

# English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

*"where everyone is special"*

## Newsletter 4: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018

[www.englishmartyrs.warwickshire.sch.uk](http://www.englishmartyrs.warwickshire.sch.uk)

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@EMCPrimary

## New Chair of Governors

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Mr Declan Kingsley-Walsh was appointed as the new Chair of Governors at the governors meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018. Mr Kingsley-Walsh has been a governor for the last two years and has been very active within his role. The school is looking forward to working even more closely together with the children at the very heart of what we do.

The staff would like to thank Father Matthew, who retired from the role of Chair, for his commitment to the pupils, staff and families of English Martyrs. He was initially appointed as Chair when I became Headteacher of the school and he has always been very generous with his time and has been very active and supportive within the role. Father continues to serve as a governor and is currently the vice-chair.



## Change of Year 1 Teacher

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Mrs Miles will be leaving the school at the end of the Autumn Term. The governors would like to thank Mrs Miles for her commitment to the school and its pupils. We have loved having her as part of the team at English Martyrs and wish her the very best for the future. I am sure she will remain a good friend of the school community.

Mrs Tomlinson will be replacing Mrs Miles when the school returns from the Christmas holidays. Mrs Miles and Mrs Stawt will be working together to ensure a smooth transition and will be supported by other colleagues in the school. Year 1 parents have already received an email on the 4<sup>th</sup> December about this change.

## Refurbishment of the Ark Building

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During the Christmas holidays both year 1 and foundation stage classrooms will be painted. In the February half term they will also have new carpets. The PTFA have kindly agreed to purchase the carpets for these two classrooms. In the outdoor classroom a new shed will be erected to store foundation stage materials and some additional fencing will be going up around the school. These changes will make a big difference to the school environment.

## Used books

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Many parents spend a great deal of money on buying books for their children to enjoy. Often children outgrow these books and parents are not sure what to do with them. The school is greatly appreciative to those parents who donate their children's old home reading books when they no longer have use of them. If you wish to donate any home reading books please hand them into the office. This way the books will continue to be enjoyed by the pupils.



## Reading Bears – More information to follow in January.

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English Martyrs will have 12 new cuddly friends joining the school community for children to take home and share a school reading book with them and their families.

## Chat Health Parent Line

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Warwickshire school Health & wellbeing Service and Warwickshire Young People Substance Misuse Service has launched a new way for parents and carers of school aged children to get confidential advice and support about child health related issues. Chat Health is an award-winning school nurse messaging service and is available Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. There will be automatic bounce-back responses to incoming messages out of hours. Answering the text message will be a nurse who can assist with any queries about general health, child development, behaviour, toileting and emotional health and wellbeing issues. The text number is 07520 619376. The opportunity to discuss any health issues relating to your child is always available and The School Health and Wellbeing Service can be contacted on 03300 245 204.

## Vision – Information from Warwickshire school Health & wellbeing Service

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Children may not always know that they have a vision problem. It is therefore recommended that children have regular eye tests. These should be carried out at least once every two years, even if there are no problems with their eyesight. These tests can be done at a high street opticians and are free for all children under 16 years old (and those under 19 years old in full-time education). You can speak to your child's Optician if you have any concerns about your their vision. The opportunity to discuss any health issues relating to your child is always available and the School Health and Wellbeing Service can be contacted on 03300 245 204.

## Primary Admissions

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If you have a child whose birthday falls between 01.09.2014 and 31.08.2015 you need to apply now for a primary school place for your child in September 2019. Apply online at <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applyforschool>. Closing date for applications is 15th January 2019.

## Academies-an update

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The Archdiocese of Birmingham have a very clear academy strategy for Catholic schools within the Archdiocese. The diocese and governors of Catholic schools have been working together to secure, protect and improve Catholic education for generations of young people. On the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 there were 100 academies within the Archdiocese of Birmingham operating within 17 Multi-Academy Companies (MACS). It is anticipated that by September 2019 that the majority of schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham will be secured within a sustainable MAC structure. Those schools who are not already part of a MAC (an academy which has many Catholic schools within it) it is expected that Governing Bodies will be ready to convert by the latest September 2020. As schools progress on their journey to become academies more information will be shared and distributed to all those involved. Currently English Martyrs has not got a formally agreed path to convert to join a MAC with other Catholic schools. The Diocesan Education Service is working closely with schools to find the best solution to local formations within the Academy structure.

## Pupil Premium

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Schools are given a pupil premium for:

- Children who have qualified for free school meals at any point in the past six years. The school receives £1320 for each of these children.
- Children who are or have been looked after under local authority care for more than one day. These children are awarded a premium of £2300.
- Children from service families who receive a child pension from the Ministry of Defence. They are awarded £300.

In March 2018 the Government announced that free school meals would only be available to children in KS2 whose families have a net income of £7400 or under, effective from 1 April 2018. If your child was previously entitled to free school meals but is no longer, they will still receive pupil premium based on the 'Ever 6' qualification (a pupil who has ever had free school meals in the past six years).

Prior to April 2018, children qualified for free school meals – and accordingly pupil premium – if you received any of the following benefits:

- Income support
- Income-based jobseekers' allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of state pension credit
- Child tax credit, provided that you are not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of £16,190 or less

These benefits have now been rolled into a single benefit, called **Universal Credit**. From April 2018, free school meals and pupil premium will only be allocated to pupils with a family income under £7400 (net) per year.

School's spend this pupil premium based on what they feel are the needs of the children and schools can vary widely on how this is spent.

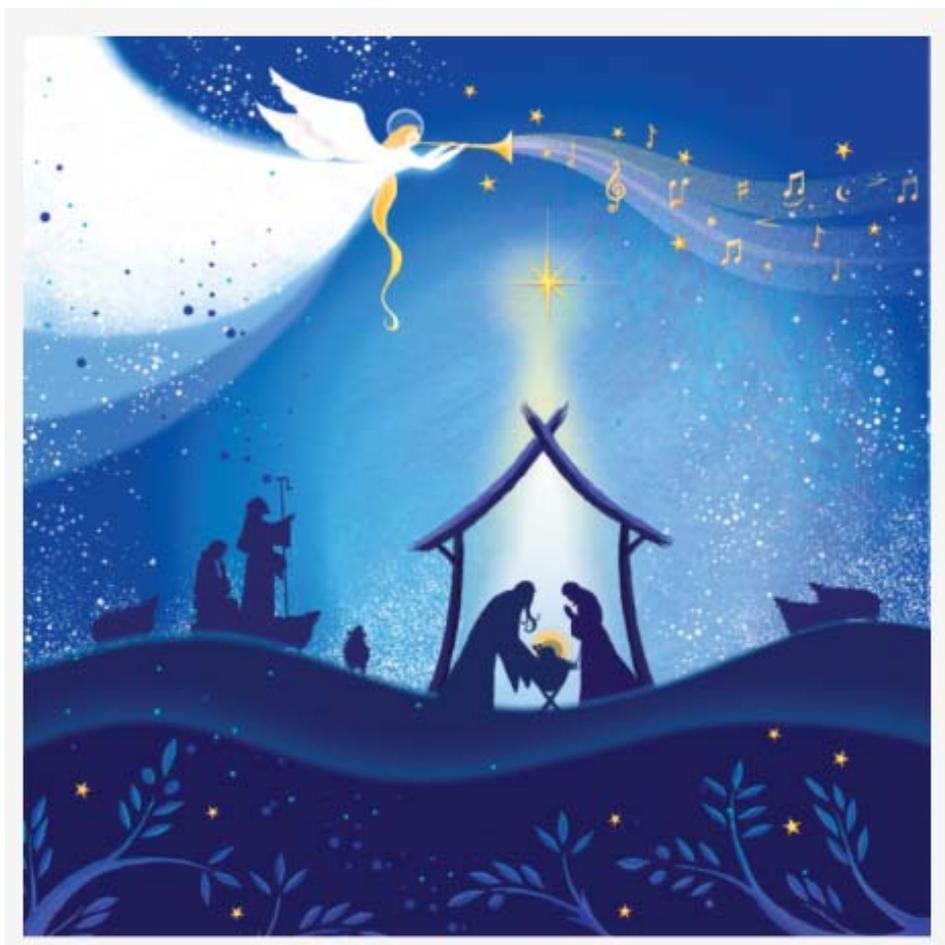
Since September 2014, all children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 have qualified for free school meals, regardless of their family income, but only the children who would qualify for free meals under the above income-based criteria will receive the pupil premium. **If your child would qualify for free school meals, even if they are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 it's important that you register and claim free school meal via the Warwickshire website. The school does not automatically receive this money and it is the only means schools have to receive the additional funding.**

## Twitter@EMCPrimary

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The school's introduction of **Twitter** has been highly successful with positive feedback from parents and wider family members. Twitter is becoming the quickest way to remind parents about activities etc but also sharing photographs from trips etc. Twitter can also be viewed on the front of the website. I would encourage all parents to sign up to twitter.

**From all the staff and pupils of English Martyrs School, we wish you and your families, a happy and holy Christmas.**



# Dates

## December

17 <sup>th</sup>	Grandparents' Afternoon 1:45pm (Tickets only)
18 <sup>th</sup>	FS/Y1/Y2 Christmas Party
19 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 to Year 6 Christmas Pantomime at the Belgrade, 'Sleeping Beauty'
20 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School mass 9:15am
20 <sup>th</sup>	Key Stage 2 Christmas Party
21 <sup>st</sup>	9:30am - Whole School carol service led by key stage 2, followed by end of term presentations.
21 <sup>st</sup>	Last day of term

## January

7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Teacher Training Day – PUPILS NOT IN SCHOOL</b>
8 <sup>th</sup>	School opens to pupils
17 <sup>th</sup>	Parish meeting 7:30pm
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Foundation Stage & Year 6 Height and Weights Check. Year 6 online questionnaire.

## February

7 <sup>th</sup>	Parent E-Safety Meeting/Presentation 6:30pm (in school hall – all parents/carers invited)
9 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup>	Deanery Visitation to the parish of English Martyrs by Bishop Kenney

**HALF TERM 18<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY**

## June

8 <sup>th</sup>	First Holy Communion 2pm
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## July

3 <sup>rd</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup>	Beaumanor Hall Y5 Residential Trip
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