

10th January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year and welcome back to school. I hope that you have all had a wonderful Christmas and are as excited as your children to be back in school for the Spring term 2020.

New Staff

We extend a warm welcome to two new teachers to the school: Miss Sally Guy, who will take over Year 5 class and Miss Shayla MacDonald, our full time Support teacher, to the school. We also welcome the return of Mrs Moira Colletta, who will join us on Fridays as an Assistant Head Teacher. We hope that all our new colleagues will achieve a very happy and illustrious experience at Hampden Gurney.

Last term was an incredibly busy term as the school was preparing for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMs) as well as the on-going focus towards an OFSTED under the new DfE directive.

Father Gerald

After serving as our Parish and School Vicar for the past ten years, Father Gerald will shortly be retiring at the end of January 2020. As we bid him farewell, I am sure the whole school community would join me to express our deepest gratitude and thanks for his faithful service and tireless dedication to Hampden Gurney and the Annunciation. We will miss his calming influence, reflective counsel and guidance and his unfailing patience to remind us of how our school vision can be lived out through respect, love, humility and reverence.

Father Gerald’s last Mass at Hampden Gurney will be held on the 30th January at 10am. We will be celebrating Father Gerald’s retirement with refreshments after the service and hope that many parents will be able to join us to express your personal thank and farewells.

SIAMs Inspection

What a great way to start 2020! We have been awarded the ‘Good’ judgement for our SIAMs inspection last term. It is a wonderful recognition of our commitment to promote the school’s distinctive Christian vision and values to enable all the pupils and adults to flourish as a community.

I wish to thank and congratulate all the staff, pupils, parents and governors who have been enthusiastically involved in the preparation of this inspection and a special appreciation to all the parents who had taken time to meet the inspectors during the inspection day. The official report will be posted on our school website for parents to access following this bulletin.

School Vision

We will continue to strive for excellence by creating a motivational tone, setting high standards and explore the full potential of all our pupils as clearly embraced in our school vision:

‘At the heart of our school community is a commitment to prayer and worship. Our curriculum provides children with a thirst for knowledge and wisdom, a high level of challenge and a deep understanding that we are all equal and made in the image of God. Our relationships with each other, our local community and global companions leads us to want to care and serve others.’

To achieve, we have initiated many innovative and inspirational projects to encourage and challenge our pupils’ learning beyond the classrooms, stimulate their courageous advocacy and independence, and galvanise parental engagement and interest.

School Initiatives for 2020

Parents Forum

Just before the end of last term, I wrote to parents about the launch of the Hampden Gurney Parent Forum. Thank you to those parents who have responded and indicated their interest to be involved and our first official meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th January 2020 from 2.30-3.30pm.

The Parent Forum is an initiative to draw a closer partnership between school and the parent community. It is aimed to involve parents in helping the school to evaluate its provision, share ideas and help shape the future of the school. The Forum will meet termly with dates, minutes, agenda and news of the meetings published onto the newly created Parent Forum section on the school’s website. I have also attached a copy of the Parent Forum Terms of Reference, which can be accessed on our website. It would be great if you could come along and we look forward to seeing you at the Meeting.

Curriculum Design

In order to enrich our curriculum to deepen thinking, stimulate and engage **all** our learners, we will be increasing many more knowledge-rich projects to equip our pupils with a breadth of knowledge and skills in all areas of the curriculum.

We have set out how the school intends to enhance its curriculum with educational visits (at least one per term), extra-curricular activities, pupil-led projects, whole school and wider community initiatives, development of curriculum content with high quality resources (e.g. new science and maths schemes of work) and strategic evaluation and review of the impact on teaching and learning from these changes.

2020 School Initiatives

Worship Ambassadors

Worship Ambassadors support the running of Collective Worship, setting up the hall, leading prayers, hymns and worship.

Worship Ambassadors play a crucial role in evaluating and developing Collective Worship, ensuring that it meets the needs of our pupils. They liaise with each class and staff to find ways of improving our Worship and making it more relevant to the lives of our pupils.

Courageous Advocacy - The Action Group (TAG)

The TAG is an inspirational committee of pupils who inspire the whole school community to engage in social action and to be courageous advocates for change in our local, national and global communities. The Christian Gospel says that every person has a unique task to do, with God, and for God, whether they know it or not. We hold and courageously advocate the conviction that there is something mysterious, and potentially wonderful, in everybody.

The children have an excellent grasp on the meaning of belonging to a local and global community and the sense of responsibility that comes with belonging, thereby developing their ability to empathise and make small sacrifices to benefit others. Together we consider the beauty and fragility of our environment, the actions we take, and the impact these actions may have on the well-being of everyone.

Our Christian values ensure that we will offer opportunities to discuss the big issues, to challenge injustice and to engage in activities that can bring about change. The school community and curriculum actively embrace a responsibility for the world in which we live. We are diligent to show our connection with, and care for, the world in which we all live and care for the people who live in it.

Pupils have met with the Environment Minister, Counsellors and Charity Trust Organisers, written to Kenyan Ministers, Politicians and organised petitions to raise awareness and issues of significance to the school community, including road safety around our school and global issue such as Anti-Elephant poaching and Fair trading, Water Aid, Recycling and Waste. Together with the Charity Ambassadors, we support a range of charities in our local area, nationally and globally. The School Council work with staff, governors, parents, pupils and Church of the Annunciation to identify worthy causes to support.

Music

Music Curriculum

We will be working closely with the award-winning Tri-borough Music Hub is the lead organisation that oversees the delivery of music education in three West London boroughs, working with schools, pupils, the workforce and the community.

We have appointed a music teacher from the Music Hub to work on a sequential musical project (Fifths 1 and 2) with the Years 4 and 6 pupils over the next two terms whilst the EYFS, KS 1 Years 3 and 5 pupils will continue lessons with First Note, our music provider. We will review the impact of pupils learning at the end of the Summer term to ascertain the quality of provision between the two providers.

Tri-Borough Music Conference -

The Tri-Borough Music Hub has offered a fantastic conference to be held on Sunday 2nd February from 12.30-5.00pm for the Years 5 and 6. This is a great opportunity for pupils to listen and learn from famous musicians, take part in fun musical workshops and perform together using a range of percussion and tuned instruments. Some of the activities would include: drumming circle workshop, dramatic singing with the ENO, music producing with the Rhythm Studio, House Band with RCM Sparks, Beatboxing and song writing.

Tickets can be purchased from the school at an Early Bird reduced cost of £5 only. There are still a few ticket available for this event and if your child is interested, please contact office as soon as possible. Miss Irina Panas and I will be at the Royal College of Music to supervise pupils and further information will be provided for those pupils who have submitted their names and payment for this event.

School Choir

We will be commencing a School Choir to be held every **Tuesday** after-school from **3.45-4.30pm**. Our sincere gratitude to Mrs Helen-Marie McGoff for offering to run our weekly Choir, providing a wonderful opportunity for pupils to develop their vocal skills, self-confidence and most importantly, having fun and enjoyment with others to create something special in the arts. All pupils are welcome. Please contact school if you wish to join the Choir.

School Orchestra

The school orchestra will begin our weekly practice every Thursday afternoon from 1.00-1.30pm. Although pupils will not be auditioned for this group it would be preferable if pupils have at least a Grade 1 instrumental experience in order for them to participate successfully and positively. Please contact me should your child wish to join the Junior orchestra and the instrument your child is now learning.

The Parent Pay

Parent Pay, an online payment system, was launched at the beginning of Term 2. This online payment application is a more convenient and efficient option for parents to make payments such as school lunches, governors' fund, and eventually, school trips and fees for after-school clubs. Parent Pay offers two payment options: via their website using your credit / debit card or cash payments at PayPoint stores. Viewing or checking payment histories, transactions and credit balances on a child's account is now available online and operates at any time.

We are delighted with this very successful start with 60% of our pupils' accounts activated since its introduction. This cashless system has evidently increased convenience for parents and efficiency for the office staff. Thank you to all parents who created accounts and have begun using the application. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office should you require assistance with using or opening the ParentPay account.

Governors' Funds

A gentle reminder to parents that the annual governors' fund is now due for this term. Voluntary subscription at: 1st Child - £45 Siblings: £30. Thank you to all parents who have already made this contribution.

Safer Internet Day

Parents are invited to attend our Safer Internet assembly on the 11th February at 2.30pm. Pupils will be presenting and sharing their class projects on what they have learnt to stay safe when using internet technologies and how they can behave responsibly and securely when going online. Please do join us if you can.

HOLIDAY DATES FOR THE 2020/2021 ACDEMIC YEAR

SPRING TERM 1 **Wednesday 8th January –Friday 14th February 2020**

School holiday Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February 2020

SPRING TERM 2 **Tuesday 25th February – Friday 3rd April 2020**

School holiday Monday 6th April – Friday 17th April

SUMMER TERM 1 **Monday 20th April – Friday 22nd May 2020** (4th May Bank Holiday)

School holiday Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May (Spring Bank Holiday- 25th May)

SUMMER TERM 2 **Monday 1st June – Tuesday 21st July 2020**

Wednesday 2nd September - INSET

AUTUMN TERM 1 **Thursday 3rd September – Friday 23th October 2020**

School holiday Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2020

Monday 2nd November - INSET

AUTUMN TERM 2 **Tuesday 3rd November – Friday 18th December 2020**

School holiday Monday 21st December 2020 – Friday 1st January 2021

Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th January - INSET (2 days)

SPRING TERM 1 **Wednesday 6th January – Friday 12 February 2021**

School holiday Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February 2021

Monday 22nd February - INSET

SPRING TERM 2 **Tuesday 23rd February – Wednesday 31st March 2021**

School holiday Thursday 1st April – Friday 16th April 2021

SUMMER TERM 1 **Monday 19th April – Friday 28th May 2021**

(May Day Bank Holiday will be taken on 3rd May 2021)

School holiday Monday 31st May – Friday 4 June 2021

(Spring Bank Holiday will be taken on 31st May 2021)

SUMMER TERM 2 **Monday 7th June – Thursday 22nd July**



SCHOOL ENRICHMENT EVENTS

Houses of Parliament	Yr 4	Wednesday 8 th January 2020
After-school Choir (every Tuesday)		Tuesday 14 th Jan – 31 st Mar 3.45-4.30pm
Tate Modern Musuem	Y 3	Tuesday 28 th January
Parents Forum meeting		Wednesday 29 th January – 2.30-3.30pm
Father Gerald's Farewell Mass		Thursday 30 th January – 10am
Wigmore Hall concert	Yr 3	Thursday 13 th January
Museum of London	Yr 4	Monday 24 th January
Swimming Gala	Yrs 4, 5 & 6	Thursday 27 th February

Finally, may I wish all parents a wonderful and happy 2020.

Yours sincerely

Evelyn Chua

Headteacher