

# Newsletter

St. Anselm's Catholic Primary School



18/11/16

Dear Parents

As you are aware, the new National Curriculum has a much greater focus on the teaching of grammar and punctuation. I have been sitting in on writing lessons across the school over the last few weeks and have been very impressed by the children's understanding of grammar, as a result of the teaching they are receiving. In one Key Stage 2 class I witnessed the children pull out all the grammatical features in the following sentence from Harry Potter:

*Harry could smell salt and hear rushing waves; a light, chilly breeze ruffled his hair as he looked out at the moonlit sea and the star-strewn sky.*

From this single sentence, the children were able to identify and explain the following grammatical features: main clause, a semi-colon, a hyphen, alliteration, adjectives, a modal verb and a subordinate conjunction. An interesting discussion was also had about whether or not 'rushing' is a verb in this context.

Whilst grammar is obviously important, composition and creativity remain as important. We always find that children who read, or are read to, are more competent writers as they develop better ideas and a more confident use of language. We will be promoting reading across the school this year, to try and engender a love of reading for all children. We are updating our classroom libraries and thinking of ways to encourage children to read more.

We had some visiting, newly qualified teachers in Y5 this week who came to watch a science lesson. As a leading teacher for Wandsworth, Mrs Carter was able to share her good practice in order to help these teachers to develop their skills. The teachers were very impressed with Year 5!



## A date for your diary

I have booked an ICT consultant to come and work with us all day on 26<sup>th</sup> January, to educate staff, parents and the children about e-safety and the dangers of the internet. There will be a talk for parents at 9:00am which will be repeated at 6pm.



### Date changes

Unfortunately we have had to make some further changes to the school diary. I am aware that such changes can cause problems for some of you and I wanted to assure you that these changes are never made lightly. They are as a result of a number of different factors that crop up as the school year progresses. I will always try and give you as much notice as I can about any changes we have to make. The changes are:

### Parents meeting

These will now take place over one day, on the following dates:

**17<sup>th</sup> January Year 6**

**19<sup>th</sup> January Year 5**

**23<sup>rd</sup> January Year 1**

**24<sup>th</sup> January Year 2**

**25<sup>th</sup> January Year 3 and Reception**

**31<sup>st</sup> January Year 4**

If you are going to have problems attending due to the change of date, do let us know and we will do what we can to accommodate you.

Our fifth **INSET** day will be on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017. This is instead of 30<sup>th</sup> June which was the original date.

The **reception class assembly** next term will be on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March instead of Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Class **Christmas parties** will be on 19<sup>th</sup> December in school.

Best wishes

Hattie Elwes  
Headteacher

Please join us for Advent Mass on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November, at 10:00 the church.



### Parish event

There is a Christmas cheese and wine evening on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November from 7.30pm in the upper new hall. £5 per head to be paid on entry. Please contact Mary K for more details.

Thank you to the PTA for the very successful coffee morning held this morning.

### Autumn Term Dates

#### November

21<sup>st</sup> Y4 Open Class 3pm

22<sup>nd</sup> Y5 Open Class 3pm

23<sup>rd</sup> Y4 assembly

24<sup>th</sup> Y6 Open Class 3pm

25<sup>th</sup> Flu vaccinations (Y1, 2 and 3)

28<sup>th</sup> Advent Mass - whole school event

#### December

2<sup>nd</sup> Senior Citizens' party - 2pm

7<sup>th</sup> KS1 Christmas play - 2:15pm

9<sup>th</sup> YR nativity - 2:15pm

13<sup>th</sup> Xmas lunch

15<sup>th</sup> KS2 Christmas play - 7pm

19<sup>th</sup> Christmas parties

21<sup>st</sup> School closes at 2pm

#### January

3<sup>rd</sup> INSET day (school closed)

4<sup>th</sup> Children return to school

**23<sup>rd</sup> June: New INSET day.**

