



English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

"where everyone is special"

Newsletter 8: 10th December 2013

Carol Service

Key Stage 2 (Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6) will be leading the school in the Carol Service on **Friday 20th December at 10:00am**. Immediately after the service the end of term presentations will begin (in the Church).

End of Term Presentations

The children in key stage 2 were asked to share their thoughts on the trophy awards which take place at the end of each term. They were also asked for any suggestions they had to either improve the current system or if they wished to see a change take place, what this could be. Overwhelmingly the children wanted to keep the trophy system. Some children commented that they were disappointed if they did not win it, but they were pleased for the children who got them. One of the improvements which the children mentioned was being able to keep the end of the term trophy if they won and not to have to hand it back at the end of the term. The PTFA have kindly funded the purchase of additional trophies so that the children who are awarded them can keep them indefinitely.

Star Child of the Week

From September the, '*Star Child of the Week*' was introduced. This has meant that two children per class are the, 'Star Children of the Week' for the school. Each teacher or teaching assistant shares with the school why these children have received this special award, they receive a special sticker in the assembly. The names of the children are then placed on the school website. After Christmas the children will also receive the class star of the week trophy, which they are allowed to take home for the week to be returned the following Friday.

A big thankyou to Mr Azim!

Due to the Sponsored Great North Run event which Mr Azim ran to raise money for the school, we have purchased an Apple macbook pro. This enables the newly purchased ipads to be synchronised and used effectively in classrooms and lessons.

School & Parish

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Grand Total Raised: £3.166.20

A huge big thankyou on behalf of the parish and the school for all those who organised the Christmas bazaar; those who were on the stalls; and all those who came along and supported on the day. The day was extremely successful with one of the highest totals of money raised for a number of years. The school's share of the funds (£1583.31) will be used to cover the costs of designing a new school website which will be in operation in the new academic year.

Parent Questionnaires

A big thankyou to the 46 families (which represents 26% of the school) who returned the parent questionnaires. The school will be using the responses to inform future school development.

Confirmation

Bishop Kenney kindly came into school on Tuesday 10th December to meet the children of year 6 who made their Confirmation.



Parish Weekday Masses

English Martyrs Parish will be starting to have daily masses from this week.

Daily masses will take place on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 9:15am.

Football Arrangements

This term the usual arrangements for football have not been able to take place due to the coach being unable to commit this term. The school have been proactive in trying to find a replacement. A local club was suggested by some parents as a good alternative. The school had been in discussions with the club and after giving them ample time they still did not have First Aid in place (although they did get their coaches DRB tested for the school), this is a non-negotiable for a profit making club. The school have sought expertise elsewhere and will be using FDS (Football Development Service), who have worked in many local schools for a good number of years. Due to the dark winter nights they will operate an after school multi sport club, (with football skills throughout) for those who are 5 years of age and upwards. After the February half term this becomes football. Leaflets will be sent out soon and the school will cover half of the cost per child for the first five sessions. It is strictly come on a first come, first served basis.

Arrangements for Severe Weather

In severe weather conditions English Martyrs will endeavour to remain open. However this is not always possible. Safety of children and staff are paramount and the decision to close a school has to be made. Parents are asked to phone the **Parent hotline** for up to the minute information: **08447 70 75 76 id: 49482** and check the school website.

During icy weather, arrangements for entry into the building will be different from the usual procedures. The playgrounds will remain locked, to prohibit access onto them. All children will be brought into school via the **School Office** entrance. Children will be asked to remove Wellingtons etc before entering into school. After 8:45am teachers will be in their classrooms and children will then make their own way to their classrooms. For the Foundation and Year 1 children they will remain in the school hall and their teachers will escort them as a class over to the block at 8:55am.

Due to the high volume of children entering the site, parents will not be allowed into the building to escort their child.

We ask for your cooperation in this matter as the special measures which are put in place are for the safety of everyone.

At the end of the day, if the icy weather is still difficult, parents will collect their children from the school office aswell. Classes will be brought out to their parents one at a time. We ask for patience and understanding during this time.

Diary Dates

December

10 th	Bishop Kenney to visit the Confirmation candidates
10 th & 11 th	Christmas Production 2:00pm (Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2)
12 th	Foundation Stage and Year 1 trip to Hatton Country World
12 th	Grandparents' Afternoon (Year 2 to Year 6) 2:00pm - Tickets only
13 th	PTFA Christmas Disco 7:00pm - Tickets only
16 th	Choir singing at Willows Nursing Home
17 th	Christmas Parties: Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 (pm)
18 th	Christmas Dinner
18 th	Christmas Parties: Years 5 & 6 (pm)
18 th	Grandparents' time in Reception class (9:30) - Tickets only
18 th	Grandparents' time in Year 1 class (2:00pm) - Tickets only
19 th	Christmas Parties: Years 3 & 4 (pm)
19 th	9:15 Whole School Mass (Led by staff)
20 th	10:00am Carol Service, followed by end of term presentations
20 th	Last day of term

January (2014)

6 th	Teacher Training Day
7 th	Return to School
9 th	Whole School Mass (led by staff)
16 th	Mass Y3 (Y2)
23 rd	Mass Y4 (Y1)
26 th	Sunday Parish/School Mass 11:00-Led by Year 3: Presentation of First Holy Communion Candidates

Communication by Email

Please ensure that the office has an email so that we can distribute newsletters etc more efficiently to parents. In January the newsletters will no longer be issued as a paper copy.

Party Donations

Please remember to bring in the 50p donation towards the school Christmas parties.