



6th November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 9 Headteacher Update

As we begin the second week of half term two, I cannot believe that we have been back a week, last week seemed to absolutely fly by! I hope you managed to enjoy some fireworks yesterday with your families.

This Friday, we will join together as a school family to commemorate Remembrance Day. Remembrance Day honours those who serve to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life. We remember the sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, we pay tribute to the special contribution of families and of the emergency services and we acknowledge innocent civilians who have lost their lives in conflict and acts of terrorism. A representative from each Form in the school, along with our Faith Prefects will join together in the Prayer Garden for a short service of remembrance and to lay a wreath. We are hoping this will also be live streamed into every classroom in school. The whole school will join together for 2 minutes of silence during which two of our children will play the Last Post which will sound around school.

You may have seen coverage in the press around current concerns in relation to materials used to teach relationships, sex and health education (RSHE). As parents and carers, you are one of your child's most important teachers. I therefore want to remind you that we already share our materials with you, and that we use the Diocesan approved 'Life to the Full' programme of resources to support the delivery of our lessons. You can access further information about this on our website [here](#) where you can also access parental login details to view all materials.

Of all of the evils that Jesus confronted, one of the greatest was the evil of hypocrisy. He did not mince his words when it came to hypocrisy and his strongest language was directed at religious hypocrites who provoked his greatest anger. Ironically Jesus had very little trouble with sinners, but he had his greatest troubles with the religious leaders of his day, those same hypocritical leaders whose actions would ultimately lead to his death. As Christians, we too are easily charged with hypocrisy. The standards set for us are so high that none of us can live up to them unless we turn to God for help. The first thing we must do is to admit that there is a tremendous gap between what we are and what we ought to be. It is often said that there is only one significant difference between a saint and a sinner. The saint keeps on trying and humbly admits that God alone is holy and that we all fall far short of God's infinite holiness. The saint tries to walk the Christian walk and not simply talk the Christian talk. A saintly person would never demand things of others that they don't demand of themselves. This week let us all strive to be saints and walk the Christian walk.

I hope you have a fantastic week. If you need anything this week, please do not hesitate to get in touch headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher