

Newsletter No 21

Dear Parents and Friends

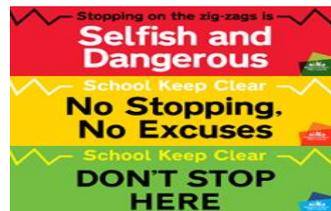
Friday 17 February 2017



It has been a very busy and productive week with the school successfully renewing the Quality Mark 2 Award. The assessor was very impressed by the learning he saw in the classes and by the confident conversations he had with our children. Thank you to the children, parents and Academy Committee Representatives for their support in achieving this award.



As you might have seen on Twitter, we also were very proud to receive a letter from the Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP who wrote to congratulate us on our very high attainment achieved in Maths in 2016 Key Stage Two assessments. Our result of 100% of children reaching or exceeding the expected standard put the school in the top 2% of schools in the country for attainment in Maths. This is a testimony to the hard work of the children and the dedication of all the staff who work in the school. (See attached)



Thank you to the PTA for purchasing the new banner displayed outside school regarding safe parking. Unfortunately, as I stood at the gate this week, with Laburnum Drive gridlocked both ways, I fear that people are still not showing appropriate consideration for the health and safety of children. Again, I urge all parents to park with consideration and care. Thank you.

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

'The Right Click: Internet Safety Matters' workshop - Tuesday 7 March 3.30pm



This workshop is for parents and children who are in **Year 5 and Year 6**. The workshop has been jointly developed by Unicef UK and BT to help keep children safe online, while encouraging them to become confident digital citizens. The workshop will offer you the opportunity to explore what your child likes doing online and what their concerns are, as well as providing advice on different safety features and how to set them.

A letter has been sent home with children in Year 5 and Year 6 but currently we only have nineteen parents attending. **I cannot stress enough how important this issue is in a climate of ever changing technologies. We urge you to attend or ask a representative for your child to come along.** If you are able to attend, please complete and return reply slip no later than **Monday 27 February 2017**. If you require a copy of the letter please contact the school office. Thank you.



Mass - This will be held on **Wednesday 1 March** - (Ash Wednesday) in **Church** at 9.15am - all welcome. We would also appreciate if any adults could walk back to school with us after Mass. If you are able to accompany us on the journey back to school, please inform your child's class teacher.

Letters emailed to parents this week:

KS2: Gaelic After School Club

Please contact office if you have not received copy.



Year 5 Assembly

Well done to all in Year 5 for their very informative assembly about the Stone Age. It was lovely to see so many family members there to enjoy it.

Birmingham
Back to Backs

Year 6 Trip to Birmingham Back to Back Houses

On Wednesday Year 6 visited the Birmingham Back to Back houses as part of their WW2 topic. The day comprised of a private guided tour around the three Back to Back houses, examining historical artefacts and experiencing what life would have been like during the war. Luckily, the children were able to explore an underground air raid shelter, experiencing the true reality of an air raid siren- scary times! It was a wonderful morning; children and adults alike had the great privilege of experiencing the true reality of life during WW2. Well done to all of Year 6 who represented the school so well; their behaviour and manners were impeccable throughout the entire trip. Also, a big thank you to our parent helpers for their help and support.



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 28 February**. 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 **Friday 3 March**. Many thanks for your generosity and support during our Lenten fundraising. A letter and sponsor form was sent home with children on Tuesday, if you require a copy please contact the school office. Thank you.



Irish Dancing- After School Club

Letters have been sent home with children in years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 giving further information regarding this club. The deadline for payment is **Tuesday 28 February**. Please contact the school office if you require a copy. There are limited places available. Thank you.

WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 2 March 2017**. Children can come to school dressed as their favourite character from a book.



Bedtime Stories Thursday 3 March

Flyers have been sent home today with children (please check school bags) giving details for this lovely event. Please return completed form and payment no later than **Tuesday 28 February**. If you require a copy please contact the school office. Thank you.

SUTTON PARK

Year 4 Trip to Sutton Park

On **Monday 6 March** Year 4 are going on a trip to Sutton Park. This is in relation to their topic of 'The History of Sutton Coldfield'. A voluntary donation of **£3.00** is now required to cover the cost of transport and insurance. Please login to your Parent Pay account and select this trip; deadline for payment is **Thursday 2 March**. A letter has been emailed to parents if you require a copy please contact the school office. Thank you.



Swimming Lessons Year 2

From **Thursday 2 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.

Dinner Money

The deadline for the payment of **£64.50 is Friday 3 March**. Please make payment using Parent Pay. If you have credit showing on your dinner account please deduct this from £64.50 and pay remaining balance. Any queries please contact the school office. Thank you.



Football Match

The football team have a match vs Minworth (away) on **Friday 3 March**. Please try and come along and support.



Confirmation Photographs

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



St David's Day

As St David's Day falls on Ash Wednesday, we will now celebrate this special day on **Thursday 9 March**. We ask the children to wear full school uniform with a daffodil and for a donation of £1 towards our Lenten charities if they wish. Thank you for your support.



Mothers' Day Lunches - Wednesday 15 March and Tuesday 21 March

These lunch days will be held on Wednesday 15 March (children with surname A-K) and Tuesday 21 March (children with surname L-Z). 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 that they are just as excited. A letter has been sent home with children. Please contact the school office if you need another copy.

*Please note that the deadline for payment is **Monday 6 March**. We do not want anyone to miss out but as food needs to be ordered in advance, no late orders can be accepted after this date.* Thank you for your support; we hope to see many of you at these days.



Good Shepherd Appeal

Good Shepherd Appeal boxes will be sent home with all children when we return to school after half term. 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 **Wednesday 26 April**. Thank you.



Children in Need 2016

Thank you to all who got 'Spotty' last November. We managed to raise an amazing £235.64!



School Matters!



Attendance - Our school strives for 100% attendance.

Did you know...? 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 2 with 98.47% Well done!
The Punctuality Award for the week: Year 1, Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6.



Recommendations: EYFS: Eliza H, Molly F **Year 1:** Iris A, Harry W **Year 2:** Calum McC, Frankie J
Year 3: Ella W, Mia B **Year 4:** James D, Thomas S, Cillian K (Y3) **Year 5:** Uday P, Eva P **Year 6:** Clark T,
 Thomas T.

Lunchtime Award: Jack McI (Y6).

Class of the week: Year 6.



Virtues and Values

As you know the Archdiocese of Birmingham has introduced a focus on Gospel Virtues and Values. This half term we are concentrating on being '**Grateful and Generous**'. 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:** Jacob H **Miss Stevens:** Daniel B, Daniel W **Mr Mayor:** Orlaith F
Miss Lovelock and Miss Crowley: Imogen A **Mr Rowlands:** Jack H **Miss Cross:** Millie McC, Alex H, Ricky M.



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

Sophia J (Y1), Eden H (Y2), Orlaith F, Christie W (Y3), Stephene A (Y4), Iona T (Y6).

Dates for your diary - February 2017		
Monday 27 February	8.50am	Return to school
Monday 27 February	All week	Book week
Tuesday 28 February	2.00pm-3.00pm	Whole school sponsored walk - Lenten fundraising event
Dates for your Diary - March 2017		
Wednesday 1 March	9.15am	Ash Wednesday - Mass in Church - all welcome
Thursday 2 March	1.15pm	Year 2 will start swimming lessons
Thursday 2 March	All day	Book day children to dress as their favourite book character
Thursday 2 March	5.45pm-7.00pm	PTA Bedtime story night
Friday 3 March	3.30pm	Football match vs Minworth (away)
Monday 6 March	All Day	Year 4 Trip to Sutton Park
Tuesday 7 March	3.30pm-4.30pm	Yr 5 & Yr 6 'The Right Click; Internet Safety Matters'
Wednesday 8 March	7.30pm-8.30pm	PTA Meeting
Thursday 9 March (NB change of date)	All day	St David's Day full school uniform - wear a daffodil
Friday 10 March	3.30pm-4.30pm	EYFS/KS1 Art exhibition in school hall - Lenten fundraising event
Tuesday 14 March	3.00pm-4.00pm	First Confession for Year 3
Wednesday 15 March	11.45am	Mothers' Day Lunch children with surname A-K
Thursday 16 March	3.00pm-4.00pm	First Confession for Year 3
Friday 17 March	All Day	Non-school uniform day St Patricks-wear green

Friday 17 March	3.30pm-4.30pm	Football Match vs Mere Green JI School (home)
Friday 17 March	3.30pm-4.30pm	KS2 Art exhibition in school hall - Lenten fundraising event
Tuesday 21 March	11.45am	Mothers' Day Lunch children with surname L-Z
Wednesday 22 March	Lunch time	EYFS/KS1 to sell lunchtime craft/ healthy food sale - Lenten fundraising event
Thursday 23 March	Lunch time	KS2 to sell lunchtime craft/ healthy food sale - Lenten fundraising event
Friday 24 March	3.30pm	Football match vs St Nicholas Catholic Primary (away)
Tuesday 28 March	9.00am-9.45pm	EYFS/KS1 Morning tea - Lenten fundraising event
Tuesday 28 March	2.15pm-3.00pm	KS2 Afternoon tea - Lenten fundraising event
Wednesday 29 March	3.30pm-7.00pm	Parents' evening
Thursday 30 March	3.30pm-6.00pm	Parents' evening
Friday 31 March	6.45pm-9.00pm	PTA Family Bingo night
Dates for your diary - April 2017		
Tuesday 4 April	9.00am refreshments 9.15am start	KS2 Easter Production - all welcome
Wednesday 5 April	3.30pm	Football match vs Newhall Primary School (away)
Thursday 6 April	3.30pm-4.15pm	Outdoor workout in the style of Joe Wicks led by Mr Rowlands & Miss Cross - Lenten fundraising event
Friday 7 April		No music lessons
Dates for your diary - May 2017		
Friday 19 May	tbc	Fun Time Friday - more details to follow

****Other dates available on website***

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy half term.

Yours sincerely

T Cotter

Miss T Cotter
Principal

One of my favourite quotes from St Teresa of Calcutta:



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T: 0121 351 3215 enquiry@bishopwalsh.net Company No. 08706247

