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Friday 2nd October 2020

St Margaret Mary's Letter:

Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

As a school this half-term, we are growing to be 'Curious and Active'.

Growing our Virtues: In classrooms & across the school this half-term we are growing and demonstrating the virtues of being '**curious and active**'. As a school we are focusing upon being **active** in our engagement with one-another, with the world we are a part of and changing what we can for the better. We are growing to be inquisitive & engaged, asking questions & being **curious** to the world around us.

World Day of Migrants & Refugees: Thank-you for all of your support with our focus this week & today on the plight of refugees & migrants, throughout the world. The children have been learning about this in class work, reflections & prayers. I will update you next week of the amount of money raised, following your kind donations for today's non-uniform day. Thank-you again!

As mentioned last week, October marks the start of a busy & exciting month throughout the school, in terms of teaching & learning. Children across the school produced some fantastic work relating to National Poetry Day yesterday. We were pleased to be 'followed & liked' by Joseph Coelho. Please check the school twitter account & website for examples of the super work.

As an introduction to **Black History Month**, we are very excited that this afternoon, Miss Ganley's class have taken part in an online Poetry Session with the **Poet/Rapper Donovan Christopher**. This included a reading of the inspirational poem '**The Undefeated**' by Kwame Alexander & Kadir Nelson [see you-tube clip on school twitter-feed]. Donovan Christopher has also kindly agreed to follow-up his work with the children today in the very near future. A fantastic day!

Walk-to-School Week & Clean Air Day: Monday marks the start of a city-wide walk-to-school initiative. Now more than ever this is of importance for the mental health & physical well-being of all of our children & ourselves. I encourage you & all of our children next week, to walk to school wherever possible. In addition to this Manchester City Council & the Highways Dept have contacted the school & local residents to propose the closure of St Margaret's Road at key times on **Thursday 8th October**. If it takes place this will be between the times of **8:30-9:15am & 2:30-3:15pm only**. The aims of this are to fit in with walking to school as an alternative & also to raise awareness of the health dangers & long-term damage caused by car exhaust pollution; particularly when cars are idling, moving slowly or static as is often the case outside of schools. School children, staff & representatives from MCC will monitor the initiative on Thursday morning & afternoon.

The staggered drop-off & collection times that we have implemented since the start of term should really help in supporting this important initiative. I will be writing to you early next week, once confirmation from MCC/Highways has been received.



Once again a reminder that if a family member or person who you or your child has been in close contact with develops symptoms or tests positive, your child should not come into school & you need to let the School Office know as soon as possible [this also includes any siblings as well]. **Please do not hesitate to contact school as soon as possible, if you require any further support or guidance with this & all matters. As always we will do all that we can to support & advise. Thank-you for your support with this.**

School Dinners Taster Day: A special word of thanks to Mrs Doyle & all of the staff team who supported our theme lunch 'Around the World' yesterday. The children who took part in this had a lovely meal & lunch-time.

Remote/Home Learning Policy: Following the home learning survey that a large number of parents completed a few weeks ago, we have now put together a very clear Home/Remote Learning Policy that I would like to share with you early next week. This will be emailed to all parents & will also be placed on the school website. The policy sets out in clear detail how school will ensure Safeguarding of all children & appropriate teaching & learning for all children, in the event of children having to work from home. This includes for short periods whilst awaiting test results or in the event of a class having to work from home for two weeks. We have responded to your details about; home working circumstances, access to laptops/tablets & preference for paper, e-learning or both. What we have ensured is that we will have both high & realistic expectations of all of our children, as well as catering for individual learning needs, when needed.

This will ensure that all children continue to learn in-line with their peers & their own personal targets.

Finally, Sunday marks the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi. St Francis of Assisi is one of our House Saints & as such has an important place in our school & our mission. We take our lead from his humble example & appreciation of the awe, beauty & wonder of all God's Creation.

Once again, thank-you for all of your support. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.
Take care & God Bless!

Mr Sutton
Headteacher



"A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows"

St Francis of Assisi

