St Mary & St John CE Primary School

Headteacher: Elizabeth Burton

Newsletter 10: 12.03.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

As an antidote to all things virus related(!) I thought I'd send a more general newsletter with some thank yous to start. I will update you, of course, on any school changes due to the coronavirus.

- **Thank you** to Saffron Watkins for organising such a great range of maths activities on the NSPCC Number Day on Friday 7 February. Children of all ages enjoyed the lunchtime fun with a real buzz around maths.

- **Thank you** to the PTA for their fund-raising tea stall on Friday 7 February which raised £150 for the NSPCC.

- **Thank you** to the PTA for their annual car racing event on Saturday 8 February with 45 entries and some wonderful designs.

- **Thank you** to everyone who contributed to World Book Day last Thursday 5 March. We had a performance from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to start the day with our theatre arts group confidently reciting Shakespearian language. All year groups worked on a model of an imaginary world e.g. Alice's Wonderland and Neverland. The resulting models are truly impressive, both intricate and charming. They are still on display in the area where the library used to be.

- The library is up and running and already proving to be a huge success. It is such a fabulous reading environment with an excellent range of high-quality books. We are truly delighted with this part of our school refurbishment; its place at the heart of our school demonstrates our commitment to reading for pleasure.

- This Sunday 15 March is Spring Clean Sunday from 9.30. This is a regular PTA event where a group of parents do some general clearing of the school site in preparation for some brighter days (we hope!) and spring/summer flowers.

- The nest (large climbing frame) is out of use and will probably be taken down as a bolt has loosened, it is now wearing in places and will soon need serious repair. The nest went up before I joined the school and its height has always worried me even though we have had it regularly checked for safety. I was at a health and safety course last Friday where there was lots of talk about serious injuries, in mainly industrial contexts admittedly, but I kept thinking about the nest and worrying about an awkward fall. I did talk about it in assembly and there was some protest from the children in the playground on Tuesday, including a Save the Nest placard! I am all for peaceful protest. I discussed the issue with the staff, however, at our staff meeting this week and all agreed it should go. Teaching children to climb and balance is important; we develop these skills in PE lessons in a controlled environment. We will talk to the children about a suitable replacement which has enough challenge for our age group and is just as much fun!

Best wishes,
Liz Burton