



It's Good to be Back!

Our gates finally opened again for all our children this September and it was good to see the wide beams on faces-especially parent and carers. The long wait and months of home schooling was thankfully over. Jubilant parents skipped through the green gates on Lanehouse Road to safely dispatch their children back into our care. Although we were able to allow 150 children back in July, it was great to see familiar and new faces back with us- some happy and some a little apprehensive and unsure as to what to expect. Government guidance had all being put in place, Curriculum Recovery plans drawn up and one way systems mapped out, all ready to be put to the test and we have to say that the children have responded brilliantly. We are so proud of our children and their families for returning



Farewell Mrs. Bell

The school bell rang time for the long serving Mrs. Bell. Mrs Val Bell had served as a classroom assistant and later school admin support for the last 38 years. Before that she was a parent and long before that a pupil at St. Patrick's. For many years she was the face on reception and the voice on the other end of the telephone and saw many coming and goings of children and staff. She saw three head teachers as well as hundreds of children and their families. Delivery drivers used to comment on the amount of years that she was with us. Many would say, "Are you still here?" She was more than the lady in the office. She was totally committed to the children of St. Pat's- attending lots of events and the many residential trips to London, France and Holland. Val was the fount of all Thornaby knowledge- she knew everyone and their dog! We will miss having Mrs. Bell around school but will sure to keep in touch with her. Good luck Val and enjoy every moment of retirement looking after good old George.

Farewell Leavers

It was also time to say farewell to our wonderful Year 6 children who left us for pastures new. It was a unique year for them in lots of ways due to the Covid19 pandemic. Sadly, they could not complete their primary education in the way which we all would have wanted for them but at least we were able to gather for a meal together and a Leaver's assembly and liturgy. We wish all of our school leavers the very best of luck as they continue into secondary school.



Hello Teddy

We also welcomed back our school dog Teddy. Teddy has now completed his therapy training and passed all safeguarding and police checks and is now able to join us full time. Teddy is a cavapoo and is the most placid yet playful of hounds. He is very much looking forward to being spoilt by the children and going for lunchtime walks. We have heard he particularly likes to curl up in a bean bag and enjoy a good story-especially the book Spot goes to School!



Rocket Ralph

Move over Sir Bradley Wiggins, there's a new kid in town. Meet Ralph who is a mad keen cyclist and a member of The Cleveland Wheelers. Not only has Ralph got balance and speed, he also has a big heart! Kind hearted Ralph has decided to use his cycling prowess to raise money for charity. Ralph is taking part in the British Red Cross Miles for

Refugees appeal- an organisation which helps support some of the most vulnerable people living in our country. Through Miles for refugees, every mile Ralph clocks up during September, he will help support refugee families. To date, he has cycled 108 miles and raised over £200. Well done Ralph-we are very proud of you!

We have made a few changes...

We knew as a school that we would need to make a few changes to our school environment to welcome our children back. Pope Francis said in the height of the pandemic that, "Every crisis contains both danger and opportunity: the opportunity to move out from the danger. We need to reconnect with our real surroundings. This is the opportunity for conversion."



A sacred space...the heart of our school

As we return to school after an usual time, we felt as though we needed to be in touch with the mindfulness of our children. They would need time to reflect and be still as well as running around which is why we developed some quite sacred spaces around school to allow reflection and be in open space. Part of our school grounds have become "The Chroi" which is Gaelic for "heart" and it seemed fitting as St. Patrick is our school patron to offer this place of solace and retreat so our children can be still and listen to their hearts and mind. Part of the Chroi is an outdoor chapel where class reflections and liturgies take place and there is a heart shaped grass mound and rocks where children can relax and enjoy nature and each other's company.



A surprise from Marcus Rashford

Marcus Rashford has become a household name now not just for his football. During lockdown Rashford teamed up with the poverty and food waste charity FareShare to ensure that over £20 million raised provided food for children at school continue to receive free school meals. And in June, Rashford wrote an open letter to the government calling on them to end child poverty in the United Kingdom. Our Year 5 children decide to write to Marcus to thank him for his campaign and work for social justice. It meant that many of our children received meals and vouchers throughout lockdown. It was with great excitement that we opened a parcel with a signed shirt from him.



St. Patrick's RC Primary School



Happy Days...

On return, we asked our children what they had missed about not being at school. Here are just some of their responses:



Learning our numbers



Ernie the tortoise



Painting



Playing games



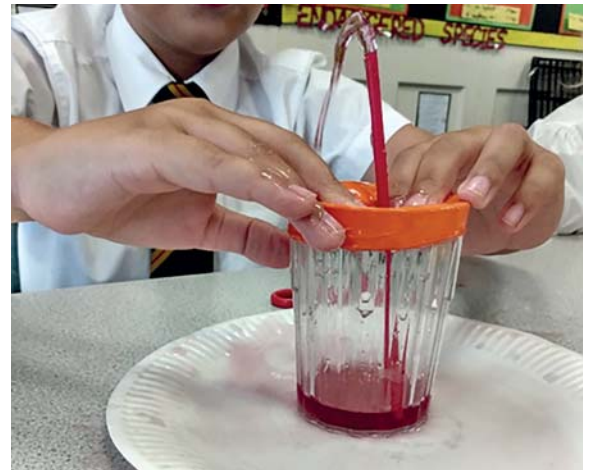
Picking fruit



Riding around



Making dens



Fun lessons



The sunshine



Pouring and measuring