

WE LOVE, WE PRAY, WE LEARN, WE PLAY



NEWSLETTER 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019

**B**e still, and know I am God.  
**A**ll things God works for the good.  
**C**ast all my anxiety on Him.  
**K**now whose I am!  
**T**rust in the Lord with all my heart.  
**O**pen my eyes to see the truth.  
**S**how me your ways, Lord.  
**C**reate in me a clean heart.  
**H**e who is in me is greater...  
**O**bey the Lord my God.  
**O**h Lord, you are my strength & shield.  
**L**et love and faithfulness never leave me.

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas holiday, we enjoyed hearing about everyone's news on Tuesday. The staff had an inspirational day on Monday, joining with all the schools in the Thomas Aquinas Academy trust at St Paul's school in Leicester. We listened to an excellent talk by Sir John Dunford about effective pupil premium spending, another talk on how to build children's resilience in school and participated in a range of workshops on subjects in the curriculum; such as art, music, programming, bar modelling in maths, to developing well-being and mental health in school. We will be incorporating this training into the curriculum to benefit all the children.

We have so much to look forward to this term and the children and staff have made a wonderful start. We participated in a thoughtful Epiphany Liturgy on Tuesday, asking for blessings for the New Term and placing our chalk welcome signs for the year above the classroom doors. Electric Emma from the Fizz Pop Science organisation led an exhilarating science assembly on Wednesday. We also joined the parish for a beginning of term Mass on Friday morning at St Mary's church. We do hope you can join us for lots of events and planned workshops and tours of lessons this term. We welcome two teacher trainees in our Year 4 and 5 class for the Spring term and thank you for your prayers and well-wishes for Mr Mount, who is gradually returning to full time teaching in Year Three.

### **Foundation Class applications: Closing date**

We are delighted that we have had so much interest for places for the Foundation class for the next Academic Year. The closing date for applications on the Leicestershire Website is next week on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January. Please ensure that you have applied to secure a place for your child. If you require a place in the Foundation Class for your child for September 2019, please collect an admissions form from the school office and also apply online. Admissions details are on the website, as well as the Admission's policy.

### **Swimming**

Year Five and Six will be attending swimming classes this term on Fridays until half term. Year Three and Four will begin their swimming lessons after half term.

### **After school Clubs**

**Extra-curricular activities and the morning wake and shake club on Thursday begins next week from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> of January.**

Thank you if you have returned the club form back to school. There are still places in these clubs: Lego, Athletics, Wake and shake a.m, Choir and Activities.

The children have taken home letters about the Fizz Pop Science clubs, which will begin after half term. Please return these forms as soon as possible, if your child is interested in the club, as places are limited to 20. The Football and Multi-skills clubs will begin after the half term, when there is more daylight after school.

For the after school club – we would appreciate knowing at the beginning of the week if your child is attending, to ensure we have the appropriate staff and food supplies in place.

### **ESOL classes : English Language classes**

Begins Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January in the school studio: 1.30 – 3.15p.m. Please do come along, a great way to meet other parents too, and have a chat.

### **School uniform**

It was fantastic to see the children returning so smartly in their Winter uniform for the start of this term. Thank you for your support on this. The summer uniform can be worn after the Easter holidays. Please note that on our school policy, it states that boy's haircuts will need to be sensible: tram lines, patterns and markings shaved in will not be permitted. Black school shoes and not trainers needs to be worn with the uniform, unless special permission has been granted due to a physical need.

### **Children's absences/ holidays during Term Time**

Your child's absence needs to be called into the school office each day they are off school for sickness. Any holiday requests during term time needs to be written to the Headteacher and not verbally given. The 2013 Government ruling states that Headteachers cannot authorise holidays in the term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

### **Consultation on the development of new specialist provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)**

As you may have seen in the news this week, there is a consultation about special needs funding, services and places in Leicestershire. It is very important for parents to have a say on this, as a school we do struggle with the amount of funds allocated for special needs and the lack of places in special schools and for support, delaying the progress and well-being of children in school.

This is an extract of the letter sent to schools this week:

In March 2018 the County Council Cabinet agreed the Leicestershire SEND Strategy 2017/20. The strategy sets out clearly our vision for children and young people with SEND to achieve well in their education, to be cared for in safe and supportive families, participate and be involved in their communities and lead happy, safe and fulfilled lives.

We are mindful that one of the challenges for Leicestershire in the past has been the lack of enough specialist places in our schools, creating more places is a key aim in the Strategy. We believe that by tackling this and developing more high quality provision we will not only improve choice for parents and pupils but we will also make better use of the funding available to us, hence we have now developed proposals to achieve this.

Our proposals are challenging and ambitious, they encompass expanding our existing special schools and enhanced resource bases in mainstream schools, developing new enhanced resource bases for children with Communication and Interaction difficulties, including ASD and for Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs known as SEMH. Longer term we would also like to open up to four new special schools.

Further details on these proposals are provided in the consultation document available via the following link [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/send-consultation](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/send-consultation)

For our plans to be successful we will need to continue to work in close partnership with our schools, with families, and with other providers and agencies for example Health and those that have an interest in meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND.

Before we progress any further we would like to know what schools, their staff and governors, parents/carers and pupils think about our proposals and how effective you think they will be to help meet the increasing demand for SEND places. In this respect your assistance to ensure that the consultation is brought to the

attention of the above individuals would be appreciated, please feel welcome to circulate this letter more widely for this purpose. Specifically we would like to hear views on how the new specialist provisions should look, how they should feel and how they might work. This is explained further on the response form accompanying the consultation document.

**FOSM**

**Film Night: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January from 3.15p.m -5p.m: tickets £2.50 from the school office.**

Thank you for all your support and generosity for the Fundraising events in the Autumn term – from the cake sales, Christmas fair, film and disco evenings. We need your help to keep this going. The school apologises for having to change pyjama day at short notice, due to having Mass booked in and children going to swimming. We will notify you of another day, which will not be a Friday.

**We have a Friend’s of St Mary’s meeting on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> of January at 3.15p.m in the school studio. All Parents warmly invited to it. Creche available.**

Please come along and see how you can support some of the fundraising events this term. We would really value your ideas, please do share with us what else you think needs fundraising for the school.

**Phone app**

Thank you, we have noticed an increase in the amount of downloads of the school phone app. This helps us to improve our communication to you. Please ensure you have the notifications turned on.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CATHOLIC LIFE AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

**Invitation to school Liturgies/ assemblies:** Families are very welcome to attend school assemblies/ Liturgies as follows:

Tuesdays                      9 a.m    Prayer and liturgy led by the Headteacher or classes.

Fridays                         9.00am        Achievement assembly

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January: 9a.m:** The Liturgy will be led by **Year 3**. Please do join us in the hall.

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January:** Assembly on restricted growth/ dwarfism by the Association. Parents welcome.

**Fund-Raising for the Rainbows Hospice.**

We are very proud of our children who show their Catholic faith by thinking of others. Gary Fairfield will be meeting the Year 5 girls who fundraised for the Rainbow’s Hospice this Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> and arranging a time, they and the school council can visit the Hospice. We are very grateful to the parent who donated very generously to this cause.

**Dates for Your Diary**

Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Friends of St Mary's Meeting: 3.15p.m studio
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	9a.m: Liturgy led by Year Three in the hall
12th February	Parent’s evening: progress information in the hall: 2p.m -6p.m
18 <sup>th</sup> February - 22nd Feb	Half term
25 <sup>th</sup> February	School open for the second half of the Spring Term
5 <sup>st</sup> March	World Book Day and Shrove Tuesday
6 <sup>th</sup> March	Ash Wednesday: 9.15a.m Mass in church
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Individual and Sibling photographs

Easter holidays	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April to Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2019 School re opens: Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> of April 2019.
13 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	Year 6 SAT's Testing week

Thank you for your continued support for the school.

The next newsletter will be sent out on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2019. I look forward to seeing you all at school.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss P Jordan    Headteacher