



**Newsletter No 21**

Dear Parents and Friends

Friday 16 February 2018



On Wednesday we marked the beginning of Lent through the celebration of Mass and distribution of ashes. This year will be raising money for our own 'Mini Vinnies' in order to provide support to families in our local community and 'Mission Together', the Pope's official children's chosen charity for overseas mission, who this year is supporting a project to supply health and nutrition packs to families in Sri Lanka. Letters have already been sent out regarding the sponsored walk and morning/afternoon teas so I hope that you will support us in raising money for these two worthwhile charities. Thank you.



**Homework Guidance** (Please see attached)

Thank you again to those who attended our Parent Briefing and those who have communicated their views regarding our homework procedures. As we stated at the briefing we have examined the most recent research regarding homework which clearly states that short skills based focused tasks and work based on prior learning (not vast quantities), has the most impact in primary schools; this evidence is what we have used as a foundation for our homework procedures. Reading is an essential life skill and therefore is the focus for homework in the Early Years and a daily focus for all year groups as is a secure knowledge of multiplication tables.

We also agree with those parents who stated that quality family time is an essential part of home life and visits to interesting new places and museums are equally important and beneficial. Parents also asked for further guidance on how much support children should be given when completing tasks and how much time should be spent completing homework.

The revised homework guidance is attached; it includes the findings of current research and in response to parent request, the expectations for each year group and government guidelines on how much time children should spend on homework activities. We are also going to give suggestion of possible tasks as parents stated that sometimes too open ended a task could be stressful (for parent and/or child.) There are also suggestions to where other resources could be sought; obviously parents can provide additional tasks themselves if they feel it is appropriate.

Please make any further comments by **Thursday 1 March 2018**. Your participation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

**Staffing** - Please note that from this point, our Vice Principal will be known as Miss Crowley. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

*Finally, I hope you all enjoy the half term break. When we return we will begin the season of Lent; our journey towards Easter.*



**Mass:** Please note that there is no Mass on Thursday 1 March. There will be a Liturgy of The Word at 9.15am in school - everyone welcome.

**Letters emailed to parents this week:**

**Year 5:** Forest School

*Please contact office if you have not received copy.*



### **Inset Day**

Reminder **Monday 26 February** is an Inset Day; school will be closed to pupils. Children are back to school on Tuesday 27 February 8.50am. Thank you.



### **Lessons we have learnt from Police Workshops**

- What anti-social behaviour includes and what the consequences are
- What strangers are and how to protect ourselves from them
- How to be safe online-always report and block strangers, they are not your friends
- Our older children learnt about what it means to be groomed
- You can be given a police caution as soon as you turn 10 years old. This will stay on your Police record and can affect your job opportunities
- What to do if you feel unsafe
- How to stay safe when crossing the road

PCSO Ian and PCSO Duncan have done an amazing job teaching our children about how to be safe and protecting our children from danger. Our children have heard some hard facts and they have responded in a mature and sensible way. PCSO Ian and PCSO Duncan will be holding a parent workshop on 'On-Line Safety' and 'On-Line Exploitation.' Letters will be sent home giving further details. Thank you.



### **Year 1 Assembly**

Well done to all in Year 1 for their very informative assembly about Saint Valentine; I think we all learned something! It was lovely to see so many family members there to enjoy it.



**National  
Trust**

### **Year 6 Trip to Birmingham Back to Back Houses**

On **Tuesday 27 February** Year 6 is going on a trip to the Birmingham Back to Back Houses. The children are required to wear full school uniform and bring a packed lunch for this trip. Thank you.



### Swimming Lessons Year 2

From **Thursday 1 March**, Year 2 will go for a weekly swimming session at Castle Vale swimming baths. Swimming lessons are part of the school curriculum. Children are taught by a swimming instructor and supported by school staff. Each Thursday the children will need to bring their swimming costume, together with a towel. Girls please wear a full costume and for health and safety reasons, boys must wear trunks (not loose fitted shorts). Earrings are to be removed, so therefore please ensure that children do not wear earrings to school on swimming days. Thank you for your support.



### St David's Day

On **Thursday 1 March** we celebrate St David's Day by asking the children to wear full school uniform with a daffodil and donating £1 towards our Lenten charities if they wish. Thank you for your support.



## WORLD BOOK DAY

### World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on **Friday 2 March 2018**. Children can come to school dressed as their favourite character from a book.



### Bedtime Stories Thursday 1 March

Flyers were sent home with children giving details for this lovely event. Please return completed forms and payment no later than **today**. If you require a copy please contact the school office. Thank you.



### Book Token

There will be a representative from Usborne Books at the Bedtime Stories event. The children will all be given a £1 Book Token; they can use this token on the evening if they wish to purchase a book. Thank you.



### Year 5 - Visit to The Oaks

On **Friday 2 March** our Year 5 class will be visiting The Oaks Residential Home. This is to celebrate World Book Day. Children in Year 5 are asked to bring their favourite book to school; this needs to be a book that they would like to share with the residents at The Oaks. Thank you.



### Lenten Fundraising Morning/Afternoon Tea

On Tuesday 6 March we are holding two Lenten fundraising events where your child can invite one person to join them for morning or afternoon tea. **EYFS/Key Stage 1 Children** You are invited to join us for Morning Tea, **9.00am - 9.45am**. **Key Stage 2 Children** you are invited to join us for Afternoon Tea, **2.30pm-3.15pm**. A letter was sent home with all children giving further details. If you require a copy please contact the school office, please return form no later than **Wednesday 28 February**. **Please note no late orders can be accepted after this date.**



### Dinner Money

The deadline for the payment of **£49.45 is Wednesday 7 March**. Please make payment using Parent Pay. If you have credit showing on your dinner account please deduct this from £49.45 and pay remaining balance. Any queries please contact the school office. Thank you.



### Mothers' Day Lunches - Wednesday 7 March and Tuesday 13 March

We will be holding our first Mothers' Day Lunch on Wednesday 7 March. Mothers, grandmothers, aunties or a female family friend need to arrive at **11.45am** and will enter through Key Stage 1 gate. We are really excited and looking forward to visitors coming to our school and enjoying a meal with the children and we know the children are just as excited. Thank you for your support; we hope to see many of you on these days.



### Year 5 Forest School

Next half term Year 5 will be taking part in weekly 'forest school' activities every Friday afternoon; starting **Friday 9 March**, Children must be appropriately dressed for all weather conditions. Please send your child to school in normal school uniform. They are required to bring in a pair of wellington boots, old outdoor clothing, a warm waterproof coat, scarf and gloves in a separate bag. A letter has been emailed home giving more details; if you require a copy please contact the school office. Thank you.



### Confirmation Photographs

Confirmation photographs have been sent home with Year 6 children. Please return to the school office no later than **Monday 19 March**.



### Lenten Fundraising - Whole School Sponsored Walk



As part of our fundraising programme during Lent the whole school will be completing a 5k sponsored walk around New Hall Valley (EYFS children will complete a shorter walk). This will take place on **Tuesday 20 March**. Our aim is to raise as much money as possible for our worthwhile charities and we would be very grateful if you could please encourage your child/children to ask for as many sponsors as possible. Please send all collected money into school no later than **Wednesday 28 March**. Many thanks for your generosity and support during our Lenten fundraising. A letter and sponsor form has been sent home with children on Tuesday, if you require a copy please contact the school office. Thank you.



### Good Shepherd Appeal

Good Shepherd Appeal boxes have been sent home with children today. Since the early years of the twentieth century, children in the Archdiocese have helped raise funds for Father Hudson's Care during Lent. Children use the boxes to save money they would normally spend on sweets and treats, thereby practising abstinence and almsgiving. Please help to make a difference by raising funds for children, families and adults in need. Please contact the school office if you require another box. Thank you for your support. Please return boxes no later than **Tuesday 17 April**. Thank you.



**Attendance - Our school strives for 100% attendance.**

Government legislation states that a child with an attendance of 90% and below is categorised as a "Persistent Absence Pupil". An attendance figure of 90% equates to missing half a day every week that means four weeks of missed school work across the whole year.

*Parents should also be aware that referrals to the school nurse will be considered for those children with an attendance rate of below 95% due to health related absences.*

**This week the Attendance Award was won by: Year 5 with 100% Well done!**



**The Punctuality Award for the week: Year 1, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5!**

### Recommendations



**Recommendations: EYFS:** Freddie F, Cora L **Year 1:** Tresa B, Jessie F **Year 2:** Tommy M, Ellen T  
**Year 3:** Connor McC, Helose C **Year 4:** Sian J, Mollie-Mae H **Year 5:** Malaika W, Isabel W  
**Year 6:** Charlie S, Lilliemae G.



**Class of the Week:** Year 3.

**Lunchtime Award:** Thomas S (Y5)





## Virtues and Values

This half term we are concentrating on being '**Curious and Active**'. As a school community we are looking for opportunities in our own lives where we show the virtues. Please discuss this with your children at home; highlighting times when you experience or show these virtues. This will also be the focus for our 'Angel of the Week' awards for this half term.



## Angel of the Week

Each week we will be recognising those children who we feel have made that extra special effort and show the virtues in their daily life.

This week's winners are: **Miss Stewart:** Emileen W **Miss Stevens:** Molly F **Mr Hunt:** Nathaniel C  
**Mr Mayor:** Myles O'D **Miss Lovelock/Miss Crowley:** Ryan K **Mr Rowlands:** Thomas S **Miss Cross:** Niamh S.



**Happy Birthday to the following children who have celebrated their birthdays this week and during half term:**

Sophia J (Y2), Flynn B, Eden H (Y3), Fraser C, Orlaith F (Y4), Stephene A (Y6).

Dates for Diary - February 2018		
Monday 26 February	All day	Inset day-school closed to children
Tuesday 27 February	8.50am	Return to school
Tuesday 27 February	All day	Year 6 Trip to Birmingham Back to Back Houses
Dates for Diary - March 2018		
Thursday 1 March	9.00am	Thanksgiving Mass at Church
Thursday 1 March	All day	St David's Day-wear daffodils wear full school uniform
Thursday 1 March	5.45pm-7.00pm	PTA Bedtime story
Friday 2 March	All day	World Book Day-child to dress up as a book character
<b>Friday 2 March</b>	<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>Year 5 Visiting The Oaks Residential Home</b>
Monday 5 March	12.00pm-1.00pm	HSBC in school
Tuesday 6 March	Tbc	First Confessions in Church
<b>Tuesday 6 March</b>	<b>9.00am-9.45am</b>	<b>Lenten Fundraising Tea EYFS/KS1</b>
<b>Tuesday 6 March</b>	<b>2.30pm-3.15pm</b>	<b>Lenten Fundraising Tea KS2</b>
Wednesday 7 March	11.45am-1.00pm	Mothers' Day lunch children with surname (A-K)
Thursday 8 March	Tbc	First Confessions in Church
<b>Friday 9 March</b>	<b>1.00pm</b>	<b>Year 5 Forest School</b>
Tuesday 13 March	11.45am-1.00pm	Mothers' Day lunch children with surname (L-Z)
Monday 19 March	12.00pm-1.00pm	HSBC in school
<b>Tuesday 20 March</b>		<b>Lenten fundraising whole school sponsored walk</b>
Wednesday 21 March	3.30pm-7.00pm	Parents' Consultation Evening
Thursday 22 March	3.30pm-6.00pm	Parents' Consultation Evening

Friday 23 March	6.45pm-9.00pm	PTA Family Bingo
Saturday 24 March	6.00pm-9.00pm	Catholic Schools Swimming Gala
Monday 26 March	Refreshments at 9.00am starts at 9.15am	Stations of the Cross Service-parents invited
Wednesday 28 March	9.15am	KS2 Passion Play-parents invited
Thursday 29 March	9.15am	Maundy Prayer Service-parents invited
Thursday 29 March	3.20pm	Break up for Easter
<b>Dates for Diary - April 2018</b>		
Monday 16 April	8.50am	Return to school
Wednesday 18 April	All day	NSPCC workshops

**\*Other dates available on website**

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

***T Cotter***

Miss T Cotter  
Principal

Dear Father,  
We want to follow the example that Jesus set.  
We want to give up our selfish ways and give our lives in love and service to others.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



**ST. JOHN PAUL II**  
Multi-Academy Company  
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