

WE LOVE, WE PRAY, WE LEARN, WE PLAY



NEWSLETTER 31st January 2020 Lent 1 Term

Dear Families,

We hope you have had a great week, as we have in school. Forty children represented the school on Tuesday the Feast day of St Thomas Aquinas, joining the other 22 schools in our Academy at a centre in Leicester. Four of the children performed an emotional dance about climate change with Delisle, Sacred Heart and St Charles. The children listened to a speech from Bishop Patrick and the Director of Cafod about how we can help others and care for our world. Each school created a pendant, explaining about their school, with photographs, which was exchanged with another school. This year, St Mary's have been paired up with Sacred Heart in Leicester and we look forward to co-operating and building a friendship. The day was concluded with a beautiful mass led by Bishop Patrick, where each school received a tree to plant.



The Tree will be planted in the area by the Year Six classroom. We thank you for your patience and understanding about using the entrance on Hasting's Street. The building work on the ramp will be completed by Wednesday next week. We are aiming to open the Junior gates after that. We will have a special opening for it, as we have had some plants donated for the trees that have been cut down. We enjoyed celebrating the Feast of St John Bosco and Candlemas with the parish this morning. Fr Paul blessed all the candles in school first.

Year Five had an excellent trip to the Space Centre last week. Year One will be making a visit to Loughborough Library on Monday afternoon to learn about the significance of Ladybird books to Loughborough as part of their topic work. Year Four and Three, continue to show their musical progress in learning the guitar and ukulele on Wednesday afternoons and many more children in school are learning to play the piano, guitar or a brass instrument. We are planning a concert after the half term to share their wonderful talents.

Many thanks to the parents who have attended the Wednesday family well-being and Thursday FESOI classes in school. Due to low numbers the workshops have finished for the time-being.

Radcliffe Cross Country event 8th February 2020

Thank you to the two parents from year One and Two who registered their interest in their child participating in the Cross Country Event at Radcliffe College. Unfortunately we do not have enough participants to enter as a school, but will endeavour to participate the following year and will set up an after school running/ athletics club in the Summer term, to increase participation in sports such as this.

School Phone App: School Jotter

Thank you for downloading the school phone app, ensuring you are logged on and receive notifications. Please ensure that you have downloaded the school phone app and have the notifications on, so that you receive up to date messages from the school, including if your child is receiving a certificate in the weekly Achievement Assembly. If on your phone/ tablet/ computer, you have automatic updates turned on, you should already be on the latest version of the school jotter app. However, there may be a few parents that update their apps on their phone manually. The latest version of the mobile app is version 2.18.0 and you can check this by going to the menu icon at the top left of the app, and tapping the 'About' menu item. Please do see the school office staff for help if required.

Requests for Absences during the School Day/ medical appointments/ punctuality

The School appreciates all written requests for permission out of school time. New government guidelines, which came into effect on 1st September 2013, prevent Head teachers from granting any leave of absence during term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances. The exceptional circumstances are clearly stated in the attendance policy on the school website. All holiday requests must be submitted by writing ahead of time, even if it is for half a day. Please put in as much detail for requests on the letter, for the school to make an informed decision as to whether to authorise. For example- only 1 day is permitted for an absence due to a wedding and it is only for an immediate family member. The information and evidence is also important to ensure that the school welfare and attendance officer does not fine for holidays taken during term time. If it is also noted that there are absences due to sickness, either side of the school term time holidays- the school also has to right to ask for medical evidence in order to code the absences as illness.

If your child has a medical appointment during the school day, evidence of the appointment must be shown to the office staff, to allow for authorisation. This will enable your child's attendance to be coded correctly and ensure that their attendance figures are correct, when they are checked each month by the Head teacher and the School's welfare and attendance officer.

We appreciate parents ensuring their child is punctual to school, as continued missed learning can affect progress. If your child arrives after 8.50a.m it is coded as late on the register and after 9a.m as an unauthorised absence, which can lead to penalty fines.

Please also help the school by collecting children on time at 3.15p.m and by 5.45p.m for the after school club, as the school would not like to resort to charging parents for staffing costs, which is impacting on the school budget.

The School, Local authority regard the regular attendance of children at school as being vital to each child's education and development. It is for this reason that non- attendance (however short or infrequent) are treated seriously. It remains the policy of the school/ St Thomas Aquinas Multi Academy Trust to only sanction non-attendance during term time in exceptional circumstances. It is hoped that you will take serious consideration and reconsider plans to take a family holiday during school term-time.

Wednesday 4th of March: Tour of RE lessons

The school warmly invites you from 9a.m to 10.45 on Wednesday 4th of March to see how RE is taught in school, including other faiths and to have a tour of the RE lessons.

Parent Pay

Thank you for activating your parent pay account and contacting the school office for any enquiries. If you have not activated it yet, please do so, as cash payments cannot be accepted in the school office. Please enquire from the office your passwords, if you cannot find the letter sent out last term. It is important that

every account is activated, as clubs, dinners, and trips can only be paid through it. Uniform has been added and is to be paid on it too, if bought from the school office. If you have signed up for an extra-curricular club for your child, as it is on parent pay you will have to commit and pay for the whole term (as stated in the club booklet sent out). You will only be able to receive a refund for absences due to illness. We appreciate your support in aiding the school to reduce its paper consumption and become more efficient.

Swimming

Year Five and Six will complete their swimming classes this term on Fridays until half term. Year Three and Four will begin their swimming lessons after half term on Fridays until the end of the Summer term. Please ensure they have their swimming kits on Fridays.

After school Clubs

Extra-curricular activities and the morning wake and shake club on Thursday Thank you if you have returned the club form back to school. Please ensure that your child does want to attend the club for the whole of the duration, as some children did not attend this week due to not wanting to do the club anymore. However we then could have accepted other children on the waiting lists in their places.

There are still places in these clubs: Lego, Basketball, wake and shake a.m. Choir club will continue to be at Wednesday lunchtimes. **The Leicester Rider Coaches were excellent on the Thursday basketball session and it would be great to see more children take up the opportunity to learn from qualified coaches and players.** The Activity club children also enjoyed the archery session on school after Tuesday. We have a wider range of clubs after school, so why not encourage your child to try one out, if they don't attend any currently?

The football and multi-skills clubs **will begin after the half term**, when there is more daylight after school.

Route to Resilience

The school continues to be part of this excellent DFE/ NHS programme. We are highlighting the characteristics in achievement Assembly and in classes. You will have received a leaflet about this and there are several displays around school on it. These are some of the characteristics we have mentioned/ worked on this week: Team work; Resilience, Enthusiasm; Patience; listening and Respect. It would be great if you could talk to the children about these characteristics. What have they done at home to build these characteristics?

PE Kits

Thank you for ensuring that your children are ready to learn for every lesson and ensuring they have their PE or swimming kits. The staff are constantly reviewing the Curriculum to ensure that we provide quality teaching and learning of knowledge and skills. However if children do not have the correct PE kit, they are missing out on valuable learning and teaching of responsibility.

Please ensure children have their PE kits every day in school, including plimsolls or trainers. They need track suits, whilst the weather is still cold. Shoes are not permitted to be worn, instead of trainers or plimsolls. Children are not permitted to participate in PE lessons without the correct PE kit. For some of the upper Key Stage Two classes, PE kits have had to be requested to keep in school, so children are not missing out on lessons.



Pupils bringing mobile phones to school

Children are not permitted to bring mobile phones to St Mary's Primary school. If children are seen at any point with a mobile phone on the school premises, parents will be called and asked to retrieve it. This also follows our feeder school De lisle's policy.

FOSM

Thank you to the team members who created brilliant events and raised so much money for the school last term, which enriched the curriculum of all the children.

Thank you for all your support and generosity for the Fundraising events in the Autumn term – from the cake sales, Christmas fair, film and disco evenings. We need your help to keep this going.

Please come along to meetings and see how you can support some of the fundraising events this term. We would really value your ideas, please do share with us what else you think needs fundraising for the school.

Next Meeting: 27th of February 2020: 3.15p.m in school (creche provided.) All welcome.

Thursday 23rd April : Annual Talent show for Ks1 and Ks2

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CATHOLIC LIFE AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Invitation to school Liturgies/ assemblies: Families are invited to attend school assemblies/ Liturgies as follows:

Tuesdays 9 a.m Prayer and liturgy led by the Headteacher or classes.

Fridays 9.00am Achievement assembly

Tuesday 4th February: Liturgy led by Year Five.

Tuesday 11th February: Liturgy led by Year Three.

Dates for Your Diary LENT 1 and LENT 2

11 th February	Safer Internet Day
13 th February	2.30p.m Y4 Roman Presentation
17 th February - 21 st Feb	Half term
24 th February	School opens for the second half of the Spring/Lent Term
26 th February	Ash Wednesday: 9.15 mass in church
5 st March 6 th March	World Book Day: dressing as book characters
20 th March	EYFS Foundation Class trip to Stonehurst Farm.
Easter holidays	Monday 6 th April to Friday 17 th April 2020 School re opens: Monday 20 th of April 2020
11 th May 2020	Year 6 SAT's Testing week
18 th May 2020	Year 2 SAT's Testing week

Thank you for your continued support for the school.

I look forward to seeing you all at school.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss P Jordan Headteacher