

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have just returned from a visit to our Reception class as this morning is the first occasion that all of the children have been in together for a full school day. I have to say that they have settled so well and seem to be really enjoying having all of their friends around them. Staff are very impressed and feel that they are really getting to know all of the children and helping them to feel happy and secure in their new school. This bodes so well for the future and I can see them being a happy and well balanced cohort.

Father Weymes called in to school on Friday and we have set the following dates for school Masses across the term:

- Tuesday October 9th at 9.30am
- Wednesday October 31st at 9.30am
- Tuesday December 11th at 2.30pm (Final Mass of the term).

Everyone is welcome to attend and we are looking forward to seeing some of the Holy Rosary and St Gregory's parishioners in attendance. We will see if we can ask SAPA to provide refreshments after each morning Mass.

There will be a special CAFOD assembly prior to half term and plans will need to be activated to arrange our Harvest Festival Celebration when we will again be looking to collect tins and foodstuffs for the homeless and needy of South Shields. Details to follow as soon as we have agreed dates and times.

Can I ask all parents and carers to make sure that we have a minimum of TWO emergency contact details please? This is the case for many but not all - of course they do need to be up to date telephone numbers. This is a key recommendation in the recently published "Keeping Children Safe in Education" September 2018 document and the statutory advice within is for all schools to follow. All Staff and governors have been invited to attend training tonight in school as it is vital that we keep up to date with the latest thinking on Child Protection.

Unfortunately we have some more problems with flooring, this time to the Infant end of the school and some emergency work will need to be carried out during the half term break. We have already had repairs to the hall completed across the summer holiday and it is very disappointing to have to expedite more repairs but this is necessary work and will have to be done. The Diocese has been informed and we are working with the Local Authority team to plan the works for the October Half Term. I will keep you up to date with the programme.

Other than that, with the full staff complement back today, things are progressing very nicely and we are all enjoying the term to date.

I look forward to seeing you all as the term progresses.

Best Wishes.

Yours Sincerely,

K J Smithson

Head Teacher.