



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC FEDERATION, CARSHALTON NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday 12th February - The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time



This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Designated safeguarding officer in the Nursery & Infants' School is Mrs M Quinn and in the Junior School is Mrs. G Owens, Deputy Safeguarding Officer for both schools is Mrs Hulme and the Governor Safeguarding Officer is Mr. A. Scully. The schools have safeguarding & protection policies which can be viewed at the school office.

Although the sharing of photographs with family and friends is a great thing to do, please be reminded of the schools safeguarding procedures and refrain from taking pictures at school events. Thank you for your support regarding this as we all need to work together to look after our pupils.

Dear Parent/ Carers,

As we come to the end of our 3rd half term- half way through the year, we hope families have good things planned for half term or at least family time for the weekend. As the days get longer we need to appreciate the daylight and gather speed to enjoy spring and the promise of summer. At school we are looking at our outdoor areas and planning to try to make greater use of them for times within timetables and outside of the school day. Best wishes for a funfilled half term!

Parking - Sadly we continue to receive complaints from our neighbours about safety issues when dropping off pupils and about inconsiderate parking . We will be sharing registration information if this continues to happen. The school has committed to work in harmony with residents - please support us in doing so. Thank you.

School uniform - Thank you to all parents who have made a great effort in ensuring that all children's clothing complies with the school uniform list as published. The responsibility for this lies with parents and it is unfair to the children who arrive in school with items that are not uniform eg. pupils wearing boots rather than school shoes or multi coloured accessories. Apart from that, they all look so smart in uniform and helps to create an excellent impression of our school.

Attendance - Thank you for attending the PAR appointments with your children. As usual we had good parental support for the meetings, however there is noticeable correlation between low attendance and underachievement. This will be monitored and for those of greater concern, appointments will be made to meet with Mrs Hulme towards the end of term to establish a more satisfactory way forward in the summer term. We need to work together to ensure that all of our pupils get the maximum learning opportunities in school. Priority of appointments will be for those who have taken children out of school for holidays.

Safeguarding

Although there have been many requests asking adults not to use phones in the school grounds, we still have parents/carers, child minders and extended family members who continue to compromise our pupils' safety by using their phones. There has been an improvement - thank you to those who have responded positively to the request.

Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development

Nursery & Infant School

After Christmas the children explored the theme of 'Local Church' which is our story. They learned that the parish is where we gather together to celebrate and practice care and love for each other. Each year group explored a particular theme; EYFS: celebrating, Year 1: special people and Year 2: books. Looking ahead to the season of Lent which begins on 1st March 2017, we would like to support the Catholic Children's Society Crisis Fund appeal "Growing Together." This encourages children to grow closer to God during Lent. Inspired by Pope Francis' Amoris Laetitia or "The Joy of Love", money raised will make a difference to our brothers and sisters in need, providing help to children and young people in poverty. Please look out for the collection boxes going home after the half term break.

Junior School

Pope Francis' Intention for the month - Comfort for the Afflicted.

That all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalised, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.

This half term we have been thinking about living in a way which prioritises our thoughts and actions - Jesus Others You (JOY). Many of the children have been involved with writing prayers and decorating cards which will be displayed in our outside areas next half term.

The chapel continues to be well-used at break times and throughout the day for prayer and reflection. We are delighted that it now has lovely, colourful cushions for us to sit on, enough for a whole class.

Next half term, the season of Lent will soon be upon us. During this special time of preparation we will have several opportunities to take time to grow closer to God: Sacrament of Reconciliation, Lectio Divina, Y3 Lenten Service, Stations of the Cross and especially the Easter Reflection led by Year 5. You are warmly invited to parents' and carers' Lenten prayers which will take place every Thursday in Lent, 2:45pm - 3:15pm in the chapel. Please note, chairs are provided for adults! We look forward to seeing you.



Table Talk returns to the newsletter this week with a suggested topic of conversation for your family to discuss at a meal time together. Some of these topics might take even longer...

If you were on a desert island, would you rather have a little bit of food you love, or a lot of food you dislike?

Health & Safety

Please be reminded that, the roadways within the school grounds are still used by cars and can be a potential risk to your child. Scooters are still being used by children on the roads that pose a potential risk. Please remember that dogs are not permitted in the school grounds at any time.

Governors

Thank you to all parents who have returned the gift aid forms. This makes a big difference as we are able to claim £7.05 for every £25 donated. Please remember to send these in if you have not done so. This is a reminder to parents who have not yet contributed to the Governors fund, that payment can be made on Parentpay at www.parentpay.com

School Office

Please remember that any absence from school must be reported to the school office on the morning by telephone (**not by email**) followed up in writing. Also, please advise the school office if someone other than your normal contacts is going to collect your child by phoning before 2pm. If later than this we can not guarantee getting the message to your child when calling late in the school day.

School Photographs

Following the purchase of school photographs for the individual and sibling photos, we are pleased to announce that this has raised a total of £179.50 for Cancer Research UK that Braiswick Photographic pay on behalf of the parents of the schools.

Piano Lessons

Please note there are some spaces still available for piano lessons with Mr Mancuso - Year 1 & 2

Parent Forum

The minutes of the Parent Forum meeting from November 2016 are now on the Parents & Carers Room on Google Drive at both schools.

Supporting the Wider Community

We are delighted to report the amounts raised for the various charities over the last months as follows: **Junior School** - Toy Sale for Water Aid £251.80, Cake Sale for MacMillan Cancer Charity £150.79, Teachers collection, Music Night and Christmas Messages for CAFOD £422.42, Year 3 Nativity collection for The Royal Marsden £386.13, Cake Sale for Water Aid £214.24

Infant School - Christmas Collection for CAFOD £444.01 and Christmas Shop £920 to a nominated charity. Thank you for your generosity! Thank you also to FSM and SMIF for their fundraising contributions.

School Dinners

Please remember to keep up to date with payments on Parentpay ensuring you pay enough money on to your child's account in advance. If you receive an email reminder from the school please ensure you act promptly should a debt have incurred.

Internet Safety

Please find links to useful websites including

www.thinkuknow.co.uk - The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre has set up its own website which has been designed and written specifically for children, young people, teachers, parents and carers.

www.kidsmart.org.uk/ - Kidsmart is an award winning internet safety website for parents and those working with children. It has been developed by the children's internet charity Childnet International and has excellent information on many of the technologies used by children, with guidance on how to 'stay safe' online.

www.saferinternet.org.uk - Here you will find e-safety tips, advice and resources to help children and young people stay safe on the internet.

NURSERY & INFANT SCHOOL

News from Nursery

This last term ladybirds have been on a wonderful adventure exploring the cold weather, Chinese New Year and exciting fairy tales. We have been fortunate enough to explore snow, talking about changes in weather and what happens to ice and snow.

We celebrated Chinese New Year with lots of activities where we investigated shapes through Chinese tangrams. We danced a dragon dance to Chinese music and had a go at writing Chinese numbers and Happy New Year. We especially enjoyed our home corner which we turned into a restaurant with chopsticks and noodles. Finally we listened to a variety of fairy tales. We especially enjoyed "A tiger who came to tea" where we learnt about tigers, their habitat and made repetitive patterns using orange and black stripes. We were lucky as we had the tiger who came to visit us at the nursery for tea.

Reception

This term we have been looking at dinosaurs for our topic. The children really enjoyed learning about length and height by measuring dinosaur bones and footprints. Each class had dinosaur eggs for the children to take care of and observe any changes as the egg began to crack. We looked at fiction and non-fiction books to learn more interesting facts about dinosaurs! The children found their own facts using a range of books and through child friendly games/websites with adult supervision e.g. dinosaur train. This topic has given children the opportunity to build their own dinosaur lands, models, fossils and masks.

Our next topic is "Did dragons exist?" the children will be exploring with fairy tales, castles and dragons.

News from Year 1

Over the past half term year 1 have been learning about Superheroes. We have looked at and made our own comic strips; using speech and thought bubbles. The children have also looked at real life super heroes such as; Robert Falcon Scott, Amy Johnson and Tanni Grey-Thomson. Throughout the half term we have studied the human and physical features of maps and we also looked at the city of Lusaka in Zambia in comparison with London. In maths we have started to use money in our adding and taking away, we have looked at the properties of 3D shapes and we have also been counting in 2s 5s and 10s. The children are excited to be on an adventure for our next topic that will be out of this world!

News from Year 2

This half term our topic is "Beat, Band Boogie", we started our topic with the children's projects completed at home. There were so many musical instruments, posters and facts about music as well as children bringing in musical instruments that they are learning to play. We played percussion instruments and learned different dances. For our Art lessons, we looked at the work of Degas and in particular his drawings of ballerinas and we learned how to sketch in his style. Thank you to the children who became life models in their dance outfits for the class to sketch. We ended the topic with "Year 2's Got Talent," thank you to all the parents who came along.

Star of the Week - week ending 3rd February - **Elephants** - Alan Jackson, **Penguins** - Niamh Stinson, **Bees** - Michael McCearney, **Reindeer** - Oliver Tuznik, **Giraffes** - Freya Boyce, **Cheetahs** - Natalia Larkin, **Meerkats**, Annabell Wuddah, **Horses** - Hristian Markov, **Owls** - Aidan Dunbar

JUNIOR SCHOOL

News from Year 3

Get those bodies moving! Year 3 have been learning about skeletons and nutrition in science this half term. We can tell you all about a balanced diet and name several bones in the human body. Psst! Did you know that there are 206 of them? It amazed us too!

This has come in handy when studying about the sculptures of Henry Moore. We have examined some of his work and looked at the process of making a sculpture. Finally, we made skeleton sculptures out of art straws and pipe cleaners.

In English, we have read lots of traditional tales and can tell you what makes a story a traditional one. We then wrote our own exciting traditional tale based on Far Away Castle by Terry Jones. Funnily enough, we then received a letter from the main character. Who gave him our address? Anyway, we wrote back suggesting how he could make his way through the mysterious castle he found himself in.

News from Year 4

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Mitchell into 4 Poplar and our school community; she has already become a valued member of staff.

At the beginning of the year, in literacy, the children focused on writing explanation texts. This was put in to practice when they created fabulous explanations to create a cardboard school or church. This linked nicely in with our RE topic of the importance of community. Since then, the children have created fantastic free verse poems about marbles and now commence their newest topic, newspapers. Our topic in science is forces and the children have been carrying out different experiments to identify metals that are magnetic and non-magnetic.

News from Year 5

We have had an excellent start to the new year with our class reading book 'the butterfly lion', this week was particularly good - ask us for the synopsis so far! In maths we have been squeezing our brains with challenges in Ivy reading decimal place values, rounding and measuring angles. Holly have been problem solving multiples using digital roots and rules, interrogating triangles and investigating prime numbers and square numbers and the patterns they create. Our science topic has seen us heating different materials and observing the outcomes; burning or melting!

We are pleased to welcome back Mr O'Sullivan into the St Marys family, he is a valuable addition to the year 5 team - he's been writing our dictations which have been making us laugh. Ask us for our spelling score, we're beginning to record it in our home school diary.

News from Year 6

On January 27th year 6 presented a Holocaust Memorial Service to parents and grandparents. The theme this year was "How can life go on?" During literacy lessons the pupils had discussed the reasons for the Holocaust, its effect on those that had lived and died at the time and the legacy left in the years since the Holocaust. Using photographs as a stimulus the children wrote a variety of prose and poetry. We all agreed that the writing was of a very high standard and very moving. Several children played duets and solos giving all participants the opportunity to reflect and empathise with all those that have suffered through prejudice.

We move ever closer to Key Stage 2 assessments and in English we are now concentrating on the writing that we will present to moderators in summer 1. There are so many elements that we need to include in our writing that it makes our heads spin but we are up to the challenge!! A real focus will be presentation - our handwriting must be clear and consistent if we are to reach age related expectations in the summer.



Junior Travel Advisors / School travel plan

The Junior Travel Advisors have been given the task of collecting more WOW data for the month of February and March. This is in preparation for collection and creation of a graph to present our data for the school travel plan. Look out for our hands up survey which will be taking place at the end of next term! We will be researching about the different modes of transport that children take to get to St Mary's.

Sport

A team of 24 year 6 pupils entered the Sutton Sportshall Athletics Championship in January which was held at Overton Grange. Although we had only been practising at lunchtimes for a week the team came 4th and their performances and behaviour were a credit to the school.

All year groups now have the opportunity to play table tennis at break and lunchtime. The activity is run on a rota system and the pupils must have their own bat and ball clearly marked with their name, a great opportunity to try a new sport.



PSHE

After measuring the amount of food waste during the week commencing 12th December, the ambassadors measured a total of 74.12kg of hot dinner food wasted. This half term, we have been thinking of different ideas and ways to present this substantial amount of waste to the school. The children have come up with creating an assembly which looks at the amount 74.12kg of food waste is. Working in small groups, the ambassadors have been creating powerpoint presentations, role plays and posters for our assembly. We look forward to placing this together next half term and creating a script for our assembly.

Awards & Achievements

St Mary's Awards

3 Mulberry Joshua Black
3 Willow Luella Chalamet
4 Poplar Orla Richmond
5 Birch Eva Fernandez
6 Chestnut Anneliese Furtado

3 Hawthorn
4 Ash
4 Rowan
5 Elm
6 Oak

Finley Taheny
Ellen Toyé
Marek Kosla
Henry Jake Kikoyo
Lauren Heffernan