

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School



"where everyone is special"

Newsletter 12: 20th May 2014

I'm Back!!!

Many thanks to all of the parents and children who wished me well during my absence. I have suffered with sciatica before but this time it was extremely debilitating. I still need to be careful but am really pleased to be back with the children. As a Head I plan with the staff what is going to take place in advance. I am really pleased that all of what was planned, including school improvement, continued to happen. I was sent numerous photographs of the dressing up days which put a smile on my face.

THANKYOU

Many thanks to the parents who helped with the breakfast club during SATs. This enabled the children to come together as a group, enjoy each others company which led to a relaxed and calm atmosphere. A big thankyou to Mr Carter who has worked extremely hard with the children in establishing routines and supporting the children throughout this time. Many of the children attended booster sessions led by Mr Carter leading up to the tests.



THE SUN IS HERE

Please make sure your children have sun cream on them before they come to school for protection against the harsh rays of the sun. Every child should be bringing in a hat for protection, which is labelled with their name. For the older children please avoid fashionable hats which can be a cause of disputes and conflicts with the children.

SWIMMING GALA

Congratulations to Robbie, Jake and Laurence in Year 3 for winning the relay race. We have a huge trophy which will be engraved. They were very proud of their achievement.

Well done boys!



BINGO NIGHT

£300 Raised

This was a huge success with children and adults getting very excited at the prospect of winning. Many thanks for all who attended the event and the organisers who made it a special evening. The more people who attend and help at the events the more resources the school is able to provide for the children.



First Holy Communion-Saturday June 7th 2pm

To remind parents that all of the choir children and recorder groups are required to attend the First Holy Communion as they are performing during the service. If your child is unable to attend the school needs to be informed asap.

STAFFING UPDATE

As many of you will already be aware the school has never been blessed with having a healthy budget due to how money is allocated to schools by the DFE. Each year the school has had to save money and use their resources wisely. The financial year in a school runs from April to April and it was clear that the Local Authority would not allow the school to fix a budget without extremely large cuts. Staffing is the largest cost for any school and this had to be reduced. We have been extremely lucky with changes that have already taken place this year that we have not had to reduce teachers however we have had to reduce the number of Teaching Assistants to match the needs within the school. The school has adverted the necessity for compulsory redundancies due to teaching assistants being asked to nominate themselves for voluntary redundancy. Therefore at the end of this term it is with great sadness that we will be losing Mrs Knightbridge, Mrs Kerr and Mrs Huelin. All staff have conducted themselves with great integrity during this process, understanding the financial situation the school has been in. We thank them for all of their hard work and dedication to the school, with one teaching assistant working in the school more than twenty years. They will be missed.

PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

The school had a refund on some of the capital projects that had taken place. This money can only be spent on capital projects from the schools devolved formulae capital allocation. It is a one off payment, with a time limit, and the school budget still has to find 10% of the cost. Over the next few weeks there will be various objects turning up on the school playground which the children will enjoy! (These are a surprise!) The school has also purchased two more rainbow benches, two bins for the back of the field and maths based objects which will be placed on the walls to aid learning and development. The school has listened to the views of parents in the questionnaire and from the children in improving the environment for the children. The playground will eventually have new markings on the floor but this has to be done once we have finished the main projects to not waste money.

School Communications

Please remember to check your emails daily as the school is using this as a regular form of communication. If your email changes from the one you have given to the school, please inform the school as soon as possible as you will miss key information.



Summer Fete

If you are able to help on the day or even rent a stall on the day, please let either Bernadette Thompson or Caroline Deery know directly or leave your name at the school office. The organisers are also looking for fabric to make bunting for the events which are organised. Any ideas you have for fund raising please let us know!



Dinner Money

From September the cost of dinner has increased to £2.05 a day, £10.25 for the week.



Diary dates

May

- 19th 3pm Phonics year 1 parent meeting (in the year 1 classroom)
- 20th Swimming Gala: Years 4 and 6 (children/parents already know who is racing)
- 21st FHC Parent meeting 6:30pm
- 22nd Mass Y6 (Y3)
- 22nd (Thursday) Benediction 2:45pm
- 23rd Teacher training day (school closed)

26th – 30th May Half Term: School Closed

June

- 2nd School opens
- 5th Mass Y5(Y3)
- 7th First Holy Communion 2pm
- 8th FHC: All candidates dressed in their FHC outfits are presented to the parish in the Sunday mass 11:00am
- 12th Year 2 Cake Sale: Myanmar project
- 12th Mass Y4(Y3)
- 12th PTFA meeting 7:30pm (in school) All welcome!
- 13th Year 5 Young First Aiders qualification: St. John's Ambulance (All Day)
- 16th Year 1 Phonic Testing week
- 17th Sports day (timings to be given out soon, based on consultation)
- 18th Princethorpe College Visit Year 5
- 18th Parent meeting for Kingswood Residential Trip 6:30pm
- 19th Non Uniform Day – Bring a bottle for the school fete
- 19th Mass – Foundation Stage, year 1 & year 2
- 20th Corpus Christi: Benediction and Procession 2:45pm
- 21st Saturday Summer fete 12:00pm
- 24th 7pm Meeting for parents whose children will start foundation stage in September
- 25th Dogs Trust visiting Reception, year 1 and 2
- 26th St John's museum trip - Year 1
- 26th Mass Y6 (Y2)
- 29th Sunday parish mass 11:00am led by Foundation stage and key stage 1
- 30th Parent Consultation meeting for Year 6 3:45-7:00pm

July

- 1st Parent Consultation meeting for Year 6 3:45-7:00pm
- 2nd KS1 Performing Arts competition (FYI - School event only)
- 3rd Yr 2 trip to St. John's museum
- 3rd Mass Y5 (Y1)
- 4th PTFA Summer Disco
- 7th 2:00pm and 6:30pm Year 6 Production
- 8th Transition day (Year 6 to Secondary all day, other classes visit their new teachers in the afternoon, except Yr 5 who have already met their new teacher for September in the afternoon)
- 8th New children to Reception visit 1:30pm
- 9th-11th Year 5 and 6 Residential visit to Kingswood
- 10th Mass Y3 (Y1 & Y2)
- 14th KS2 Poetry Competition 1:30pm (FYI - school event only)
- 16th KS2 Music Competition 9:30pm (FYI - school event only)
- 17th Leavers' Mass (Y6)
- 18th 2:15 Whole School Awards Assembly in Church (including individual year 6 trophies)
- 18th Last day of term

DATES IN ADVANCE

- 16th December 2014: Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 (current years 2 to 5) ALADDIN pantomime at the Belgrade in Coventry
- 18th – 20th May 2015: Year 5 (current year 4) Beaumanor Hall Residential (more information to follow)-Leicestershire