

# Newsletter

St. Anselm's Catholic Primary School



18/01/19

Dear Parents

We had a visit from our Education Welfare Officer last week. Whilst attendance at our school is generally very good, there are still a number of families who are absent due to holidays, or leave, during term time. Whether this is for an authorised reason, an unauthorised reason or the odd day of absence at the beginning or end of the term to catch a flight, all of these absences start to add up. Ultimately the main impact is on the children's education as we know that attendance is directly linked to outcomes. Children are not permitted to miss school for a holiday or for travelling. There are some very exceptional or unavoidable reasons when an absence will be authorised but this is rare and these occasions are still counted as absence. Our biggest concern is around families who incur these types of absences on more than one occasion. In these cases we are entitled to fine families and this may be something that we need to consider in the future. The Education Welfare Officer will continue to monitor the situation as she was concerned at the number of days lost across the school due to holidays. Attendance at secondary school open days and assessments for are not counted as absence.

It was lovely to work with other teachers yesterday who came to St Anselm's from schools across the diocese to share work samples and good practice. The children in our Catholic schools are privileged to receive such rich religious education.

We continue to teach our children about their faith through RE lessons, assemblies, our links with the parish and parents, and by keeping Christ central to all that we do. It is important that we also teach them about other faiths and we will be doing that during some dedicated other faith days this year. We started with a focus on Judaism this week with every class focussing on a different aspect of the faith. Next half term we will be looking at Islam. If you are able to share any facts or experiences about Islam with our children, do please let us know.



### Children's Mental Health Week

A reminder that Tania will be running a coffee morning for parents after drop-off on 7<sup>th</sup> February. She will be focussing on children's mental health and anxiety. Do please let us know if you intend to come via the email that was sent out last week so that we have an idea of numbers.



We welcome Miss Brewer to our staff team. She will be working as a TA in reception, covering Mrs K who is currently on a year's sabbatical.

St Anne's House (Y1-6) will be wearing their home clothes as their prize on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January. Reception children have now been put into houses and will start to earn merits for their house.

We continue to ask parents to please clearly label their child's jacket on the inside collar (fleece side). Names in the pocket are hard to find and are likely to result in a coat being lost or confused with someone else's coat.

All children should now have a St Anselm's school bag (apart from Year 6, for this year only). A reminder that the black raincoat is no longer part of our school uniform and that school hats and scarves must be uniform.

Best wishes,

Hattie Elwes

### Buildings

We are hoping that the building work will start on our new pedestrian entrance on Louisville Road during half term, if the planning permission comes through in time. There will be a path running between the car park and the playground which will be used for entry and exit for visitors during the day, and also for breakfast club and Fruity Club. This will ensure that children will not be walking through the car park. This is phase one of the project. During phase two next year, we hope to continue to improve this entry by opening up access through the room that is currently used to store our bins and hot water tank.

### Autumn and Spring Term Dates

#### **January 2019**

23<sup>rd</sup> Y5 class assembly

30<sup>th</sup> Reception Family Learning

#### **February**

2<sup>nd</sup> Valentine disco 5:00 - 7:00pm

6<sup>th</sup> Y4 class assembly

18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> Half term

25<sup>th</sup> INSET day

#### **Sports Day**

13<sup>th</sup> June 2019

