



Newsletter—October 2017



A BUSY HALF TERM

We have had a very busy beginning to the school year and it is amazing to think we are already at the end of the first half term. The school is really coming to life with displays of children's work and it is great to see many children already receiving their first certificates of the year for excellent behaviour for learning, achievement and progress in class, as well as handwriting certificates. Well done children—keep working hard and being proud of what you do. Our children have engaged really well during the NSPCC workshops and assemblies this term and we know they are really well informed about speaking out and staying safe. Thank you to the parents who were able to attend the on-line safety workshop in September. If you were unable to attend then an information booklet was available at Parents' evening. Spare booklets are in the school porch if you didn't pick one up. Next half term is also a busy one—some dates are detailed below which you may like to make a note of:

Tuesday 7th November Friends of St Paul's meeting 3.30pm

Wednesday 8th November Robinwood meeting for Parents/Carers of Y6 pupils 3.15pm

Friday 24th November—Nasal flu vaccination for Y1,2,3 and 4 pupils—details and consent forms to follow after half term.

Tuesday 12th December Y1/Y2/Y3 Nativity 10am

Wednesday 13th December Y1/Y2/Y3 Nativity 1.45pm

Thursday 14th December Reception class and afternoon nursery Nativity 1.45pm

Thursday 14th December Y1/Y2/Y3 Nativity 6pm

Friday 15th December Reception class and morning nursery Nativity 10am

Tuesday 19th December Y4/Y5/Y6 Carol Service at Holy Rosary Church 6pm

Christmas Parties will be held during the final week of term—dates to follow.

Nursery and Reception Children will have their party on Thursday 21st December. **There will be no morning nursery session** on this day, all children can attend the party during the afternoon session beginning at 12.30pm.

OUR JOURNEY IN FAITH

As a Catholic school we are always aware of our responsibility to promote social justice. This half term we have had a really generous response to our charity appeals. Our Macmillan coffee afternoon was very well attended and we were very grateful for so many donations of cakes. We were able to send a donation of £190 to Macmillan Cancer Care. During October our children enjoyed being bright to raise funds for the Cafod Harvest Appeal. We were able to send £230 to support the work of Cafod in El Salvador. In addition to your financial generosity, we were overwhelmed at the amount of donations for our local foodbank. Thank you so much—our foodbank remains open for ongoing donations. Photos of these events are in the Gallery section on the school website.



After half-term there will be an opportunity to support the Royal British Legion with their Poppy Appeal—details to follow.

Many thanks for completing the Catholic Life questionnaire for parents and carers of pupils in Year 1—Year 6. Your responses will help us evaluate our mission as a Catholic school. We will share the outcomes of this questionnaire during next half term.

PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

It was great to see so many families at our recent Parents' evenings. Thank you for attending and working in partnership with us. Your support is very much valued; if you do have any concerns then please speak to your child's class teacher, Mrs Peacock or myself. So that a convenient time can be arranged, please contact the school office to make an appointment if there is anything you wish to discuss.

We also really appreciate your support in ensuring that our Y3 children have had their swimming kits each day for their fortnightly swimming block—you will have very clean children!! Thank you also to our Y6 parents and carers for ensuring bikes have been in school this week—I know the children have really enjoyed their bikeability training.

SAFE GUARDING AND PUPIL WELFARE

The safety of our pupils in and around school is always our priority. Please ensure that you park safely when you drop off and pick up pupils. You will be aware that there are ongoing concerns about parking around school. We hope that our new arrangements for children coming into school on a morning via the Thames Road entrance has reduced congestion on the lane and we continue to request that you do not use the lane at drop off and pick up times. A reminder that children should push their bikes or scooters once inside the school grounds to avoid any accidents.

On Friday 3rd November our KS2 children will take part in the Big First-Aid Lesson which is a live on-line broadcast by St John's Ambulance.



We are committed to ensuring that children develop positive friendships and we will be taking part in the national anti-bullying week initiative from 13th–17th November. This year's theme is "all different, all equal" - there will be an opportunity to promote difference and equality.

Last half term our Key Stage 2 children took part in a "British Values" team challenge. The British Values of Democracy, The Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Tolerance of Different Cultures and Religions and Mutual Respect were explored and the children created a beautiful display of their work. We continue to promote these values in and around school.



ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance has dropped this half term to 95.9% which is below our 96.5% target. Please ensure your child is at school every day possible. Holidays during term time are unauthorised and may incur a penalty notice.

Class results are:

Reception: 97%
Year 1: 96%
Year 2: 95%
Year 3: 97%
Year 4: 94.5%
Year 5: 94%
Year 6: 96%
Year 6: 96%



Reception



Year 3

Well Done!

So far 127 children have 100% attendance this term!



SCHOOL UNIFORM

On their return to school, all children (excluding nursery) need to be in winter uniform. This means that children need to wear a shirt or blouse with a tie. No polo shirts please. Tights should be plain and a reminder that our school cardigans/sweatshirt/jumpers are grey. School shoes should be worn and if you purchase boots for your child then please ensure they are suitable for outdoor play. Soft, fabric boots are unsuitable for school. PLEASE, PLEASE ensure all uniform and PE kit is labelled—you will have seen an incredible amount of lost property displayed at Parents' Evening all of which is unnamed, it also included coats! This is such a waste and whilst we can donate some unclaimed items to charity, our school logo clothing has to be disposed of.

Many thanks for your on going support.
Have a good half term break.

Mrs S Sinclair—Headteacher