## DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY OUR LADY OF PITY ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

A VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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HEAD OF SCHOOL: MRS BERNADETTE GALLOWAY

Dear Parents and Carers.

What a fantastic response to the Race for Life! Every child richly deserved the medal they received and we raised a huge amount of money for this very worthy cause. Thinking of others is something that your children do without prompting. They know that whilst raising money is useful, the thing that really counts is making a personal sacrifice for the benefit of others. I know that seeing our children running around the field or through the streets brought hope and comfort to families in our local community.

As we approach half term, we reflect on how lovely it has been to have the children back in school. We are not out of the woods yet so please be patient for a while longer. Seeing schools in Bedford forced to close again, is a tough reminder of the need for us to be cautious and to watch the changing data very carefully. I know that the children are desperate to play freely and we are doing everything we can to support the patient return to normality. Meanwhile, we are making full use of the field and the outdoor areas. Special thanks to the PTA who have made The Secret Garden such a beautiful resource for the children. We now have gorgeous seating and it is so much easier for the teachers to use the area with the children. The frogs, I am sure, are delighted with the improvements. Now that work patterns are changing, it would be lovely to see greater numbers of parents joining the PTA - the work they do makes such a difference to the children so please don't hesitate to volunteer if you can.

Over the next few months you will notice improvements to the playgrounds. The top playground, behind the Key Stage 1 building, is being resurfaced and the sail shades in the middle playground are being replaced. Best of all, we have commissioned a new adventure play area for the KS2 playground! I am hopeful that all the work will be completed in time for the September term but as with all things in this pandemic, there are inevitable delays. Inside the school, similar improvement are taking place with new chairs and tables in the classrooms and refurbishments scheduled for the summer break. I am sure that the children will love the changes.

The school kitchen goes from strength to strength thanks to a wonderful team. Please take full advantage of the free meals for children in Key Stage 1 as this sets the habit for healthy eating. If your child is in Key Stage 2, the meals represent great value for money and the take-up is very high. If you do wish to send a packed lunch, please make sure that it doesn't contain sweets, chocolate or high levels of processed food. We make this request because it falls in line with our Healthy Schools status.

This week the Parent Advocate Group will be meeting with school leaders again. This group works in partnership with senior leaders to bring your views and help us to make improvements across the school. If you would like to join, please contact Mrs McShane.



Multi Academy





Thank you for your response to the Covid Catch-up classes. These will be running for the remainder of this year and into next year. Attendance has been very high and the children have responded well. We could not do this without the brilliant support you provide for your children.

Whilst this has been a difficult time for our community, there is no doubt that we are on an upward trend. The children are thriving and all of the 'extra' things that children love are gradually being reintroduced. New clubs are starting, sport is returning to full strength I am hopeful that trips, visitors and singing are around the corner. Where there are constraints, we are doing our best to compensate: the Djembe drumming sessions are hugely popular and extra art activities are providing a creative outlet for all.

Thank you once again for your support. Please do not hesitate to make contact if you have any concerns about your child or any aspect of school life.

Best wishes,

Mrs Galloway