

Pield Heath House School Spring Newsletter - April 2021

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## Spring Newsletter April 2021



Dear Friends of Pield Heath,

I hope you and your family are keeping well. On 23<sup>rd</sup> March we had a National Day of Reflection to mark the first anniversary of Lockdown. No doubt everyone will have their own personal experiences and memories of the year. Going forward, we will continue to include practical and wellbeing initiatives to help keep us connected and supported as a community.

This term we are saying farewell to Luke Braiden a Key Stage 2 Tutor, Petrece McLeod our Speech and Language Therapist, Wendy Pullen an SSA and Signalong Coordinator and Mark Silva an SSA. We thank them for all that they have contributed and wish them well for the future.

A special thank you to all our staff who have worked tirelessly to manage the ongoing challenges that we have had to face this term. Our students as always, have been amazing and it has been a real joy to have them back in school. Thank you also to all our families for your cooperation and understanding.

Easter is always a feast of hope and celebration. On the horizon is a time when we will thankfully, once again be able to see our loved ones as the restrictions are gradually lifted.

Wishing you all a Happy and Holy Easter.

Eryl D'Souza

Associate Principal

Community & External Partnerships

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### School News

#### Tutor Group - 2B

2B were glad to see everyone return after being away so long. We have made the most of the nice weather in recent weeks. One of the activities involved going on a bear hunt after reading the story by Michael Rosen!



#### Tutor Group - 3D

3D enjoyed looking out for the arrival of spring for our assembly. We also enjoyed yoga in the sunshine during PE.



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### Tutor Group - 3K

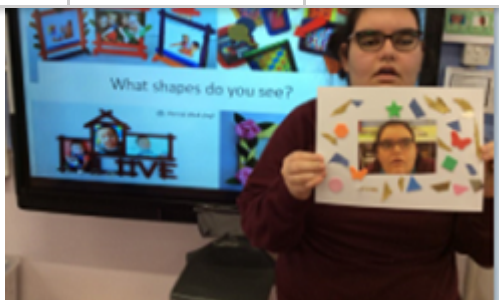
This term 3K have been learning about 3D shapes and made their own shapes. They enjoyed their reading and music lessons. We enjoyed creative dance lessons and learning about primary and secondary colours in Art.



### Tutor Group - 3W

In 3W we have been working on our understanding of 2D shapes. We have been working on our shape recognition as well as knowing about their properties. 3W have worked really hard on developing their mathematical skills on shapes.



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### Tutor Group - 3L

This term 3L students have worked very hard to adapt to being back in school and re-adjust to school routines. In RE we have been following the story of Jesus up to Easter Sunday and the students have taken part in lots of related activities. We also planted seeds so that we could look after them and watch them grow. In DT we made beautiful photo frames.





### Tutor Group PH+A

We have been learning about many new things this term including about how plants grow from a seed. We made grass heads and are eagerly waiting for the grass to grow! We have also learnt about the story of Moses, and used this opportunity to include sensory activities in our lessons. We formed shapes from wet sand, we used dry sand to imitate the desert, and we even coloured the water to make it represent The Red Sea.



### Tutor Group PH+B

PH+B have been enjoying exploring different fillings in their sandwiches, this week we tried egg. We also shared our preference towards different kinds of music. As a class we enjoy our R.E lessons and love being together.



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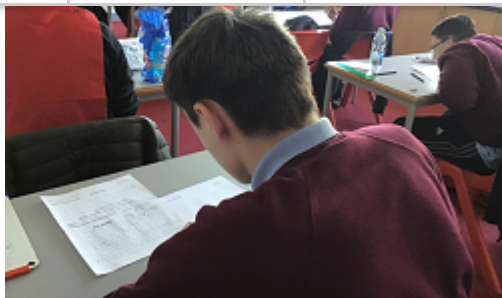
### Tutor Group - PH+C

In PH+C we have been enjoying more activities as a whole class, this includes setting the table and eating together. We have all adjusted well to the new way we have had to do things. We have been enjoying the beautiful school grounds where all the students love being outside in nature.



### Tutor Group - 4C

All members of 4C have returned after lock-down and are getting back into the routine of classwork. I am particularly proud as to how smoothly the boys have transitioned back into both class learning and supporting the wider school community. The picture shows 4C working on incorporating specific punctuation within a piece of creative writing. The boys are describing their own created super-heroes for Red Nose Day and then going on to tell the origin stories for each character.

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### **Tutor Group - 4M**

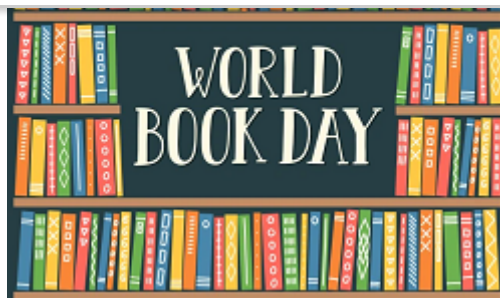
Everyone in 4M has been happy to return back to school and see their friends. We followed the school guidelines and have been practising social distancing. We remembered to keep the distance inside and outside the school buildings. Student Covid Testing was a challenge for many of us but we passed this test successfully and are proud to show our certificates. Andrew, who was wearing a mask in all the lessons was a shining example to his peers. We also went on a great Spring Walk around the school and looked for signs of awakening nature. We found a birds' nest, blossom, tree buds and yellow daffodils. We were invited to celebrate the Feast of St Joseph at Mass in the Chapel. We sang 3 songs for the whole school and played musical instruments. We were really great!



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### Tutor Group - 4T

4T enjoyed world book day and all the end of term activities including the Easter Disco.

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### Tutor Group VBC A+

The students of VBC A+ have been working very hard and participating in their personal care sessions. The students have been focusing on brushing their teeth independently with minimal support. All students have been very focused and enjoyed the sessions! The Students of VBC A+ have also enjoyed our Thrive sessions, exploring different sensory experiences, with lots of singing and music. The students have been taking part in regular exercise around the school grounds as part of their wellbeing and have enjoyed taking part in their cooking lessons developing rolling skills.



### Tutor Group - VBC B

All members of VBC B very much enjoyed creating special presents for every student to take home to celebrate Mother's Day on 14<sup>th</sup> March.



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### Tutor Group VBC C

VCB C Students celebrated World Book Day by dressing up and going on a treasure Hunt for their favourite books. We welcomed back the rest of our group.



### Therapy Update



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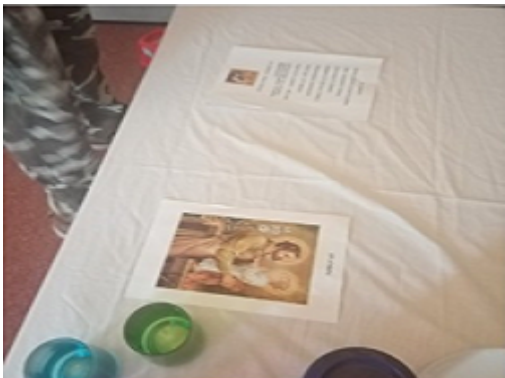
the school day.

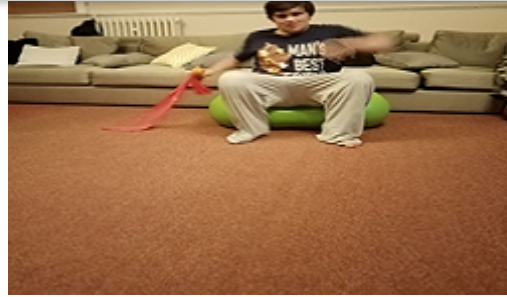


## Whole School News

### Residential Update

Students have enjoyed many different activities in St Joseph's Residential House this term. They made been taking part in various exercise activities and celebrated The Feast of St Joseph.



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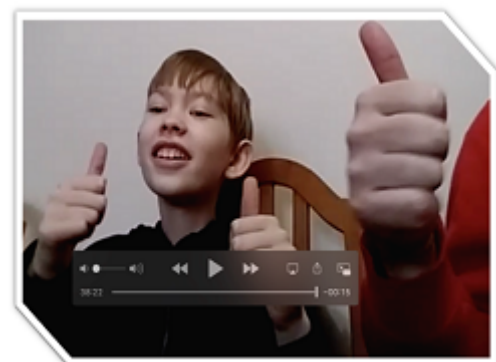
### Student Council

The Student Council had their second meeting this year out in the fresh air. The first action from the Council was to send out a student questionnaire to find out how students felt about lockdown and being back at school. The Council went through the questionnaire to see what changes they wanted to make.



### Musical Enrichment

Spring term has been very different but equally special with music provision both on and off site. Music life has continued to offer joy from music making, singing and signing and celebrated individual students through music. Earlier on this year the music department received a Music Mark award and the musical enrichment continued promoting "high standard of music education" throughout the school. We have resumed our weekly Zoom hymn practice on Wednesdays. Every class has participated in learning new songs and signs as well as revisiting the school favourite songs. I am hoping that music will keep playing at our school next term successfully as *"Singing lifts the spirits, heals the heart and feeds the soul. Singing makes us stronger, we can reach for any goal."* as the lyrics in our There's a power in the music favourite song correctly conclude. Thank you for the music your children make and how they help to build a stronger community.



### Horticulture



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### World Book Day

Students and staff enjoyed taking part in World Book Day on Thursday 4th March. Everyone was invited to dress in their favourite character costume. There were many literary as well as craft and fun activities planned which the students enjoyed. As we are continuing the special Year of The God who Speaks – The Year of the Word this was also an ideal opportunity to relate it to The Bible and to share some Bible Stories. This year the Gospel story that was shared was The Samaritan Woman at The Well, so everyone is familiar with this while we await reopening our Community Café named The Well.





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### Parents Forum

We had a good response to this half terms Parents Forum which was led by Lynne Lavery and Therese Glynn. The theme for this meeting was 'The Importance of Self Care'.



### Yotism Workshop

Thanks to Sue Donaldson our PE Coordinator who led a Parents Forum about the benefits of Yotism.



### Cafod Family Fast Day

We marked CAFOD Family Lent Family Fast Day on 26<sup>th</sup> February. Following on from that we have continued to fundraise for CAFOD using the initiative 'Small Change – Big Difference' where the RE Ambassadors put out the Charity Jar in Reception every Friday in Lent.



### National Day of Reflection for COVID

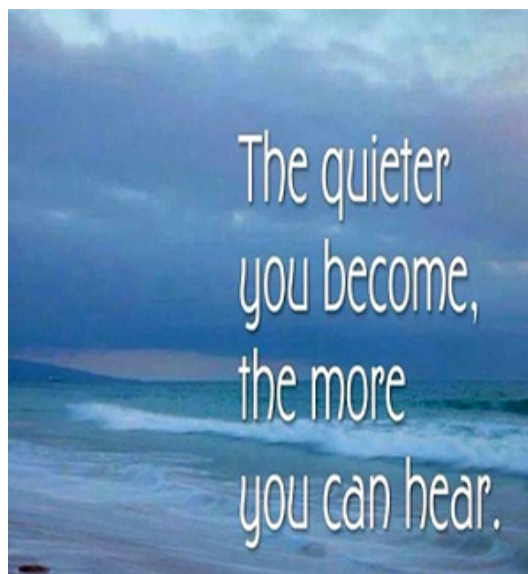
On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, we joined in the special day to mark the anniversary of the first national lockdown by having a minutes silence at midday and as the Bishops Conference encouraged everyone to have a doorstep vigil of light at 8pm. We also shared a reflection from the Diocese of Westminster with our whole community.



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### SiLENT for a Change

We revisited the initiative in the school which was set up by the Family of Jimmy Mizen, called SiLENT for a Change. The main reason for taking part in the Silence was to benefit from the advantages of being silent. The campaign asks us to make silence a part of our life today. Starting from Thursday 24th February the whole school were invited to try and be silent for 2 minutes everyday from 10.58am – 11.00am.



### Mothers Day

Team Enterprise students assembled resource packs for all class groups, to enable them to make Mother's Day cards. a Team Enterprise Daffodils –

Thanks to Nicola Grieves our Outdoor Learning Development Manager and the team of Pield Heath Gardeners who worked so hard were able to give all our Mums / Carers a bunch of daffodils to say Thank you for all they do throughout the year.



### 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).

There are 6 Principles that we will be looking at over the programme.

- Dignity
- Solidarity and Peace
- Option for the Poor
- Creation
- Community and Participation
- Dignity of Workers

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### Ash Wednesday

In normal circumstances we would have had a whole school Mass ,but due to the current situation and as this year it happened to fall in the half term, Cardinal Vincent Nichols sent information entitled 'Ash Wednesday at Home' which we shared with all our families. When we returned to school we had an assembly to recap Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday with the students.



### St Davids Day

We marked St David's Day, Patron Saint of Wales. Hope all the David's in our community enjoyed their special Feast Day.



### Women's World Day of Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer was on 5<sup>th</sup> March add image. This year's activities were prepared by the women of Vanuatu. Vanuatu is on the other side of the world in the South Pacific, 2000 miles east of Australia and is an archipelago of 80 islands. These are beautiful islands with amazing beaches, coral reefs, tropical coloured fish and forests full of lovely birds, abundant flora and fauna, which linked to our Caritas Principle - Creation. The theme they chose for this year was 'Build on a Strong Foundation.'



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### St Patrick's Day

To mark St Patrick's Day on 17th March we had a special assembly to find out more about the Patron Saint and various traditions associated with Ireland. Everyone was invited to wear green for the day. We had a themed lunch and even the sponge cake was green!



### World Down's Syndrome Day

We joined in the events to raise awareness of the day and everyone was invited to wear odd socks as part of the National Day.



### St Joseph

Fr Nicholas Schofield the Parish Priest at Our Lady of Lourdes and St Michael said a special Mass for us in our chapel. Key Stage 4 attended all other classes as well as staff and Governors followed via Zoom We were please to again have

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unveiled a statue of St Joseph in the Chapel where we will continue to have an ongoing display. The students in our Residential House also had a service and mini-celebration to mark the Feast in St Joseph's House.



## Lent

We followed The Old Testament presentations during Lent from the Diocese. We enjoyed the Mass for schools from The Westminster Cathedral Crypt for the Year of St Joseph.



## Growing Back Better

As a Community through an initiative called Growing Back Better all staff were invited to reflect on three key aspects. Firstly, what the experience of the Pandemic had taught them, secondly what they missed /took for granted and now appreciate and value more and thirdly, going forward what they will change and do differently in the future.



## Fundraising

## Fairtrade Fortnight



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Ambassadors supported by the Catering Department ran a stall encouraging staff and students to buy fresh fruit. The total amount raised during the Fortnight was £50 which has been sent to support the work of the charity.



## Wellbeing Events

Students enjoyed participating in various Wellbeing activities which included football, basketball and horticulture. They practised different skills and above all had a lot of fun while keeping fit and healthy. Staff have also taken part in the Walking Club.



## Reflections

Special thanks to Sr Rosemary Clerkin who has provided us with weekly reflections this half term. Not only have these been helpful and inspiring, but they have also provided real comfort for the wellbeing of our whole community, as we have been journeying together at this time.



## Summer Draw

Just to let you know that we will be having a Summer Draw on 24th June. Raffle tickets will be available after Easter. As we were unable to have a draw at Christmas which is one of our main fundraising opportunities, your support with helping to sell as many tickets as possible would

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### Important Dates for your diary:

#### Summer Term 2021

Summer 1 – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021 – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021\*

Bank Holiday – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021

Half Term – Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Summer 2 – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021\*

**\* School finishes at 2.30pm**

#### Training Days 2020-2021 (Staff Only).

19<sup>th</sup> April 2021

20<sup>th</sup> April 2021



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