

Newsletter No 20

Dear Parents and Friends

Friday 12 February 2016

eSafety

The children explored the importance of a safe internet on Tuesday by completing a variety of activities in class. Thank you to the small group of parents who attended the Parent workshop on Monday evening. One parent quoted "It was a real eye-opener as to how the children can become so exposed without realising- both them and their parents" In light of Safer Internet Day information on the school website has been updated. If you go the Parents information section and then click on 'Safeguarding and eSafety' tab you will see a range of resources available and a powerful video to show you the reality of being online. As we consider this a matter of great importance in regard to safeguarding children, we will be running another session for both the parents and children in Years 5 & 6 after half term (date tbc). We will run the session straight after school to hopefully enable a high attendance rate, I do ask parents to make every effort to attend. All the parents who attended on Monday said that they found the session extremely informative and useful.

We are now on Twitter - so please follow us and see what we are getting up to!

Thank you to all the children and staff for their hard work this half term - they deserve a relaxing break!



Inset Day

School will be closed on **Monday 22 February**. School will reopen as usual on Tuesday 23 February.

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



Thanksgiving Mass: Year 6 will lead our Thanksgiving Mass on Thursday 25 February. Our Year 6 children will be receiving their Confirmation certificates. Everyone is welcome.



Lenten Charities

During Lent our children will be raising money for children in Rwanda and the Society of St Vincent de Paul in our own parish. Please remember to send your child in to school with a small amount of money so that they support their friends' activities.

Please see the dates below for the Lenten activities:

Monday 22 February - Year 6, Monday 29 February - Year 5, Monday 3 March - Year 4, Monday 14 March - Year 3 and Year 2, and Monday 21 March - Year 1 and Early Years.

After half term, it is Year 6's turn; they will be organising a number of activities; including: joke competition, sweet treats (cakes), healthy treats, guess the celebrity game, selling spring cupcakes, drawing competition, penalty shootout and guess the name of the teddy.

Your child can buy these during morning and afternoon playtime. Thank you for your support.

ParentPay



Parents are requested to make all payments via ParentPay. This is a secure payment method and is a safer system than children bringing money/cheques into school. **Please note there is no charge to parents for using this service.** Thank you for your co-operation.

Letters have been sent home to parents that have not activated accounts giving passwords. Please contact the school office if you have not received a copy. Thank you for your support.

Disability Awareness Workshop - Tuesday 23 February



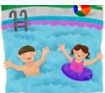
We have arranged for Mr John McCorkell to visit the school on Tuesday 23 February 2016.

Mr McCorkell will spend a day in school. As part of the day, he will lead a whole school assembly in which he will explain to the children about the nature of his disabilities, the problems he has faced and the successes he has achieved in overcoming them.



Thinking Day - Tuesday 23 February

Girlguiding and Scouting have a special day on Monday 22 February called 'Thinking Day' or 'Founder's Day.' On that day all members of Guiding and Scouting celebrate to remember their founders and pioneers. As we have an Inset Day on Monday 22 February our children will celebrate this day on **Tuesday 23 February**. If your child is a member of Rainbows, Brownies, Girl Guides, Beavers, Cubs or Scouts they can wear their uniforms to school that day to show how proud they are and what they stand for. Thank you for your support.



Swimming Lessons Year 2

From **Thursday 25 February**, 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). Thank you for your support.



Mothers' Day Lunches - Wednesday 2 March and Tuesday 8 March

These lunch days will be held on Wednesday 2 March (children with surname A-K) and Tuesday 8 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 the children are just as excited. Thank you for your support; we hope to see many of you at these days.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 3 March 2016**. Children can come to school dressed as their favourite character from a book.



Bedtime Stories Thursday 3 March

To celebrate World Book Day members of our staff will be reading their favourite stories in two sessions between 5.45pm - 7.00pm. Children are invited to return to school in their pyjamas and with their favourite teddy if they wish. The cost is £1.50 per child. Accompanying adults can relax in our school hall where refreshments will also be provided. This should be a lovely event. You will receive a flyer after half term giving you further information. Flyers have been sent home with children giving details for this lovely event. Please return completed form and payment no later than **Friday 26 February**. Thank you.



Confirmation Photographs

Confirmation photographs have been sent home with Year 6 children today. Please return to the school office no later than **Friday 26 February**.



School Nurse - EYFS

The school nurse will be coming into school on **Wednesday 2 March** to carry out height and weight checks for our Early Years children. Letters and questionnaires have been sent home with parents' this week. Please complete and return the questionnaire in the envelope provided to the school office no later than **Monday 29 February**. Thank you for your support.

Dinner Money

The deadline for the payment of **£48.30 is Thursday 3 March 2016**. Please make payment using Parent Pay. Thank you for your support.



Circus Workshop - Year 1

We are arranging to hold a 'Circus Skills Workshop' for our Year 1 children in school on **Monday 14 March** to perform juggling, spinning plates, diablos and many more amazing skills. Children are required to come to school dress as clowns. A letter has been sent home to parents giving further information if you require a copy please contact the school office.



Forest School

Year 4 Forest School

Next half term Year 4 will be taking part in weekly 'Forest School' every Friday afternoon. A letter has been sent home with all Year 4 children please contact the office if you require a copy. Thank you for your support.

Class Four



Good Shepherd Appeal

Good Shepherd Appeal boxes were sent home with all children this week. 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.



Holy Cross Blog

Important message to parents; if your child is entering anything on our 'Blog' please ensure that they only put their first name and initial of surname. Thank you for your support.



Extra Curriculum After School Clubs

Polite reminder to all parents, after school clubs finish at 4.20pm. Please be prompt when collecting your children, thank you.



Attendance

Our school strives for 100% attendance.

Did you know...? Under new Government legislation, 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.

This week the Attendance Award was won by Year 2 and Year 3 with 99.26%!

The Punctuality Award for the week: Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 5 and Year 6.

Recommendations: EYFS: Christopher K, Reuben R, Alex S **Year 1:** Heloise C, Lucy L **Year 2:** Darren A **Year 3:** Erin L-F, Charlotte L **Year 4:** Eva P, Madeline L **Year 5:** Jake W, Jake W, Chris S **Year 6:** Sadie McK, Whole class.

Lunchtime Award: Finbarr McG (Y2).

Class of the Week: Year 1.



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 showing 'Compassion' and 'Love'. 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 half term we are try to be attentive and discerning.

This week's winners are: **EYFS:** Year 1: Liam O'T Year 2: Jake M-B, Alicia I Year 3: Nathan G, Leilagh K Year 4: Jack R, Uday P Year 5: Chris S. Year 6: George L-F, Ellie-Jo L.



Happy Birthday to the following children who have not only celebrated their birthdays this week but will be celebrating during half term:

Flynn B, Eden H (Y1), Joshua W, Fraser C (Y2), Iona T (Y5), Aiden G-W (Y6).

Dates for your diary - February 2016		
Monday 22 February	All Day	INSET Day
Tuesday 23 February	All day	Disability Workshop in school for whole school
Tuesday 23 February	All day	Scouts and Guides Thinking Day
Thursday 25 February	1.30pm	Year 2 start swimming lessons every Thursday afternoon
Friday 26 February	3.30pm	Football Match away vs St Nicholas Catholic Primary Sch
Saturday 27 February	6.30pm	Catholic Sutton Schools swimming gala
Monday 29 February		Book Week
Dates for your diary - March 2016		
Wednesday 2 March	11.45am	Mothers' Day Lunch (surnames A-K)
Wednesday 2 March	afternoon	Nishkam School visiting our school
Thursday 3 March	5.45pm - 7.00pm	PTA Bedtime Story
Thursday 3 March	All Day	Children to dress as their favourite character from a book
Friday 4 March	3.20pm	Football Match away vs Newhall Primary School
Monday 7 March	am	HSCB Bank in School
Tuesday 8 March	9.15am	Year 1 Assembly
Tuesday 8 March	11.45am	Mothers' Day Lunch (surnames L-Z)
Friday 11 March	3.20pm	Football Match home vs Mere Green Primary School
Monday 14 March	All day	Year 1 Clown Workshop - children to dress up as clowns
Tuesday 15 March	Time tbc	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Y3)
Thursday 17 March	Time tbc	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Y3)
Friday 18 March	8.50am	KS1 Easter Bonnet Parade KS2 Decorate an Egg
Friday 18 March	7.00pm - 9.00pm	PTA Bingo Night
Monday 21 March	2.00pm	KS2 Easter Production Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 22 March	9.15am	KS2 Easter Production - All welcome
Tuesday 22 March	3.30pm - 7.00pm	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 23 March	10.00am	Stations of the Cross - All welcome
Wednesday 23 March	3.30pm - 6.00pm	Parents' Evening
Thursday 24 March	9.15am	Prayer Service - All welcome
Thursday 24 March	3.20pm	School breaks up for Easter
Dates for your diary - April 2016		
Monday 11 April	8.50am	Back to School
Wednesday 13 April	am	Academy Photographers in school class, group photos

Wednesday 13 April	7.30pm	PTA Meeting
Thursday 14 April		Edgbaston Cricket for Year 4 and Year 5
Thursday 28 April	8.50am	Bags 2 School
Thursday 28 April		PTA Disco (tbc)
Dates for your diary - May 2016		
Monday 2 May	All Day	Bank Holiday school closed
Thursday 5 May	All Day	School closed Elections
Monday 9 May - Thursday 12 May		KS2 Sats week
Friday 13 May	7.30pm	PTA Fun Time Friday (Adults Only)
Thursday 26 May	3.20pm - 4.30pm	PTA Disco
Friday 27 May	All Day	Inset Day

**Other dates available on website*

Have a lovely week.

Yours sincerely

T Cotter

Miss T Cotter
Principal

One of my favourite quotes from Blessed Mother Teresa:



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