

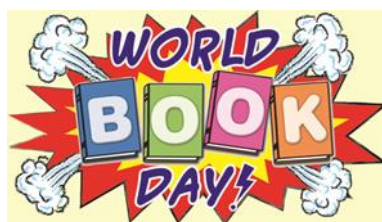
Newsletter No 23

Dear Parents and Friends

Friday 8 March 2019



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. This year the charity is supporting a project to supply books, stationary, a school bag and a snack for refugee children who have fled their homes, after being traumatised from witnessing years of conflict and settled in Marka; a very poor suburb of Jordan. (Respecting Children's Right to an Education, article 28). Letters have already been sent out regarding the sponsored walk. I hope that you will support us in raising money for these two worthwhile charities. Thank you.



World Book Day

We had a fantastic day yesterday celebrating World Book Day. Thank you for making such an effort with the children's costumes of favourite book characters; they looked amazing (as did the staff!)



Bedtime Stories

Last night was a very successful event, with the children having a lovely time listening to stories and enjoying their hot chocolate! Thank you to the PTA members for organising this and the staff who gave their time to read the stories. We will inform you how much money was raised at a later date.



Mass: Year 5 will lead our Mass in School on **Thursday 14 January**. Everyone is welcome.

Letters emailed to parents this week:

Whole School: Sponsored Walk

Year 5: Alton Castle Information

Please contact office if you have not received copy.





End of School Day

As a school, we are committed to always keeping children safe. As part of this, children will **only** be dismissed at the end of the day to adults who are on the child's contact list. If arrangements change and additional adults are going to collect children, they will only be allowed to do so if their contact details have been submitted in writing to the school office. If your child is going home with another adult as a one off; please send a letter into the class teacher. Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter.



Good Shepherd Appeal

Good Shepherd Appeal boxes have been sent home with children. 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 **Friday 3 May**. Thank you.



Mini Vinnies - Toiletries Tuesday (Tuesday 26 March)

In order to support our local community and in particular Erdington Food Bank, who support local families in our area, Mini Vinnies is organising a 'Toiletries Tuesday' event. As previously, they are asking for donations of toiletries, especially toothpaste, soap, shampoo and toilet rolls. Any donations should be brought into school on Tuesday 26 March and we will then ensure they reach families in need. Thank you for your support



HSBC

A member of the HSBC Bank will visit our school on **Monday 11 March**. We try to encourage our KS2 children to open and be responsible for their own bank account and manage their money.



Year 5 visit to Singers Hill Synagogue

Arrangements have now been made to take the children in Year 5 on a visit to Singers Hill Synagogue on **Monday 25 March**. A voluntary donation of £7.00 is now required to cover the cost of transport and insurance. Payment for this trip is via Parent Pay; please pay no later than **Monday 11 March**. A letter has been sent home to all Year 5 parents; if you require a copy please contact the school office. Thank you.



Year 3 - Sacrament of First Confession

Our first group of children received this Sacrament on Tuesday and it was a very reverent occasion. Thanks you to all parents who were able to attend and share the experience with their children.

The second group of Year 3 will be making their first Confessions on **Tuesday 12 March 2019** at Holy Cross and Saint Francis Church at **10.15am**. You are warmly invited to join your child for this important occasion. If you wish to attend please meet Miss Stevens and the children at Holy Cross Church at 10.00am. First Confessions will be preceded by a brief Liturgy of the Word. Once your child has made their First Confession and penance, you are more than welcome to leave the Church. A letter has been sent home with children; please contact the school office if you require a copy. Thank you.



Netball Match

On **Thursday 14 March** our netball team have two matches at 4.20pm, held at Sutton College. These matches are against Maney Hill School and The Shrubbery School. Please go along to support our team. Thank you.



Football Match

Tonight we are playing Penns Primary School at home. Good luck Holy Cross!

On **Friday 15 March** we have a football match at home vs Little Aston Primary School. Please come along to support our team. Thank you.



St Patrick's Day - Non-School Uniform Day - Monday 18 March

We wore our daffodils with pride on St David's day last week and on **Monday 18 March** we will celebrate St Patrick's Day by the children wearing green and donating £1 towards our Lenten charities if they wish. Also, children can bring in their Irish dancing costumes and music if they want to perform to the rest of the school in assembly!



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 **Monday 1 April at 11.00am**. 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 10 April**. Many thanks for your generosity and support during our Lenten fundraising. A letter and sponsor form has been sent home with children, if you require a copy please contact the school office. ***If you would like to volunteer to walk with us please give your details to the school office. 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 4 with 99.7% Well done!



The Punctuality Award for the week: EYFS, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5.



Recommendations:

EYFS: Kaya G (Y2), Julia G, Noah F **Year 1:** Isabella M-S, Nylah B **Year 2:** Bethany McK, Michael B
Year 3: Niall O'D, Jack B, Ella B **Year 4:** Calum McC, Daniel S **Year 5:** Eliza S, Orlaith F
Year 6: Ethan L, Maria L **Mrs Hope:** Daniel S (Y4).



Virtues and Values

This half term we are concentrating on being 'Learned and Wise'. 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: **Mr Hunt:** Mason C **Mr Rowlands:** George B **Miss Stewart:** Daniel K
Miss Stevens: Ellie M-B **Miss Lovelock:** Niamh C **Mr Mayor:** Darren A **Miss Cross:** Frank W.
Mrs Hope: Marco S (EYFS).



Happy Birthday to the following children who have celebrated their birthdays this week:

Olga P (EYFS), Nancy W, Sofia H (Y1), Chase B (Y2).

Dates for Diary - March 2019		
Monday 11 March	1.00pm	HSBC in school
Tuesday 12 March	10.00am	Year 3 First Confession
Thursday 14 March	4.30pm-6.00pm	Netball matches (Sutton College) vs Shrubbery and Maney Hill School
Friday 15 March	3.20pm	Football match (Home) vs Little Aston School
Saturday 16 March	4.30pm	Sutton Schools Swimming Gala
Monday 18 March	All day	Non-school uniform day wear green for St Patrick
Tuesday 19 March	11.45am	Mothers' Day Lunch (children with surnames A-I)
Wednesday 20 March	11.45am	Mothers' Day Lunch (children with surnames J-R)
Thursday 21 March	1.30pm to 4.30pm	Chess tournament at The Abbey Catholic Primary School
Saturday 23 March	6.00pm to 9.00pm	Catholic Swimming Gala at Wyndley
Monday 25 March	All day	Year 5 Trip to Singers Hill Synagogue
Tuesday 26 March	11.45am	Mothers' Day Lunch (children with surnames S-Z)
Thursday 28 March	All day	School closed for children Sutton By Election
Dates for Diary - April 2019		
Monday 1 April	9.00am refreshments 9.15am start	Year 1 Assembly
Monday 1 April	11.00am	Sponsored Walk
Wednesday 3 April	3.30pm to 7.00pm	Parents' Evening
Thursday 4 April	3.30pm to 6.00pm	Parents' Evening
Friday 5 April	6.45pm-9.00pm	PTA Family Bingo Night
Monday 8 April	1.30pm	HSBC in school
Monday 8 April	8.50am	EYFS and KS1 Easter Bonnet Parade
Monday 8 April	All day	KS2 Decorated eggs
Tuesday 9 April	8.40am to 8.50am	KS2 decorated eggs display
Tuesday 9 April	9.15am to 10.00am	Stations of the Cross
Wednesday 10 April	9.15am to 10.00am	KS2 Passion Play
Friday 12 April	9.15am to 10.00am	Passiontide Service
Dates for Diary - May 2019		
Tuesday 7 May	9.00am refreshments 9.15am start	Year 3 Assembly
Tuesday 21 May	9.00am refreshments 9.15am start	Year 5 Assembly
Dates for Diary - June 2019		
Tuesday 11 June	9.00am refreshments 9.15am start	Year 2 Assembly

*Other dates available on website

Have a lovely weekend and half term.

Yours sincerely



Miss T Cotter
Principal



POPE FRANCIS' WORDS

Do you want to fast this Lent?

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.