

Newsletter

St. Anselm's Catholic Primary School



4/02/19

Dear Parents

One of our main development points this year has been to focus on the teaching of maths and the implementation of the Maths Mastery approach across the school. We are working with a Teacher Research Group (TRG), run by the South West London Maths Hub, which means that we have a Maths Mastery specialist working with us for the next two years to help us embed this approach. The implementation of Maths Mastery is being led by Mr Dobson who is working closely with our specialist teacher alongside Miss Cowan. Mr Dobson has been expertly disseminating his training to the staff and all teachers are now using this approach in their teaching of maths.

Maths Mastery builds on the approach we have to learning in our school. It focusses on breaking down the learning into small 'micro' steps to ensure that every stage is understood and embedded, with an emphasis on getting the children to explain their thinking. It also focusses on conceptual variation, allowing children to generalise their learning and apply it to different situations as well as gain a deeper understanding of the number system. We focus on fluency, reasoning and problem solving, and the use of equipment to ensure a solid understanding of each stage. In the short time that we have been using this approach, we have noticed an improvement in the children's understanding, explanation and application and I'm sure this will continue.

Last week I accompanied some of the teachers to a local primary school to watch two visiting teachers from Shanghai. As the pioneers of this approach to teaching it was fascinating to observe them and it has also helped us on our path to becoming a Maths Mastery school.



WhatsApp groups

We know that a lot of classes now have WhatsApp groups for the parents. This can be a very useful way of reminding each other about events etc, and keeping in touch. We would however like to encourage parents to still talk directly to us if they have an issue with eg homework, rules and routines etc. Small issues can often be sorted out through a quick chat with the teacher, before they snowball into something much bigger. A senior teacher is always in the playground at the beginning and the end of the day, and the class teachers are available to chat at the end of the day.

There will be a cake sale after school on Friday 15th February. Funds raised will be for the PTA



We will be having an e-safety day in school on 13th February as part of our continued emphasis on helping children to keep themselves safe online.

Disco

Many thanks to the reception parents who worked so hard to prepare and run the disco on Saturday night. It was a great community event, as always.

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to our First Holy Communion children who were presented at Mass yesterday. We will keep them in our prayers as they prepare for the sacraments of reconciliation and communion.

Best wishes,

Hattie Elwes

Class Mass dates

We have changed the format of the class Masses this year. Classes will go in pairs, or groups, and the children will be more involved in the liturgy. Parents are welcome to attend – 10:00am in the church.

11th Feb Year 6 and reception

4th March Year 5 and Y1

11th March Y2, Y3 and Y4

Spring Term Dates

January 2019

23rd Y5 class assembly

30th Reception Family Learning

February

2nd Valentine disco 5:00 – 7:00pm

6th Y4 class assembly

7th Place2be coffee morning

11th Year 6 and reception Mass 10:00

13th e-safety day

18th - 22nd Half term

25th **INSET day**

26th Y6 SATs workshop 3.45

March

1st PTA meeting 9:10

4th Y6 and Y4 parent conferences

4th Year 5 and Year 1 class Mass 10:00

5th Y1 and Y3 parent conferences

6th YR and Y5 parent conferences

7th World Book Day

11th Y2, 3 and 4 class Mass 10:00

15th PTA social event

25th Theme week

April

3rd Theme week assembly

5th Mass 10:00

End of term 2:00

Sports Day

13th June 2019

INSET

14th June 2019