

Newsletter

St. Anselm's Catholic Primary School



10/02/17

Dear Parents

This year, the nine Catholic primary schools in Wandsworth are increasingly working together in order to support teachers and share good practice. All the teachers are spending time with year group colleagues in other schools and are sharing ideas about how to improve and assess writing. Last week I had an interesting meeting with the other seven Headteachers where we discussed our School Development Plans. It became clear that all nine schools are focussing on very similar areas as we continue to try and implement the new National Curriculum, and the new requirements for assessment. We feel very blessed that we have such hard working and dedicated staff who have had to adapt to a number of new government initiatives in a very short space of time, creating an increased workload at all levels. Whilst the quantity of work that children have to cover in a year has increased, as well as the expectations, we continue to try and make sure that our curriculum is interesting, fun and creative, as well as striving to ensure that the children achieve their best.

Our main school development priorities for this year are:

1. *To continue to improve standards. To ensure that differentiation is well planned to meet the needs of all groups.*
2. *To develop standards in writing at expected levels and increase the number of children achieving 'greater depth'. To narrow the gap between boys' and girls' writing.*
3. *To develop provision in EYFS and improve resources.*
4. *To further establish the senior and middle leadership roles in order to raise standards*
5. *To continue to develop and embed assessment following the introduction of the new assessment procedures.*
6. *To review and develop governance*

Theme week

Theme week this year will focus on Shakespeare. Unfortunately the dates in the calendar were published incorrectly and the actual date of theme week is the week of 27th March. There will be an assembly and open afternoon celebrating the children's work, at 2pm on Wednesday 5 April. We are already very enthused about what we can achieve and are working hard to plan a fun and productive week. If any parents have any particular skills relevant to the theme which they would like to share with us, do please get in touch.

Ms Diver

We were sorry to say goodbye to Ms Diver yesterday, and we wish her well as she takes early retirement. The SENCo role will be taken on by Ms Elwes for the time being, until we find a suitable replacement.

Music

On 27th March, in the afternoon, we will be having a music concert in school, in order to celebrate the children's musical talents. The choir will perform, as well as the children in Years 3 and 4 on their recorders. There will also be a chance for some children who play instruments at home to perform a piece. More information to follow.

The children in Y4 and Y5 have already had a saxophone concert this year. We are also delighted that Y4 have been chosen to play their saxophones with 250 other children in the Royal Festival Hall in June.

The choir will also be singing at The Catholic Schools Choir Festival on March 24th at Sacred Heart Church in Battersea, at 2pm.

Class assemblies

Some parents have mentioned in the parent questionnaire that it's a shame that we no longer have live musical accompaniment during class assemblies. We agree with this. Unfortunately none of the staff are able to accompany and Mr Cronin is only with us on Mondays. One parent helpfully suggested that there may be some parents who could help out. If you are able to play an instrument and are willing to help us out, do get in touch. We'd be very grateful.

Best wishes

Hattie Elwes
Headteacher

Each class showed what they had been learning during e-safety week in assembly. It was clear that they had learnt a lot and they were able to share lots of valuable information.



We also shared the amazing posters that the children had made at home. Many of you commented that this was a great way to sit down with your children and talk about e-safety. Thank you to Mrs Roberts for organising such a successful week.

Spring Term Dates

March

1st Ash Wednesday Mass
7th Y6 Tate Gallery
8th Y5 class assembly
16th Reception assembly
16th Y4 Ragged School trip
24th Catholic Choir festive - pm
24th Social event
27th Music concert
27th - 31st Theme week



April

5th Theme week open afternoon - 2pm
6th School closes at 2pm

24th INSET day
25th First day of the summer term