

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

"where everyone is special"

Newsletter 3: Thursday 19th November 2015

www.englishmartyrs.warwickshire.sch.uk



Congratulations!

Miss Charlick, the year 1 class teacher, was married during half-term, she is now called Mrs Swart.

We wish the newly married couple all the best for their future together.

Healthy Lunchboxes

According to research ninety-nine out of every 100 packed lunches being eaten by primary school children are reported to be unhealthy and failing to meet nutritional standards. Diet contributes to children's ability to learn and resilience in learning.



So what should a healthy lunch contain and what foods should be left out?

According to advice from the Food Standards Agency, **a healthy packed lunch should include:**

- Meat, fish or a dairy source of protein
- Starchy carbohydrate, such as a wholegrain sandwich, to provide energy
- At least one portion each of a fruit and vegetable or salad
- Water or milk to drink, but diluted fruit juice and yoghurt drinks or smoothies are acceptable

The key foods to avoid are:

- Sweets and chocolate
- Snacks, like crisps, with added salt/sugar/fat
- Sugary and fizzy drinks
- Deep-fried foods and processed meats
- White bread - if children won't eat brown, try whole white sliced bread

As a school we have noticed an increase in the number of pupils who are coming to school with an unhealthy lunchbox. We ask parents to please ensure their children are coming to school with a healthy lunch and one which does not contain chocolate or sweets. In addition we do encourage children to bring into school on a daily basis a water bottle (labelled with their name on it). During morning break children are permitted to also have fruit. All foundation, year 1 and year 2 children are entitled to a free hot lunch; if you wish your child to receive this please speak to Mrs Bale in the office.



Mr Vincent Deery, who has been a governor for many years, including as Chair, has recently stepped down as a Governor. We would like to thank him for his dedication and loyalty to the school, its staff and pupils.

New Outside Classroom and Reading Area

We are delighted with the new outdoor furniture, this is an area which we will continue to develop. It enables classes to be outside enjoying reading or having whole class learning. In the better weather children will also be able to use this during their playtimes. The school had the reading throne commissioned, made out of recycled plastic milk bottles. The PTFA contributed by paying for the benches which the children are very grateful for. During a recent pupil questionnaire it was really evident that the children enjoy all the external improvements and play equipment and are very grateful.



Parent Consultations

Please note parent consultations were moved to late in the Autumn Term after the parent feedback from the 2013 questionnaire. Consultations previously used to be in mid-October but parents felt this was too early to get a good understanding of how well their children were doing and would prefer them later in the term.

Wednesday 2nd December 3:45-7:00pm

Thursday 3rd December 3:45-7:00pm

Appointment times were sent home on Wednesday

Indulgence Evening

The Indulgence evening was a lovely event last Friday, with great treatments, luxury products and some delicious cakes and sweets. A big thank you to all the organisers and those who gave up their time to help at the event, £375 approximately was raised.



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 12-3PM

It is that time of the year when we are asking parents for donations for the Christmas Bazaar. Donations can be brought into school from Monday 23rd November. We are looking for:

- Toys and books
- Chocolate
- Home Baked Cakes
- Toiletries
- Tombola prizes
- Wrapping paper

There will be a non-uniform day on Thursday 26th November, children are asked to bring a bottle for the bottle stall. All glass bottles of alcohol are to be handed directly to Mrs Bale in the office.



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.

Assessment



As a school we have notified parents on various occasions that the old level system for assessment and attainment in school was removed for all year groups from September 2014, excluding years 5 and 6. From September 2015 levels were also removed from years 5 and 6. There is still no clarity from the DFE regarding how children's attainment and progress will be measured. In Year 6 children will sit tests papers in May and it will only be after they are marked

nationally that the DFE will decide on what the national expectation or average for the year group will be. At the moment there are suggestions as to how children will be judged but this could change at any point throughout the year. At the end of key stages (Year 2 and Year 6), it is anticipated that there will be an 'expected standard' set, school have to decide how best to assess their pupils in a way that best suits their needs. This is what has been suggested so far:

Key Stage 1

- For English reading, writing and mathematics there will be 3 standards:
 1. Working towards the expected standard
 2. Working at the expected standard
 3. Working at greater depth within the expected standard.
- For Science, one standards (working at the expected standard)
- Each standard will contain a number of 'pupil can' statements.
- Teachers will need to judge a pupil demonstrates attainment of all statements within a standard and all the statements in the preceding standards.
- There is a particular advice regarding handwriting and a child not being able to achieve standard 3 if handwriting is not in line with expectations.
- Key Stage 1 tests will have to take place in May 2016.
- Children will be given a raw score (that is test score) which will then be converted into a scaled score. It is expected the scale score of 100 being equal to the 'expected standard'.

Key Stage 2

- For English there will be 3 standards:
 1. Working towards the expected standard
 2. Working at the expected standard
 3. Working at greater depth within the expected standard.
- For English reading, mathematics and science, there is one standard (working at the expected level).
- Each standard will contain a number of 'pupil can' statements.
- Teachers will need to judge a pupil demonstrates attainment of all statements within a standard and all the statements in the preceding standards.
- There is a particular advice regarding handwriting and a child not being able to achieve standard 3 if handwriting is not in line with expectations.

On the school website, in the parent section and policies I have written a new Assessment Policy which explains how we assess children at English Martyrs when levels are no longer in place. Please note this policy is only as good as the date it is written since there could still be changes this year and next year. I would encourage all parents to read the assessment policy. Later in the year there will be a parent meeting for children in years 2 and 6 in relation to the new testing arrangements.

Christmas PTFA Disco

After careful consideration the PTFA have decided to cancel the upcoming Christmas disco. However there are many other PTFA opportunities and events for parents and children to get involved with during the year.





Confirmation Sunday 22nd 1pm

To the children and their families in year 6 who are making their Confirmation this Sunday, God Bless.



Power of One

The Power of One drama company were invited into school to deliver a performance about Bullying. This encouraged children to think about what constitutes bullying (that is if the behaviour is hurtful, purposeful and repeated so that you are not able to escape it). All children will be signing an anti-bullying pledge in school so that we ensure that bullying either does not happen here or if it does we can deal with it effectively. Selected children will work with the school to write a new Anti-bullying policy and create a school code of conduct.

Results from the Recent Parent Questionnaire conducted in October 2015		SA	A	Positive	D	SD	Negative
1	My child is happy at school.	67%	33%	100%	0%	0%	0%
2	My child feels safe at this school.	68%	30%	99%	1%	0%	1%
3	My child is making good progress at this school.	53%	47%	100%	0%	0%	0%
4	This school meets my child's particular needs.	56%	43%	99%	1%	0%	1%
5	This school ensures my child is well looked after.	66%	32%	99%	1%	0%	1%
6	My child is taught well at this school.	56%	42%	99%	1%	0%	1%
7	My child is encouraged to work hard and do their best.	57%	43%	100%	0%	0%	0%
8	My child receives an appropriate amount of homework for her/his age.	44%	49%	93%	7%	0%	7%
9	This school helps my child to develop skills in communication, reading, writing and mathematics.	52%	47%	99%	1%	0%	1%
10	There is a good standard of behaviour at this school.	53%	41%	95%	5%	0%	5%
11	This school deals with any cases of bullying effectively. (Bullying includes persistent name-calling, cyber, racist and homophobic bullying).	43%	49%	92%	8%	0%	8%
12	This school helps me to support my child's learning.	49%	47%	96%	3%	1%	4%
13	This school responds well to my concerns.	49%	49%	99%	1%	0%	1%
14	This school keeps me well informed.	55%	36%	92%	8%	0%	8%
15	The school is well led and managed.	53%	47%	100%	0%	0%	0%
16	The school is welcoming.	68%	32%	100%	0%	0%	0%
17	The school communicates with me effectively about school events and activities.	64%	30%	93%	7%	0%	7%
18	There are opportunities to get involved in school life/activities.	53%	45%	97%	3%	0%	3%
19	My child is happy at school.	67%	33%	100%	0%	0%	0%

Diary Dates

November

- 18th Power of One anti-bullying performance for whole school
- 19th Mass (Y1 & Y2)
- 19th After Mass Year 6 will be going to Confession with Father Gerry in preparation for Confirmation
- 22nd Confirmation 1pm (Sunday at English Martyrs Church led by Bishop William Kenney)
- 26th Non-uniform day (Bottles for bottle stall at the Christmas bazaar)
- 26th Mass Y5 (Y6)
- 28th Christmas Bazaar 12:00-3pm
- 29th Start of Advent
- 30th Fire safety talk: Year 1 and Year 5

December

- 1st Choir singing at a local sheltered accommodation
- 2nd Parent Consultation Evening 3:45-7:00pm
- 3rd Parent Consultation Evening 3:45-7:00pm
- 3rd Mass Y3 (Y4)
- 4th Choir singing at a 'The Willows' a local nursing home
- 6th School leading the Sunday Parish Mass: Presentation of First Holy Communion Candidates 11:00am at English Martyrs Church
- 6th Rehearsal for Manchester Carols for the choir 7:30-8:15pm at St. Andrew's Church
- 7th Foundation & Key Stage 1 Performance 2pm
- 8th Foundation & Key Stage 1 Performance 2pm
- 8th Year 3 Sacrament of Reconciliation 6:30pm
- 10th Mass (F, Y1, Y2)
- 10th Grandparents' Afternoon 1:45pm (Ticket only event, no charge for tickets - voluntary contributions)
- 11th Trip to Hatton Country World for Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2
- 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 2:00-5:00pm 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 11 am
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