



**St George's
R.C. Primary
School**
A Catholic
Voluntary
Academy



BELIEF · COURAGE · LOVE

23rd October 2020

Dearest parents and carers,

I am writing to wish you a very happy half term break.

We have had a very successful half term in school so far... the vast majority of our wonderful children have been extremely happy to be back and all of our amazing school team have continued to remain very positive.

From the beginning of term, we allocated one whole afternoon for mental health each week for every class. We knew the children would really benefit from learning about important strategies for looking after their mental health. Strategies that they could use at ANY time during their lives. These afternoons will continue next term (and beyond) and currently include: prayer, meditation, mindfulness, art therapy, listening to music and craft activities.

By week 3 of the term, I took inspiration from our outstanding teachers who had had a paradigm shift in thought. Their thinking was; instead of focusing on all of the things we can no longer do because of COVID restrictions, which things CAN we do and then make them super safe?

This was a better way of looking at things and meant that children went on city walks, baked gingerbread men, built a city of London from junk material, wrote pen pal letters to each other, made a film all about our school ~ as well as many other creative activities.

We spent a long time planning how we could all meet together as a whole school. This was something that was a high priority for everyone. We were feeling a disconnectedness from each other. You will have seen the photos on social media, but we managed to plan a whole school liturgy for St Francis of Assisi's Feast Day and we all met on the school field.

Some of our nursery and reception children were unaware that there were other children in school. The first thing we did was get each class to wave to all of the other children.

It was both poignant and beautiful to see the little one's faces as they saw the big boys and girls for the first time.

We are already looking forward to next half term when we have some more wonderful teaching and activities planned for the children.

Stay safe,
God bless,
Mrs Statham

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