

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

"where everyone is special"

Newsletter 1: 5th September 2017



A big welcome back to all the children and their families of English Martyrs. Also a big welcome to Mrs Long, our new year 4 teacher, who has been a friend of English Martyrs for a number of years. It has been lovely to watch the children settle so well into their new classes and have made a great start to a new academic year.

School Photographs-Tuesday 19th September

Family group photos for children not yet at school will be taken first from 8.30am. All photographs are offered without any obligation.

Whole School Mass

Thursday 7th September 9:15am. All are very welcome

Leave of Absence During Term Time



UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS from ACE

The Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of *Platt v Isle of Wight Council* which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. The parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

Head Teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head Teacher to decide what is '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.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance will result in the absence being recorded as an unauthorised absence.

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

A Polite reminder – Leave of absence at English Martyrs School

The Government issued new regulations in September 2013 regarding Leave of Absence; The Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) Regulations 2006 as amended by Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013

- Head teachers **shall not** grant **any** Leave of Absence during term time **unless they consider** there are **exceptional** circumstances relating to the application.
- Parents do not have any entitlement to take their children on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must establish that there are **exceptional circumstances** and the Head Teacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave.
- Head Teachers will determine how many school days a child may be absent from school if the leave is granted.
- The school can only consider applications for Leave of Absence which are made by the resident parent. i.e the parent with whom the child normally resides.
- Applications for Leave of Absence must be made in advance and failure to do so will result in the absence being recorded as "unauthorised". This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.
- Applications for Leave of Absence which are made in advance and refused will result in the absence being recorded as "unauthorised". This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice, if the child is absent from school during that period.
- The Attendance, Compliance and Enforcement Service have the authority to consider issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for Leave of Absence in line with the Warwickshire County Council's Non-School Attendance and Penalty Notices Code of Conduct. (A copy of which can be found at <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/pupilnonattendance>).

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

PTFA AGM- Tuesday 26th September 7:30pm (in school)

It would be lovely to see as many parents and friends of English Martyrs School at the meeting.



Parent Curriculum Meetings

Parents in key stage 1 and 2 are invited for a curriculum meeting with their child's new class teacher. During this meeting the teachers will share with parents what their expectations are from the children in that year group and what the children will be covering in class. They will also explain how children are assessed in school. Parents will be able to ask the teachers any questions they may have.

The dates for these meetings are:

Year 1 Mrs Miles: Monday 11th September 9:15am

Year 2 Mrs O'Connor & Mrs Rouledge: Tuesday 12th September 9:15am

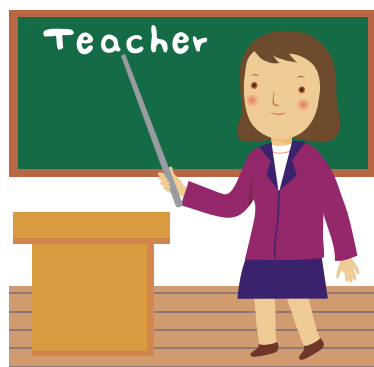
Year 3, Miss Petras: Wednesday 13th September 2:45pm

Year 4, Mrs Jones & Mrs Long: Wednesday 13th September 9:15am

Year 5, Mrs Skuse: Monday 11th September 2:45pm

Year 6, Miss Pichon: Tuesday 12th September 2:45pm

The meetings will take place in the classrooms.



Year 6 – Confirmation

Enrolment mass - Sunday 1st October 11am - Enrolment of the Confirmation Candidates at English Martyrs church (all those making their Confirmation with a family member are to attend)

Parent Meeting – Tuesday 19th September at 6:30pm (please no children)

Confirmation - Wednesday 8th November 7pm –Bishop William Kenney (in Church)



Year 3 - First Holy Communion

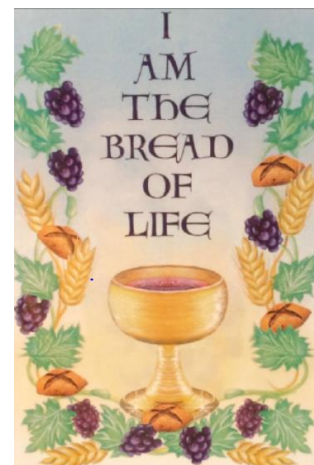
1st Parent Meeting – Tuesday 3rd October 6:30pm (School hall – no children please)

Enrolment mass – Sunday 19th November 11:00am (all those making their FHC with a family member are to attend)

Sacrament of Reconciliation – Tuesday 5th December 6:30pm (in Church)

2nd Parent Meeting – Tuesday 24th April 6:30pm (School hall – no children please)

First Holy Communion – Saturday 9th June 2pm (in Church)



Increase in Dinner Money



Dinner money has increased this year and the new amounts are as follows:

- £2.15 a day
- £10.75 as week
- £73.10 for the half term

Please ensure all dinner money is paid on the Monday of each week. Late payments will result in pupils not being able to purchase hot lunches from the school.

Foundation and key stage 1 children are still eligible to receive a free hot meal at lunchtime. However if you are in receipt of benefits we would strongly advise parents to complete the appropriate forms to register their child as eligible for free school meals. This will enable the school to access additional funds from the government to provide additional support for these children. Forms can be found on the website. If you need support to do this please speak to Mrs Bale in the office who will gladly help.