Dear Parents/Guardian’s,

World Down Syndrome Day is celebrated on 21st March each year.

This year, Corpus Christi will use the Lots of Socks theme created by Down Syndrome International and celebrate World Down Syndrome day on 21st March.

On this day, we ask that your child wear socks of their choice to school. They can be bright, colourful, short or long, the choice is endless!

During the day, we will be discussing what makes us all unique as well as Down syndrome. We will talk about inclusion and how we can all help each other to feel included. Finally, we will be carrying out a creative writing or drawing piece and on what makes us unique and what Down syndrome is.

Please find below a brief definition of Down syndrome as a reference, should you want to discuss the day with your child.

*Down syndrome is a genetic condition – it is not an illness or disease. It occurs because of an extra chromosome. Our bodies are made up of millions of cells.*

*There are 23 pairs of chromosomes, or 46 chromosomes, in every cell. Down syndrome is caused by the occurrence of an extra chromosome, chromosome 21. (Down syndrome is known as Trisomy 21.)*

*People with Down syndrome then have 47 chromosomes in their cells instead of 46. This results in a range of physical characteristics, health and development indications and some level of intellectual disability.*

*Down syndrome is usually recognisable at birth and confirmed by a blood test. It was named after Dr John Langdon Down who first described it.*

*Although we know how Down syndrome happens, we don not yet know why it happens. Down syndrome occurs at conception, across all ethnic and social groups and to parents of all ages. It is nobody’s fault, there is no cure and it does not go away. People with Down syndrome may find doing some activities more challenging but, just like everyone else, people with Down syndrome will continue to learn, and are good at some things and not others.*

We look forward to celebrating World Down Syndrome Day together.

Kind regards,

Anthony Hyde and Victoria La Fauci.