

Newsletter September 2020

A warm welcome back to all our families and it has been an absolute delight to see everyone's smiling happy faces back at St Hilda's. The school feels alive again with the sound of laughter, chatter and fun. We have put lots of measures in place to ensure staff and children are as safe as they possibly can be whilst at school. I really want to thank parents for your cooperation regarding staggered timings and social distancing on the playground – you have done a fantastic job and we all appreciate your support with these new procedures.

Pearson National Teaching Awards



We are absolutely delighted that our Year 1 teacher, Miss Raggett, has been awarded a Silver Award in The National Teacher of the Year Awards. A huge thank you to our parents for nominating Miss Raggett and we are immensely proud of her achievements. She truly is a dedicated and caring teacher who is making a real difference to children's lives.

Quote from Pearson, "Beth Raggett, from St Hilda's CofE Primary School, is adored by her pupils, their families, and her fellow staff members for her passion, commitment and warmth towards them all. She inspires a love of learning in her pupils which leads to them excelling academically, while always feeling valued as individuals. She tailors her lessons to meet every pupil's needs, while ensuring that all can benefit."

Miss Raggett is now in the running for one of just 14 Gold Awards later in the year, in a programme which will be broadcast on the BBC. This is a great opportunity to celebrate the exceptional school staff who have worked wonders during an incredibly challenging time for educators across the country.

We wish Miss Raggett the best of luck in the next stage of the awards.

Planters

We have been awarded a grant for garden planters amounting to £1500. These will arrive soon and be used to grow our own herbs, salad and veg in school. A huge thank you to Vantage Academies for helping us secure this bid.



Investment in the School

St Hilda's has undergone substantial building work over the summer. Vantage Academy Trust has supported us in obtaining these bids worth nearly £1million to rewire and replace the heating for the entire building. We have had new ceilings throughout school and this has really modernised and brightened up the learning environment. The heating system will be completely replaced over the coming months, so we apologise for any mess and please bear with us whilst this work is undertaken.

A huge thank you to Mike Lovell, our site manager, who has worked tirelessly over the summer and helped to transform the building. We really could not have done it without him and I commend him for his dedication to the school and wanting to make the building the best that it can be for pupils and staff.

Technology - Classrooms now also have new interactive TVs to replace the whiteboards. All teacher laptops will be replaced. We will soon be receiving more technology for pupils and will inform you of this in due time. Vantage Trust has been a fantastic support for St Hilda's and we have seen so many positive changes since joining the academy.

School Ties

Year 6 were thrilled to receive their ties in the first week back. The uniform for Year 6s is a tie and a white shirt. This makes them really stand out and start to prepare for their journey into high school. Miss McCoy taught them how to do their ties. Please practise at home with your child.



Sports Provider

We are now using Dream Big Sports Provision to provide PE sessions across school. When after school clubs are able to operate, we will set these up. Thank you for your patience regarding this. Mr Shenton is our new sports coach and we welcome him to St Hilda's.



New staff

A warm welcome to Mrs Harris, our new office admin staff and we welcome back a previous teaching student, Mr James, who will be teaching our Year 5 pupils.

Mrs Thomas will be our new SENDco. Thank you to Mrs Simmons for all her hard work and commitment to our pupils. Mrs Thomas and Mrs Simmons will be working closely together as Mrs Thomas takes over this important role.

Professional Development and School Promotion

Thank you to pupils who participated in filming for Tiny Happy People (BBC). Miss McCoy spoke about measures we have put in place to keep the school safe and Mrs Singh did a fantastic job being filmed. These videos are on the website to support families at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z4v28hv>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z7ksxbk>

Miss McCoy has contributed to an article with the BBC supporting families starting school. Miss McCoy also filmed two pathways to teaching sessions which discuss pupil premium and resilience. These will be used as training materials with Discovery Education and National Association of Head Teachers union. We are proud to be supporting our community and future teachers on their career paths.



<https://vimeo.com/450088324/72067f0e06>

We are also continuing our work with Manchester Metropolitan University and provider training for student teachers.

The BBC also came to film pupils in Years 2 – 6 discussing friendship themes. Pupils partnered with a close friend in their bubble and discussed what makes a good friend. These videos will feature on the BBC live lessons website and we will share the link as soon as it is available.

Thank you to all those who participated, and we hope to continue supporting the BBC with future filming opportunities.





Office Closed

At present, the office is closed to visitors. Mrs Harris and Miss Dunning will be happy to assist you. If you require a meeting or a phone call with a member of staff, please call or email the office for this to be arranged. 0161 881 5466 sthoffice@vantageacademies.co.uk

Mental Health Wellbeing

Staff have received mental health and wellbeing training for themselves and pupils. We were ecstatic to welcome children back and our staff are working hard to ensure pupils settle into routines and friendships over the coming weeks. We will continue to send out our monthly mental health newsletter, signposting you to support within the community and strategies to promote good mental health and wellbeing. Miss McCoy will also be trained as a mental health first aider with Mental Health England to support staff and pupils.

Reading Newsletter and Home Learning

Families will receive a monthly Reading Newsletter which will inform you of the latest authors and recommended reads.

Classes have set up their blogs for 2020-2021. These will be used to share pupils' learning across school. There will be links for home learning websites and activities in the event of pupils being off school. The DfE Oak Academy website will still be running this year, which gives a range of online lessons covering the curriculum. BBC Bitesize is also recommended. <https://www.thenational.academy/>

Music Lessons

Key Stage 1 will begin learning the violin with Trafford Music Service. The children love to learn their instruments and will still be able to take them home to practise. We will host a virtual assembly in the coming term for Key Stage 1 to perform for their families.



Poem by Maali

