

ENGLISH MARTYRS NEWSLETTER



FORWARD TOGETHER IN HOPE

www.englishmartyrswakefield.org.uk

20th November 2020

Dear Parents,

As we all continue to struggle through this very strange time, it is easy to allow the problems that this year has brought us to swamp the precious moments that come into our lives to bring us joy. So, despite all of that, it is with much excitement and eager anticipation that we, as a staff, say a very fond farewell to our Deputy Headteacher Mrs Kerrigan, as she starts her maternity leave.

Even though we haven't seen her in the flesh for a long time, she has been working hard behind the scenes in supporting staff, children and parents, and has done an amazing job in exceptionally difficult circumstances. I am sure you will join me in wishing both (nearly) mummy and daddy well, as they make the final preparations for their new baby.



The gift of a child is so precious.

I am also thrilled to welcome onto our team Mrs Jenna Thompson, who will be joining us as a non-teaching interim Deputy Headteacher whilst Mrs Kerrigan is on maternity leave. Mrs Thompson is currently an Assistant Headteacher at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School in Hemsworth, and I am sure you will give her a warm welcome at the school gates.

Just to mention – I enjoy saying hello to you all at the school gates each morning, but if I am not there, it is because I am either dealing with something that crops up unexpectedly, or am in an early meeting that is unavoidable. If you have any concerns that I can help you with, please do come and talk to me and I will try my best to help

God bless,

Mrs Connell

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact ~
Designated Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Tina Connell
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Bridget Kerrigan

Mindfulness Moment: Follow your Passions

What are you passionate about? What energises you? Which of your friends do you have the most fun with? Recognise how you can choose to lift your spirits by following your heart. Always be true to yourself and what you love and enjoy.

'Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.'

Theodore Roosevelt

Safeguarding

A polite request... some of our younger boys have decided to engage in 'play-fighting' during break and lunchtimes. This is causing issues for staff, as behaviours are escalating and then causing some children to become upset or even hurt. If you are a parent of a Key Stage 1 boy (Year 1 or Year 2), could you please take some time to speak to your child over the weekend to explain that play-fighting is not allowed in school. Thank you for your continued support.

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Phonics Screening Check

As you know, none of the usual end of year statutory tests took place in the summer due to the pandemic.



The DfE has requested that all schools carry out the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check with children who are currently in Year 2, and submit the results before Christmas.

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In the run up to the tests, there are two things that you can do to help your child achieve as much success as possible:

1. Listen to them read every single night
2. Make sure they get to school on time so that they can take part in their daily phonics lessons which start straight after registration

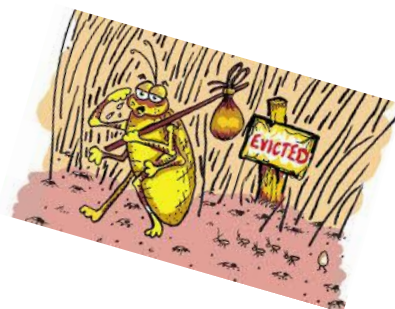
We will be carrying out the tests during the week commencing 7th December. Full attendance for all children in Year 2 is vital this week please.

Thank you for your support.

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Headlice Alert!

Please check your child's hair regularly for headlice. Unfortunately, these little creatures are expert at survival! Here is some guidance from the NHS if you need it...



Head lice and nits are very common in young children and their families. They do not have anything to do with dirty hair and are picked up by head-to-head contact.

Check if it's head lice

Head lice are small insects, up to 3mm long. They can be difficult to spot in your hair. Head lice eggs (nits) are brown or white (empty shells) and attached to the hair.

Head lice can make your head feel:

- itchy
- like something is moving in your hair

The only way to be sure someone has head lice is by finding live lice. You can do this by combing their hair with a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb). You can buy these online or at pharmacies.



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How to get rid of head lice

You can treat head lice without seeing a GP. Treat head lice as soon as you spot them.
You should check everyone in the house and start treating anyone who has head lice on the same day.

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice.

Wet combing

Lice and nits can be removed by wet combing. You should try this method first. You can buy a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb) online or from pharmacies to remove head lice and nits. There may be instructions on the pack, but usually you:

- wash hair with ordinary shampoo
- apply lots of conditioner (any conditioner will do)
- comb the whole head of hair, from the roots to the ends

It usually takes about 10 minutes to comb short hair, and 20 to 30 minutes for long, frizzy or curly hair.

Do wet combing on days 1, 5, 9 and 13 to catch any newly hatched head lice. Check again that everyone's hair is free of lice on day 17.

Medicated lotions and sprays

Ask a pharmacist for advice if you have tried wet combing for 17 days, but your child still has live head lice. They may recommend using medicated lotions and sprays. These kill head lice in all types of hair, and you can buy them from pharmacies, supermarkets or online. Head lice should die within a day. Some lotions and sprays come with a comb to remove dead lice and eggs. Some treatments need to be repeated after a week to kill any newly hatched lice.

Check the pack to see if they're OK for you or your child and how to use them. If lotions or sprays do not work, speak to a pharmacist about other treatments. Some treatments are not recommended because they're unlikely to work. For example:

- products containing permethrin
- head lice "repellents"
- electric combs for head lice
- tree and plant oil treatments, such as tea tree oil, eucalyptus oil and lavender oil herbal remedies

Information:

The charity Community Health Concern has a [video about wet combing for head lice](#).

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You cannot prevent head lice

There's nothing you can do to prevent head lice. You can help stop them spreading by wet or dry combing regularly to catch them early. Do not use medicated lotions and sprays to prevent head lice. They can irritate the scalp. There's no need for children to stay off school or to wash laundry on a hot wash.

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PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DEADLINE FOR YOU TO RETURN YOUR PHOTOGRAPH REQUESTS IS TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER.

FOR THOSE CHILDREN WHO DIDN'T HAVE THEIR PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN ON 9TH NOVEMBER, MAINLY NURSERY AND RECEPTION; THE PHOTOGRAPHER WILL BE IN SCHOOL AGAIN ON MONDAY 30TH NOVEMBER.



W/C 7 th December	Assessment week – full attendance is vital please
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Cinema Night
Thursday 17 th December	Christmas Party Day (wear your Christmas jumper!)
Friday 18 th December	Nativity Broadcast at 11am

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Nursery

Our star of the week this week is Jacob Summers: In every area, indoors and out this week Jacob has been practising his writing independently!!

Reception

Reception Star of the week this week is Archie Woodcock for his colourful and expressive story telling during our isolation. Well done Archie.

Year 1

My star of the week this week is Reuben; he has been trying really hard with his work and doing his best.

Year 2

Year 2 star of the week is Amy Moore for perserverence with her maths work!

Year 3

Year 3's star of the week this week is Oliver Whiteley. He has been chosen because his concentration has increased in lessons, resulting in him trying his best independently at his work in all lessons. Well done Oliver!

Year 4

This week's star is Adam Fox. Adam is a conscientious and polite member of year 4 who always give 100% effort to whatever task he undertakes. He is a fantastic member of the class who can always be caught doing the right thing.

Year 5

Oscar Mannifield

Oscar's contribution to all aspects of life in Year 5 is exceptional. His contributions during class discussions are always really well thought out and delivered with enthusiasm and interest. His Maths work in particular shows real skill. You are a delight to have in class Oscar and a true role model to others, very well done.

Year 6

My star of the week this week is Louis. His curiosity is admirable; he always asks thoughtful and inquisitive questions which is the sign of a good learner (they're usually too big to answer on the spot!). He has also persevered this week with his 'White Gold' writing, taking time and effort to produce a beautifully presented and cohesive newspaper report. Well done for putting in effort.