



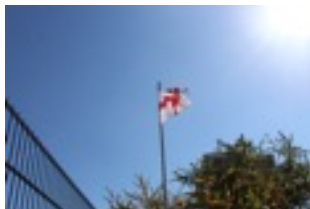
Dear parents: Shakespeare's birthday and St George's Day today and a beautiful warm Friday. We are slowly opening up and praying for the roadmap as laid out to be followed. On Monday I opened up both playgrounds and all children now can play happily together outside. Fresh air and sunlight kills the virus almost instantly. So as much outdoors as possible this Summer term and Lord the glorious weather helps. From Monday children may now bring in their own water bottles and they are responsible for them themselves. We will still provide water bottles for those who want them but from Monday away you go. Please encourage no sharing etc. I have done a calendar of **VERY PROVISIONAL** events for Summer attached with this and also on our website. For obvious reasons these are if all proceeds as planned. Infection rates in Hackney at present are really low. However, if you saw Newsnight last night the scenes from India and Delhi were truly horrifying. I have travelled all over India from Kashmir in the North to Amritsar in the West, Calcutta in the East and South down to Madras and loved the country. A country well used to suffering and so sad to see. Thoughts and prayers. Also prayers for Queen Elizabeth this week who celebrated her 95th birthday alone after the funeral of Prince Phillip R.I.P to a life well led. All classes had lessons on Shakespeare today and without a doubt the greatest writer that ever lived in any time or language IMHO. Wonder what he would have made of text speech. He probably would have invented hundreds of new words. Anyway read on and see what plans are ahead for Summer but remember they are aspirational and more to follow May 17th and June 21st all being well. Plus if you get the chance get vaccinated and encourage everyone to do the same. Take up in Hackney is OK but needs to be much better PHE told us yesterday. Lots of news and only a small mention of Super Leagues and my Nostradamus prediction

Easter School Camp April 6th to the 9th :

Easter Camp of art, sports and fun went so well. I was in every day and can honestly say the atmosphere was a joy to behold. Thank you for all the emails that came in to staff and also thanks to Hackney for providing so much healthy food free. All was used and I brought the last over to the church foodbank on Friday. Well done all staff

RIP: Branka beloved mother of Maxwell Rosemond ex-pupil taken so young aged 50. So loved and remembered by all in this community. A quite beautiful memorial service held on April 9th in our church. Condolences to her life partner Howard. May she rest in peace.

Attendance: Everyone is now back in the country but we have several families in quarantine. Attendance at 96% is good Hackney is 88%



Pics of the week: Y2 outdoor reading - Y4 daily mile, our magic pink and white cherry tree and St George's flag fluttering in the April breeze.

Admissions for Reception 2021 -2022

On Monday we were informed of our intake for 2021 and were shocked to find we have vacancies for September for the first time since 1854. True !! One year we had 180 + applications for 30 places. Now we cannot fill these. All schools in London the same with some in single figures. Why ?? Cost of living, declining Mass attendance, churches closed, Brexit affecting our demographic, lack of movement into the country, people moving to Essex, Kent and beyond, unable to show families around was a massive factor too this year. So I have a job for you all. If you know anyone who has a child born between September 1st 2016 and 31st of August 2017 i.e. aged 4 or 5 and thought they would not get in here then tell them we have some vacancies. All faiths and none welcome to an outstanding primary school in this community. But be quick and call the school we will do the rest. Task for the next few days for you all.

Shakespeare

Everyone has their own favourite play mine is the last one he ever wrote The Tempest. Not the famous:

"Now I will believe that there are unicorns" or

"O, brave new world that has such people in it" or

"This thing of darkness I acknowledge mine" or Caliban's beautiful : "Be not afraid; the isle is full of noises,

Sounds, and sweet airs, that give delight and hurt not." but Prospero's final speech that ends with:

"We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep." Amen

and finally ... When I heard about the European Super League last Sunday I predicted it would be dead in the water by Friday ...it was gone by Wednesday ... Matthew Syed wrote the best article this week about it in The Times I thought my West Ham had the worst owners but not any more we play Chelski tomorrow thanks to the PA for the generous donation for new books much appreciated more pics of our cherry tree next week it really is magic plus more details of what more we hope to do this Summer ... I'm dreaming about Summer Fairs and Sports Days and concerts Caliban in the Tempest: "When I waked, I cried to dream again" here's hoping been a long old year. Enjoy the weekend !