

# English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

*"where everyone is special"*

Newsletter 7: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017

## Catholic School Profile

This half term the values and virtues for the school are **attentive** and **discerning**

Pupils in a school in the Archdiocese of Birmingham are growing to be ...	Schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham help their pupils grow...
<b>Attentive</b> to their experience and to their vocation; and <b>discerning</b> about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.	By promoting the practice of <b>attentive</b> reflection and <b>discerning</b> decision making: in teaching, in the examen, prayer and retreats; and through the practice and example of school leaders and staff.



## Lenten Dressing Up days

We had our first Lenten dressing up day which was great fun. Virtually all the children were dressed in their P.J.s or onesies to raise money for charity. On the day we raised £175.15, which means that 43 children did not bring in their £1 contributions who were dressed up on the day. If you forgot to do this, please hand in the money to the school office, so that it can support the worthwhile causes identified by the children via the school council. The charities that we are supporting this Lent are: HCPT, Myton Hospice and The Andrew Clark Trust in Myanmar. The next Lenten dressing up days are:

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March - Crazy Hair Day (£1)

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April - Dress as a Celebrity or Movie Star/Character (£1)

## Uniform Policy

May I remind parents to please have a look at the uniform policy again on the website as recently we are seeing some interesting variations in what the children are wearing.

A few polite reminders: Children should not have their hair shaved, Boots are not permissible in school and children are to wear plain black school shoes only. Children are to wear a PE kit which is consistent with the policy. If children are wearing trousers as part of their uniform, they must be school trousers and not leggings. Stud earrings are the only ones permitted in school which must be removed or covered for PE lessons. Please do not have your child's ears pierced until the summer holidays, when they will need to keep their earrings in for a fixed period of time.

Soon we will be introducing a new blue PE top to be worn for PE lessons and when taking part in competitions. For winter we will also be introducing a sweatshirt. More information will follow soon.

Other reminders: If a child has a verucca than a letter must be sent into school and the child will need to wear black plain pumps when doing PE lessons. Children must do PE lessons unless there is a valid reason by parents which has been given to the teacher previously.

# Football Team Training

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The lunchtime training has started again for those Key stage 2 children (Years 3 to 6) who wish to be part of the English Martyrs School Football Team and are willing to compete in football matches when they are arranged. Please make sure if your child is taking part that they have football boots, shin pads, kit and a bottle of water in school on a Monday. They must also have a plastic bag which they can put their dirty boots into when they are finished.

## Section 48 Inspection-Main findings

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- The Catholic life of English Martyrs is good with several outstanding features.
- The school has an unwavering commitment to the Catholic mission of the school "Where everyone is special".
- Driven by the strong leadership of the headteacher, the school has created an excellent, reflective and aesthetically pleasing environment that promotes Catholic values and beliefs.
- The Eucharist is at the heart of the school and the prayer life of the school is good.
- Pupils from the earliest years now need to be given more opportunities to plan and lead collective worship.
- The provision and outcomes for pupils in religious education is good with many outstanding elements.
- Leaders of the school have a good understanding of the school's strengths and areas for development.
- The headteacher and chair of governors have a more robust understanding of the school's Catholic life and RE. This knowledge needs to be shared more explicitly with the whole governing body, where it can be rigorously monitored and challenged.

The school recently has had two very positive inspections, one by Ofsted and another through the diocese. Both reports bear testimony to the fact that English Martyrs is a very strong school with many outstanding features. This is due to a committed team within the school and the support we receive from our families and the parish, who all have their own roles in helping to school to provide the best outcomes for our children.

## Year 1 News

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Mrs Stawt is expecting a baby and will begin her maternity leave during the May half term. Mrs Miles has kindly volunteered to extend her working week and to work full time until the end of the academic year. We would like to congratulate Mrs Stawt and her family on the exciting news.

## Two Year 5 children who had a reply from the Queen

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Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017

Year 5 & 6 Netball Tournament



A Big Thankyou to the children, staff and parent volunteers who supported the children to take part.



Other schools commented on how well behaved our children were.

Key Stage 2  
Swimming  
Gala 2017



Children were a good role model for others.



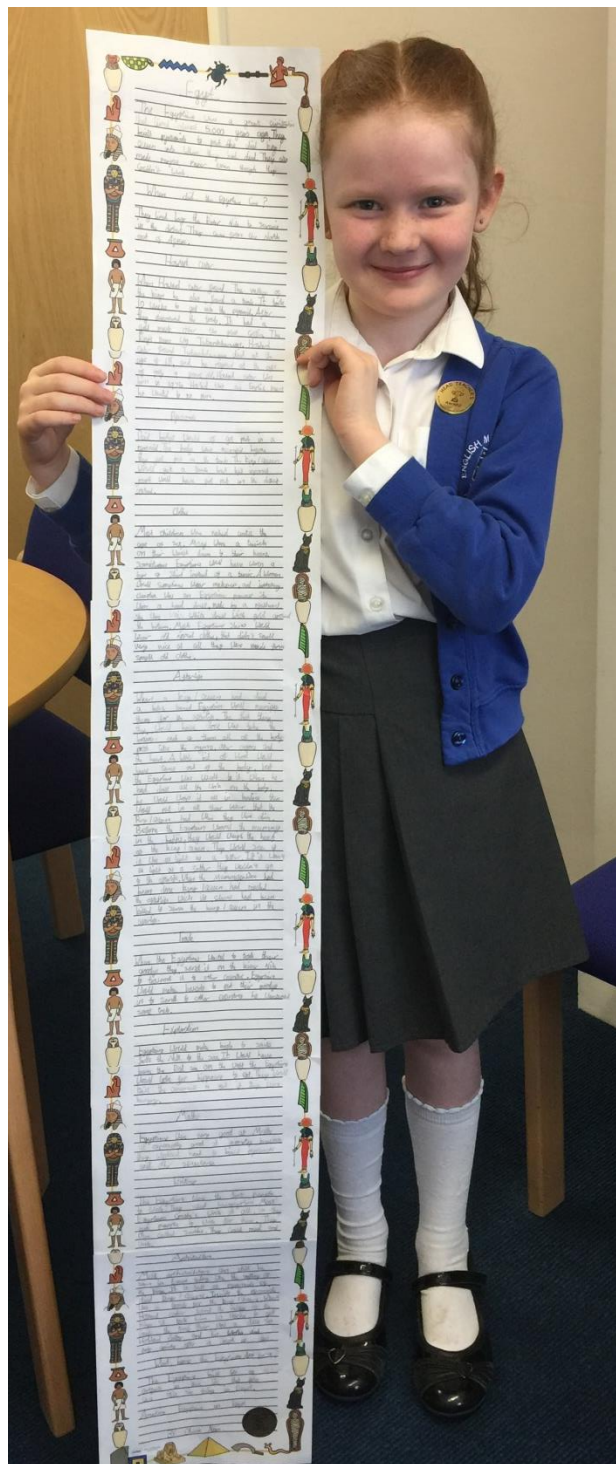
We won 2, 1st places, 3, 2nd places and 1, 3rd place.



## The School Council enjoying the new library furniture



It is true that the children work so hard they produce writing which is even taller than they are.



# Building Fund

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I have attached a copy of the letter which was sent out to parents in January asking them to contribute to the building fund. Many thanks to the 16 families who have committed funds already, some have made a one off contribution, others monthly, termly or annually. All funds are greatly appreciated. If you wish to contribute please see the office for the appropriate forms to complete and we will also be putting the forms onto the website to be downloaded.

## **Re: Reintroduction of the school building fund at English Martyrs**

Dear Parents

English Martyrs is a Catholic voluntary aided school. This means that while most of our income is derived from local Government funds, as a Catholic school, we must contribute 10% of the cost for major improvements and for the maintenance of our school buildings. Without the school having the money to contribute the 10% we are unable to apply for any funds through LCVAP (capital funding from government) or devolved formulae capital to enhance the school and maintain the site.

As you are aware, the school was successful in bidding for funds to have a new boiler installed, which happened over the summer, radiators were also updated in the Ark Building. The boiler at the time was obsolete and was not in operation in any other schools due to its age. We would have been unable to make any repairs on the boiler as its parts were also obsolete. The school had to pay from its budget 10% of the total cost, which was around £13,000. The school did not have the money within its own budget to do this and on this occasion, due to the severity of the problem (if your boiler is not working a school would have to be closed), the diocese allowed the school to repay the £13,000 over the next three years which we are very grateful for.

Governors and staff are committed to providing a high standard of learning environment and there is still a lot that we would like to achieve but we do need to continue to finance additional projects and essential maintenance works. There is an ever continuing need to refurbish our existing facilities to meet the requirements of today's education standards and improve the learning environment of the school for the benefit of all the children, staff and parents. As such schools are depending more on the generous voluntary contributions of parents.

Over fifteen years ago, The Archdiocese of Birmingham introduced a Building Fund, in which parents contribute money which can be paid weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. The school can then use this money towards building projects. English Martyrs has always been part of this scheme and there is currently one family who makes regular contributions.. In some schools they have been able to raise enough money to build new classrooms or libraries. Parents can set up standing orders and contributions can also be Gift Aided, which means that the school can reclaim from HMRC the basic rate tax you have already paid on your contribution. This increases the value of your contribution and at no extra cost to you. For each £100 that we receive we can claim back an additional £25. If parents wish to contribute in cash then we are also happy to receive this. All forms are to be returned to the school office in a sealed envelope, addressed with your child's name and **Building Fund** on the front of the envelope.

The forms have been distributed via email and a paper copy has been given to each child in the school. We would ask you to strongly consider making donations to the building fund and we thank you in advance for your continued support. If parents contributed at least £10 a term the school would be very grateful.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Gillian Deery

Headteacher

# Diary Dates

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## March

13 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	Bikeability Level 2 (For those children who did Level 1 in Year 5). Helmets must be worn.
14 <sup>th</sup>	Parent consultation evening 3:45-7:00pm
16 <sup>th</sup>	Parent consultation evening 3:45-7:00pm
16 <sup>th</sup>	Mass led by Foundation/Key Stage 1
20 <sup>th</sup>	Youth for Christ assembly
21 <sup>st</sup>	Bikeability Level 1 - Year 5
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Lenten Dressing up day 2 (£1) - Crazy Hair Day
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mass led by Year 6 (Y5)
24 <sup>th</sup>	Y3 Egyptian Day
24 <sup>th</sup>	Y6 Greek Day
30 <sup>th</sup>	Mass led by Y4 (Y3)
30 <sup>th</sup>	Key Stage 2 confessions after mass
31 <sup>st</sup>	PTFA Film Night for Reception, year 1 and year 2

## April

2 <sup>nd</sup>	11am Parish Sunday mass led by <b>Year 4</b>
5 <sup>th</sup>	Lenten dressing up day 3 (£1) - Dress as a famous celebrity/Movie Star/Character
6 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Mass - led by staff
7 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am Easter service and end of term awards
7 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of term
24 <sup>th</sup>	Return to school for pupils
26 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm Parent First Holy Communion meeting
27 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Mass (led by teachers)

## May

1 <sup>st</sup>	Bank Holiday
4 <sup>th</sup>	Mass led by Y6 (Y5)
5 <sup>th</sup>	PTFA Quiz Night 7:30pm
8 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATS week
11 <sup>th</sup>	No School mass
18 <sup>th</sup>	Mass Y4 (Y3)
21 <sup>st</sup>	11am Sunday Parish Mass led by Foundation and key stage 1
25 <sup>th</sup>	Mass led by Foundation and Key Stage 1
26 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher training day - school closed to pupils/parents
29 <sup>th</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Half Term

## June

6 <sup>th</sup>	Pentecost
6 <sup>th</sup>	Y5 - Young First Aiders training (all day)
8 <sup>th</sup>	Mass led by Year 5 (6)
10 <sup>th</sup>	2pm First Holy Communion
15 <sup>th</sup>	Mass led by Y3 (Y4)
19 <sup>th</sup>	Youth for Christ assembly
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mass led by foundation and Key stage 1

29<sup>th</sup>

Whole School Mass - Holy Day of Obligation: St Peter and Paul- led by Y6 (Y5)

## July

1<sup>st</sup>

12pm Summer Fete

6<sup>th</sup>

Mass led by Y4 (Y3)

11<sup>th</sup>

Eastern area Year 6 Induction day

11<sup>th</sup>

Transition afternoon to meet new teachers for September 2017

13<sup>th</sup>

Mass led by Foundation/Key stage 1

14<sup>th</sup>

PTFA Barn Dance

20<sup>th</sup>

Mass - led by Year 6

21<sup>st</sup>

Last day of term