

ST ANSELM'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Newsletter – End of Summer Term 2014

Dear Parents

As we begin a new academic year, I am writing to update you on school news, events, activities and progress during the summer term.

School Staff

A paper copy of the new School Year Diary was sent home in July and is also on the school website. The diary provides information on all planned events. As you will see, there are again very few staff changes. Miss Coates is returning to Australia after nearly two years at St Anselm's. We will miss her friendly face and thank her for the positive & generous impact she has made at St Anselm's. Miss Rawsley is also leaving her teaching assistant post in Reception Class to begin training for a new career in teaching. We wish her every success and thank her for all her work with the children. Mrs Varyawa will be supporting the induction of our new Year 1 teacher before commencing maternity leave. We will also be replacing Miss Coates with a new support teacher for the year and have appointed three new teaching assistants. Mrs Lawlor and Mr McKeivitt will continue to support pupils in Key Stage 2. All other staff responsibilities remain the same. My thanks to every member of staff for their continued commitment to the pupils of St Anselm's which is demonstrated in so many ways.

School Improvement

The three targets within this year's school development plan have been met. These were;

Target 1 - Reviewing our policy for marking, assessing pupils' work and giving formative feedback.

Target 2 - Revising the Maths, English, Science & Computing curriculum to meet new requirements &

Target 3 - Reviewing and adapting the curriculum for foundation subjects.

To further inform you on the progress that your child is making, we will now be providing mid-year progress reports for every child to discuss at the parent/teacher conferences in January and February.

The Curriculum

We have now established the full content of our new curriculum and we will continue to focus on presenting a wide range of opportunities for pupils to embed and enhance their learning. During the year, the staff used our professional days and staff meetings to focus on ensuring assessment fully informs pupil's learning and researching new curriculum themes and content. In line with government requirements, a grid showing the year's class topics and the full core curriculum will be published on the updated school website this September. I have also asked teachers to share their assessment practises with you at their introductory talks in the second week of September.

PE, Games & Sports Day

The PE curriculum continues to be effective with all pupils participating well. Tennis for our Key Stage 1 pupils during the summer term was a great success and we are planning to introduce new sporting opportunities for this academic year. Mr Ollie will continue his schedule with all classes & Mrs Nicholson will continue to work with Key Stage Two girls to develop their ability, teamwork and enjoyment in netball. The children really enjoyed our recent World Cup football competition which was won by the team representing Uruguay.

As you will know we had to abandon activities due to the heavy rain on Sports Day but we were able to complete most of the track and field events the following Tuesday. After many years in the wilderness, the red team were the champions. I would like to say thank you to all the parents who were at the track on Sports Day – it was an impressive turnout and your co-operation was much appreciated.

Music

Our Choir is developing well under the expert guidance of Mr Locke and I look forward to new pupils in Year 3 filling the gap left by our Year 6 pupils. In September, all pupils in the new Year 4 and Year 5 will be learning the saxophone and pupils in new Year 6 have been offered instrument tuition in small groups.

Awards

You may like to know that six pupils from Year 5 won the Wandsworth Debating Skills competition so we have another glass trophy on display. Well done to the team and to Mrs Carter for preparing them so well. The team, along with pupils from Penwortham School represented Wandsworth in an all borough competition at The English Speaking Union in Mayfair. They all enjoyed the experience and came home keen to include even more listening and responding activities within our public speaking sessions. Our quiz teams for Science and General Knowledge also did incredibly well in the Quiz Club competition. The General Knowledge Team qualified for the national final held in Oxford Town Hall and came 6th out of 12 finalists. Many congratulations to the team - Toby Collins, William Boulanger, Annie Baird & Robbie Sutton (and to their parents)!

Parent Information & Workshop Sessions

Last term we held information sessions for parents on Maths for early and later Key Stage 2, a Literacy workshop for parents of pupils in Reception and Key Stage 1 and an E-Safety session. Thank you to all the parents who attended. In the year ahead, we plan to hold workshops to inform parents on reading development at Key Stage 2, practical Maths, spiritual development and the new syllabus for Information Technology.

Secondary Transfer

You will note from the school diary that there is a meeting for parents of pupils in the **new Year 6 on Tuesday 23rd September at 7.30 pm** to explain transfer arrangements & options. Additionally, we will have a general information sharing session on the process of transferring to secondary schools and the range of options available for parents of pupils in Years 3, 4 & 5 on **Wednesday 24th September at 7.30pm**. This session aims to fully inform and prepare parents for secondary choices in the years ahead.

Outings

Thank you to all the parents who have escorted groups of pupils on the many outings the children have enjoyed. There were over 40 outings this year. My thanks to all the teachers for organising and risk assessing each outing – they are such an important aspect of our curriculum.

Assemblies

Class assemblies during the year were, as always, an important feature in the faith life of our school. Pupils from the Reception Class to Year 6 have each presented three assemblies during the year and I am very conscious of the joy that they bring to our families. The staff are always heartened to see at each assembly how the children have grown in confidence and knowledge and also to see how well they are supported by their parents. Year 6 pupils presented a fantastic play in the last week of term that demonstrated their talents and teamwork. It was thoroughly enjoyable. Finally, we celebrated a wonderful Leaver's Mass and Prize Assembly. I hope that all our Year 6 pupils will experience success and happiness in the wide range of secondary schools that they will now be attending. We will miss the families who have left our school but wish them good luck in all they do and we hope they will all remember St Anselm's School as a place of true faith, hope, friendship and love.

Site Development

The overgrown leylandii trees and roots in the playground garden were removed during the summer break and new turf was laid on the paths. We will be planting more child friendly hedging and replacing the picket fence

this term. Thank you to Annie Yorke & Ronan Mulcahy for recommending tradespeople for these projects and to the School Association for funding it. We have also added new railings adjacent to the car park & adjoining the playground for improved security and replaced the Tooting Bec Road gate. The school kitchen is still being updated with a dishwasher and new sinks and storage equipment.

I'm sure that you will all be pleased to know that the School Association are also funding the development of the Performance Room and the Technology Room. Jane Walsh has very kindly offered to project manage this exciting development and works will commence this September.

The Governing Body

Governors have had another busy year reviewing planning, staffing, resources and finance amongst a myriad of initiatives and policies. I am very grateful to them for giving their time and working so well with us to ensure we continue to serve our community and meet our pupils' needs. Madelon has been a truly exceptional parent governor and her tenure comes to an end this academic year. Our Chair, Tony Bell will be writing to you later this term regarding the upcoming reconstitution of the Governing Body, changes to the composition and the process for nominating parent governors.

School Lunches

All pupils in Reception Class and Year 1 and 2 will be entitled to a free school lunch from September. We will be asking you to confirm your commitment to this in September. All lunch payments for pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 must be made in **advance for a full half term**. This is a common practice in most schools. The daily price is **£1.95** per lunch so if you want your child to have school lunch for the first half of the autumn term, you will need to pay **£72.15** on the first day of term. If your child is absent, costs will be deducted the following half term. Unfortunately the new system will not allow for daily or weekly changes so please consider this factor when deciding if you want your child to have school lunches.

School Uniform

I am reliably informed by our Peter Jones agent that the new jumper for boys with the school logo will be in stock from **1st September** and the striped blouse for girls will be added to our uniform list during this autumn term. Please let me know if you are experiencing any problems with provision.

Morning Procedure

Please ensure that your child is in line when the bell is rung at 9.00 am & allow them to line up independently. I would also remind all parents and pupils that scooters or bicycles must not be ridden in the playground. Scooters should be left in an orderly manner by the school gate and bikes placed in the bike racks.

Reminders

- Children return to school on **Thursday 4th September** in correct winter uniform including black school shoes. **Please do not purchase or allow your son to wear black trainers.** I would also like to remind our girls with shoulder length or longer hair that it must be tied up during the school day.
- Lunch payments for pupils in Key Stage 2 must be made to the School Office for the full half term.
- If your child has a packed lunch, they should come to school with it and put it on their class shelf in the packed lunch room off the hall. Please do not bring lunches to school during the morning session.
- Bandworx commences on Thursday 18th September and is open to all children learning an instrument.

I hope that you and all your families had a good summer break and I look forward to greeting you and working with you and your children on our return to school in September.

Mrs Macauley