returning to St Joseph's House. They have continued learning life skills and enjoyed taking part in some exercise activities.



### Rose Memorial Garden

As this has been such an emotional time for everyone, each class in the school was invited to plant a Rose of their choice in the school grounds. This garden will provide us with a place to think and pray for any loved ones we have lost. Thanks to Nicky Grieve our Outdoor Learning Development Manager for working with the students to plant and maintain this special garden.



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PROUD TO BE A  
MUSIC MARK  
SCHOOL

### Music Mark

We are delighted to announce that we were nominated by Hillingdon Music Hub to become a Music Mark school for the 2020/21 academic year because of the value that is placed on music and the commitment to a broad and balanced curriculum. Music Mark is the UK Association for Music Education; who champion and support access to music for all children and young people. Thank you to Petra Voniatis our Music Coordinator for her commitment to raising the profile and enjoyment of Music across the curriculum with our students and staff.



### New Sports Kit

Thanks to Premier League Primary Stars for this lovely kit modeled by our students. Your support is greatly appreciated.



### Signalong

Hi I am Wendy the new Signalong Tutor at school. During lockdown I worked with some of our staff via Zoom to develop their signing skills which they have been using around the school. We have been recording the services each week for our students and staff to watch. I have been supporting these recordings with signing prayers, songs and key words. Every



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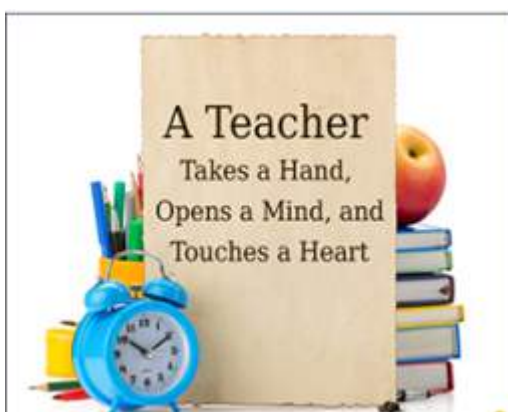
### Season of Creation

Students enjoyed participating in activities to mark the Season of Creation from 1<sup>st</sup> September (World Creation Day ) – 4<sup>th</sup> October (Feast of St Francis of Assisi) as the world celebrated the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si. They designed some lovely sunflowers.



### Black History Month

We had some activities to mark October as Black History month. We plan to continue to do other events during the year to celebrate the unique gifts of everyone.



### World Teachers Day

5th October was World Teachers' Day. The theme for 2020 was Teachers: Leading in Crisis, Reimagining the Future". Everyone will agree that this has been a very challenging time for all those in education. Staff were treated to a selection of pastries and this provided us with a perfect opportunity to show our appreciation to all our staff community for all that they do throughout the year. As we continue to face ongoing challenges we thank everyone for all their commitment and hard work.



### World Mental Health Day

Saturday 10th October was World Mental Health Day. In the hustle and bustle of everyday life and especially in these uncertain times more than ever, we have been trying to keep one thing in mind, which may help someone in a way we may not be aware of and that is to, 'Be Kind' as we appreciate that, someone we know may be fighting a battle we know nothing about, and our kindness can make a difference.

### The God Who Speaks

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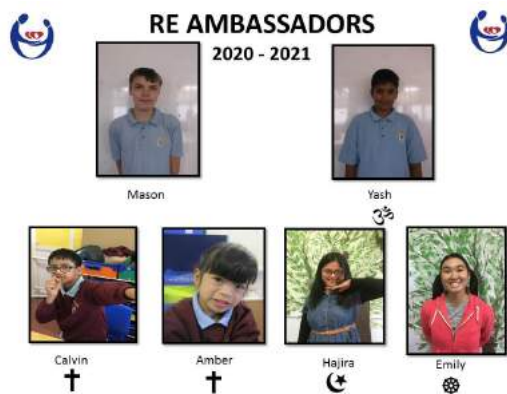
work towards its aims which are 'Celebrating, Living and Sharing God's Word.' During the year we will continue to be do a variety of activities and events to help our whole school community to engage meaningfully with the Bible.



### Caritas Love In Action Programme

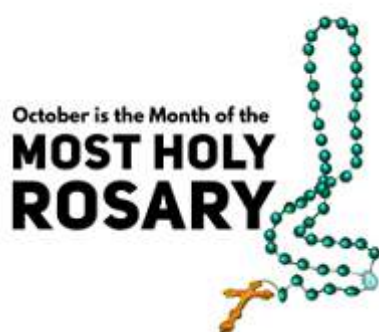
Love in Action is an engagement programme designed by Caritas, Westminster to introduce Parishes and Schools to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST).

This Half Term we have been looking at the Principle of Dignity



### RE Ambassadors

We are delighted to have our new RE Ambassadors who come from both the lower and upper school and represent many of the major world religions. This year the team includes Yash, Mason, Hajira, Emily, Amber and Calvin.



### The Rosary

On 7th October we had a special Service which was prepared by VBC Group A to mark the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary and to remind everyone that October is the Month of the Rosary. In addition to this all staff were given the opportunity to journey with the Diocese of Westminster and pray in solidarity for our school communities. We continue to pray to Mary our Mother for you and all of your loved ones during these uncertain times.

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### Upper School Retreat

Students in Key Stage 4 were invited to participate in a special retreat on 21st October. The theme for the Retreat was 'Looking after Ourselves'. The day started with a service after which there were activities which focused on the importance of water. We looked at the Story of the Samaritan Woman from The Gospel. Students visited The Well and the Retreat ended with a sharing service in the chapel to celebrate the day.



## Parent and Carer Zone



### ParentPay

As a school we use ParentPay, an e-payment system for dinner money. All parents will have received a letter with login details. ParentPay holds an electronic record of all payments, and allows parents to make e-payments through the website.

Those parents wishing to pay cash should contact the school office to request the option of paying via PayPoint.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you need assistance.

### Parents Meetings

It was good for Tutors to be able to speak to you albeit either by phone or online. We hope that you found it a useful opportunity to be able to discuss how your child has coped over this



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### Parents Forum - 18th November

You will be pleased to know that our next Parents Forum will take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November from 11.00am - 12.00pm. The theme will be ASD & Managing Behaviour, it will be led by Lynne Laverty and Therese Glynn. This will be online more information will be circulated after half term.

All parents and carers are welcome to attend



### Prayer Circle

If there is anyone in particular you would like us to pray for please email their names and any information to [admin@pieldheathschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@pieldheathschool.org.uk) and we can add them to our list of petitions



### Good News

At times like this it is important to share some Good News so if you too have anything that you are happy to share please let us know.

## FUNDRAISING

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On 25<sup>th</sup> September we hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning. Unfortunately due to present circumstances we were not able to open our doors to parents and the local community, however, they supported by buying raffle tickets and by giving generous donations.

The students served tea and coffee led some have-a-go activities e.g. Guess the number of coffee beans, the weight of the cake, and a raffle. Thanks to their enthusiasm, hard work and the generous support of everyone they raised an amazing **£543.50**. A special thank you to Nicky Grieve, Amanda Fitzgerald the Student Team at The Well and to everyone for your generosity in making this event such a success.



### CAFOD Harvest Fast Day Assembly

Our RE Ambassadors have helped us to raise awareness of the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) which is our Autumn Term Charity. They circulated leaflets to all classes to promote CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day on 9<sup>th</sup> October – To Survive, Rebuild, Heal. They are also involved with providing support with prayer and fundraising initiatives.



### Christmas Raffle - December

Unfortunately this year due to the ongoing situation we will not be having the traditional Christmas Fayre. However as this along with our Summer Fayre which we also had to cancel in June are two key community events we would appreciate your support with our Grand Raffle.

Raffle tickets and details about prizes etc will be available after half term. As always your support for this fundraising event would be really appreciated.

**Dates for your diary:**

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