

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

"where everyone is special"

Newsletter 4: Tuesday 15th December 2015

www.englishmartyrs.warwickshire.sch.uk



Funds Raised: £2,476.30

A big thankyou to all the organisers of the bazaar and those who supported the event on the day. It was also great to see so many new helpers on the stalls. The proceeds have been equally divided between the parish and the school. Father Gerry also wishes to express his gratitude for the funds raised and the parish and the school coming together on this Community occasion.

LETS PLAY NETBALL

The school would like to thank Ms Marsella, Mrs Tivey and Ms Marshall for all their hard work and dedication to the school netball team. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

PTFA

The PTFA have kindly donated funds to the school to cover the Christmas party food for each class. They have also bought each child a lovely present for Christmas on behalf of the school.

Christmas Parties

Reception, Years 1 and 2

Tuesday 15th December

Years 3 and 4

Wednesday 16th December

Years 5 and 6

Thursday 17th December

For the party days the children are able to wear non-uniform





Friday 18th December 10:00am

Followed by the end of term presentations



Once again our children have been chosen to take part in the Manchester Carols, which is a great honour and privilege. The children in key stage 2 who are taking part have already been practising with Mrs Clensy and are sounding truly amazing. If any parents or wider family members wish to attend the service then they can purchase a ticket via the school office.

An additional practice will take place on Saturday 19th December from 2:00pm to 5:00pm.

New Headteacher's Whole Class Awards

(beginning in January 2016)



Good Behaviour Award



Class of the Week



Class Attendance	September	October	November
Reception	98.3%	93.1%	95.2%
Year 1	97.6%	94.6%	97.9%
Year 2	98.7%	96.9%	97.2%
Year 3	98.3%	98.8%	98.4%
Year 4	99.6%	99.2%	98.5%
Year 5	99.1%	98.5%	97.7%
Year 6	98.1%	92.9%	92.6%

As a school we have a duty to highlight to parents the importance of children attending school and the importance of children having a good attendance rate. There is a great deal of current research available about achievement which clearly shows that even quite low levels of absence can have a negative impact on learning. Missed lessons from term time can never be repeated. In fact 1 day absence is 5 lessons missed, 3 days is 15 lessons, 1 week is 25 lessons and 2 weeks absence is 50 lessons missed.

The DFE through research have found a clear link between low attendance at school and low attainment. The Threshold for, "Persistent Absence" as defined by the DFE is 15%. This means that anybody whose attendance falls to 85% or below is classified as persistent absence.

Persistent absence (85% or lower) is a serious problem for pupils. Much of the work children miss when they are off school is never made up, leaving these pupils at a considerable disadvantage for the remainder of their school career. There is also clear evidence of a link between poor attendance at school and low levels of achievement:

- Of pupils who miss more than 50 per cent of school, only three per cent manage to achieve five A* to Cs including English and Maths.
- Of pupils who miss between 10 per cent and 20 per cent of school, only 35 per cent manage to achieve five A* to C GCSEs including English and Maths.
- Of pupils who miss less than five per cent of school, 73 per cent achieve five A* to Cs including English and Maths.

Please note that unauthorised absences will most likely lead to a penalty notice which could lead to a fine per parent per child. Continued absences may lead to prosecution. However we do acknowledge that there are times when children are unable to attend school due to illness. Parents are asked to ring school on each day of the absence before 10:00am and inform the school why their child is not in school. The school may request for a parents to take their child to the doctors and provide a medical note to support the absence.

Next term some parents will be asked to come into school and attend an attendance meeting to discuss a way forward to improve their child's attendance. All schools have these procedures and meetings in place to prevent a child becoming persistently absent from school.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME 2015-2016 – INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

In September 2013, the Government introduced some significant changes to attendance regulations for pupils at school. The regulations will continue to apply during this academic year (2015/2016).

The most important of these is in relation to term-time leave of absence.

The amendments set out in Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013, govern all requests for leave within term-time. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law.

The amended regulations removed references to 'holiday' and 'extended leave', as well as the statutory threshold of 10 school days. It is now clear that Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If the leave is granted, head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

The Government has not defined 'exceptional circumstances' as referred to in the 2013 regulations. It is for the Head Teacher to decide what he/she views as 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

It is important to note, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

Warwickshire Primary School pupils recorded 60,704 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the academic year 2013/14. This is a decrease of 42,915 on previous years. This is a positive outcome as it means that 21,457 days of education were

We greatly appreciate parental support to reduce the total amount of days lost due to holidays. We are committed to working in partnership with you to enable your child to reach their academic targets and to support their social development. For this to happen we need to keep individual attendance as high as possible - we all need to play our part.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority

Diary Dates

- 15th Foundation/Year 1 and 2 Christmas Party
- 15th Key Stage 2 trip to the 'Beauty and the Beast' pantomime at The Belgrade in Coventry
- 16th Christmas dinner at School
- 16th Years 3 and 4 Christmas Party
- 17th Years 5 and 6 Christmas Party
- 17th Whole School Mass (led by staff)
- 18th 10:00 Carol Service (whole school, led by Key stage 2 – all very welcome in the Church)

18th Last day of term

- 19th Afternoon Rehearsal for Manchester Carols 2:00-4:30 pm at St. Andrew's church
- 19th (Saturday) Children from the choir singing in the 'Manchester Carols' 7:30pm at St. Andrew's Church

January

- 4th Teacher Training Day (school closed)
- 5th Pupils return to school
- 7th Whole School Mass (led by staff)
- 11th Beaumanor Hall Payment for year 5 due (£50)
- 29th PTFA Film Night Years 3 & 4

February

- 7th Sunday Parish Mass led by Year 5
- 12th PTFA Cake Sale
- 22nd (Monday) Teacher Training Day (school closed)
- 23rd Beaumanor Hall Payment for year 5 due (£50)

15th – 19th Half Term

March

- 9th Year 2 Infant Agility School Games competition
- 11th PTFA Quiz Night
- 13th Sunday Parish Mass Year 4
- 18th Last day of term

April

- 6th-8th Year 5 Residential trip to Beaumanor Hall (Leicestershire)
- 12th First Holy Communion Parent meeting (no children please)
- 15th PTFA Film Night – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
- 24th Sunday Parish Mass led by Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 class 11 am

May

- 9th – 12th Year 6 External Testing Week
- 17th First Holy Communion Parent Meeting 6:30pm #
- 25th Group Photographs
- 27th Teacher Training Day (school closed)

June

- 11th First Holy Communion 2pm
- 12th First Holy Communion children return to mass to be presented to the parish 11am
- 13th National Phonics screening week for Year 1 children and selected Year 2 children

July

- 2nd Summer Fete 12pm
- 12th Eastern Area: Year 6 Induction day for Secondary school
- 12th Moving up afternoon for children to visit new classes and teachers
- 15th Summer PTFA Barn Dance/Summer Disco