



# English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

*"where everyone is special"*

Newsletter 2: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014



## School Uniform

The provider for school uniform has been changed due to concerns over the quality of the products and the problems parents have experienced with the delay between an order being placed and when it is delivered. In addition many parents are having to pay a delivery charge. The school uniform will now solely be available in a local Rugby Shop. The shop is called the **School Wear Centre**, 5 High Street in the Rugby Town Centre. The uniform will begin to be available within a week in store.

## PTFA AGM

*Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30pm (in school)*

All parents are invited to attend the PTFA AGM, at this meeting the positions in the PTFA are elected and planning on events for the year are discussed. The members of the PTFA have raised a considerable amount of money which has been raised to improve outcomes and provision for all children in school. Please do support this committee and its events. For more information contact the school office or speak directly to Mrs Bernadette Thompson if you wish to get involved.

## Rugby foodbank

A big thankyou to all the families who supported Rugby Foodbank this harvest by bringing in food on the non-uniform day. The foodbank spoke to the children in assembly highlighting the invaluable work they do. There are 300 families a month which they support, by giving families 3 days supply of emergency food. All families are referred to the foodbank by other agencies. They were delighted with the amount of food that we were able to give to them.

## Special Achievements

Newly introduced to the school is a 'Special Achievements' board. This is to celebrate *significant* achievements of individual pupils. We will ask parents to send the school via email a photograph and information on the significant achievement.

## Sex Education

As a Catholic school, we follow the Diocesan guidelines for teaching sex education. There is an approved sex education scheme which the diocese encourages schools to use. The governors will be looking at the scheme again as it has not been used for a number of years at English Martyrs School. It is important that children receive sex education lessons which are appropriate to their age and level of understanding. Later in the year parents will be given the opportunity to come into school to look at any resources which will be used. Governors will also be looking at the resources. On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October the school nurse will be talking to the year 5 and 6's about Puberty (changes in the body and more specifically with the girls). If you do not wish your child to take part in the Puberty talk please inform the school office asap. I am also happy to answer any questions that parents may have.

## Homework Book

The homework books which were introduced at the start of the school year are working well. Can I encourage all parents to please sign that you have seen your child's homework and make appropriate comments if needed.

## Playground markings

The school council representatives are discussing with their classmates what markings they would like to see on the playground. They have been asked to consider markings that they would like to use in their play and markings that would support their learning in the classroom. The children already have some great ideas, it is anticipated that during this academic year the playground markings will be achieved.

## School Dinners

The school kitchen is now fully equipped to cater for the increased numbers of hot meals, due to the introduction of free school meals for all children in foundation and key stage 1. The kitchen staff have received training on all the new equipment and the meals are looking far more desirable. The children seem very happy with the new meals. The school has had to contribute over £6,000 as the money given by the Government was not enough to provide the infrastructure that was needed. Please remember to still claim if you are eligible for free school meals, as the school receives money per pupil for each child who claims, to provide educational opportunities for them. Parents can download the forms to claim which have been put on the new website.

Currently the children choose their hot meal through a band system. The desserts are chosen by what is available to them. We have asked all the hot meal children which desserts they would choose on the given days. This information has been given to the LA so that the desserts reflect more accurately what our children will eat rather than some arbitrary number.

## Lateness

The school day begins at 8:55am. The school gates are locked at 8:55am. There are a regular number of children who are coming into school late. Teachers are in the classrooms from 8:55am and are unable to speak to a parent about a concern if they have brought the class into school. Year 1 parents are reminded that they should not be going into the block to speak to teachers. If a parent has an urgent concern and teachers are unavailable please inform the school office and a message will be given to the teachers.

Many thanks for your cooperation on this matter.

## Parking/Scooters

A polite reminder that **no child** should be riding their scooters up the school drive or path. Last year there were a number of incidents involving scooters when the children could have been seriously hurt and they were also a danger for other pedestrians. No parking is permitted on the school drive or at the entry to the school drive. Last year there were again a number of incidents which could have caused serious harm to children and adults. Disabled drivers who have permission to use the school drive, and the person with the disability is with them in the vehicle must arrive to school earlier so that they can park before the drive becomes busy. It is vital we all work together to keep the children safe.

# DIARY DATES

## October

- 7<sup>th</sup> Year 6 Bikeability (level 2)  
9<sup>th</sup> Mass Y3 (Y6)  
10<sup>th</sup> Confirmation for Year 6 by Archbishop Bernard Longley 7pm (School choir required and altar servers)  
13<sup>th</sup> 'Youth for Christ' leading an assembly in school.  
14<sup>th</sup> Year 6 Bikeability  
16<sup>th</sup> Mass: Y6 (Y4)  
21<sup>st</sup> Puberty talks for years 5 and 6  
23<sup>rd</sup> Mass: KS1 and Reception  
24<sup>th</sup> PTFA Cake Sale (cakes to be sold during breaktime, if any cakes are left these will be sold on the playground after school).

## 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> HALF TERM

## November

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Pupils Return to school  
6<sup>th</sup> Mass: Y5 (Y1)  
13<sup>th</sup> Mass: Y4 (Y2)  
16<sup>th</sup> Sunday school/parish mass 11:00am at English Martyrs Church. Year 5 will be leading the mass.  
20<sup>th</sup> Mass: KS1/Reception  
24<sup>th</sup> Year 6 Library Trip  
26<sup>th</sup> Parent Consultation Appointments 3:30-7:00 (Wednesday)  
27<sup>th</sup> Parent Consultation Appointments 3:30-7:00 (Thursday)

## December

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Hatton Country World Trip (Foundation, Year 1 and 2)  
4<sup>th</sup> Mass Y6 (Y3)  
9<sup>th</sup> Christmas Production: Foundation/KS1 at 2:00pm  
10<sup>th</sup> Christmas Production: Foundation/KS1 at 2:00pm  
11<sup>th</sup> Mass: Foundation/Key stage 1  
11<sup>th</sup> Grandparents' Afternoon 1:45-3:00pm (Tickets required-available nearer the date)  
12<sup>th</sup> 2:45pm Benediction/Blessing of the Crib in school (parents welcome)  
16<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Key Stage 2 out at the Aladdin Pantomime in the Belgrade in Coventry  
17<sup>th</sup> Year 3 and 4 Christmas party (Wednesday)  
18<sup>th</sup> Whole School Mass  
19<sup>th</sup> Years 5 and 6 Christmas party (Thursday)  
19<sup>th</sup> 10:00 Whole School Carol Service in Church, followed by end of term presentations.  
Please do not arrive in the Church before 9:45am as morning mass will be taking place.  
19<sup>th</sup> Last day of term  
20<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) Choir children singing at St. Andrew's Benn organised by Mrs Clensy.

## January

- 5<sup>th</sup> Teacher training day (Monday)  
6<sup>th</sup> Children return to school (Tuesday)

## February

## 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> HALF TERM

23<sup>rd</sup> Pupils return to school

### March

11<sup>th</sup> Year 3: Sacrament of Reconciliation 6:30pm in Church (All candidates to attend with parents)  
27<sup>th</sup> Last day of term

30<sup>th</sup> March-Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April Easter holidays

### April

13<sup>th</sup> School Opens to pupils (Monday)

### May

4<sup>th</sup> Bank Holiday  
11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> YEAR 6 SATS WEEK (No absences will be authorised during this period)  
18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>: Year 5 Residential to Beaumanor Hall  
22<sup>nd</sup> Friday Teacher Training Day

25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> Half Term

### June

1<sup>st</sup> School opens to pupils  
13<sup>th</sup> First Holy Communion 2pm in school  
14<sup>th</sup> Presentation of First Holy Communion candidates to parish (all candidates and family to attend)  
15<sup>th</sup> PHONICS SCREENING WEEK FOR YEAR 1 PUPILS AND SELECTED YEAR 2 PUPILS  
22<sup>nd</sup> Youth for Christ assembly  
25<sup>th</sup> First Aid Training for Year 5 pupils by St. John's Ambulance

### July

7<sup>th</sup> Year 6 Induction day for Secondary school  
17<sup>th</sup> Last day of term