



17.1.2025



Dear Parents,

Our first full week back in school has been a very busy one.

### **Mass**

Fr Paul very kindly offered to say Mass for us on Tuesday morning as we had missed our planned Epiphany Mass on the 6<sup>th</sup> January. It was a wonderful celebration for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. We receive lovely comments about Mass in school from the visitors that join us, they are truly special events.

### **Uniform**

Staff have been reminding children to take responsibility for their uniform appearance. Missing ties, shirts hanging out and non-uniform PE kit are being challenged in an age appropriate way.

### **Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Assembly**

Today I launched our Catholic Social Teaching principle for this term, **Solidarity and Peace**. We talked about how we can work in support of our brothers and sisters around the world and about the importance of prayer. Year 2 will be showcasing their work on this CST principle in a class assembly on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Jubilee Year – Pilgrims of Hope**

This year has been designated by Pope Francis as the Jubilee Year “Pilgrims of Hope”. More information about the logo at the end of this letter.

Next Friday is the launch day and the children will be taking part in activities to mark the occasion. On Wednesday we will have a launch assembly in preparation.

### **Bikeability**

On Monday to Thursday this week, groups of Year 5 and 6 children completed their Level 2 Bikeability Cycle Training. They will be presented with certificates in assembly on Monday.

When we were asking who would be taking part we were surprised at how many of our older children cannot ride a bike. This prompted a discussion with the instructors and we are now looking into offering a ‘Learn to ride a bike’ event where the bikes and helmets will be provided. More information later in the year.

### **St Nicholas Work Experience**

This week we have hosted seven, Year 10 and Year 12 students from St Nicholas on their Work Experience. It was lovely to welcome back some familiar faces as well as some new ones.

## **QTS Associate Teachers**

Last week we were joined in school by two student teachers. They have joined Year 2 and our Reception class where I am sure they will learn a lot from the experienced staff we have in school. We wish them well for their placement.

## **Campus Safeguarding Walk**

After having to cancel the date for this because of the snow, I will be walking the campus perimeter field next week with representatives from the schools affected and two members of the LA Safeguarding Team.

Have a wonderful weekend.

## **Justine McEniff Headteacher**



The Logo shows four stylized figures to indicate all of humanity from the four corners of the earth. They are each embracing another, indicating the solidarity and brotherhood that must unite peoples. It should be noted that the first figure is clinging to the cross. The underlying waves are choppy to indicate that the pilgrimage of life is not always on calm waters. Oftentimes personal circumstances and world events call for a greater sense of hope. This is why the lower part of the Cross is elongated turning into an anchor, which dominates the movement of the waves. As is well known, the anchor has often been used as a metaphor for hope. In fact, in maritime jargon, the hope anchor is the name given to the spare anchor, used by vessels for emergency manoeuvres to stabilise the ship during storms. It should be noted that the image shows how the pilgrim's journey is not individual, but rather communal, with the signs of a growing dynamism that moves more and more toward the Cross. The Cross is by no means static, but it, too, is dynamic, bending toward and meeting humanity as if not to leave it alone, but rather offering the certainty of its presence and the reassurance of hope.

Finally, the Jubilee 2025 Motto, Pilgrims of Hope (Peregrinantes in Spem) is clearly visible in the colour green.