

WE LOVE, WE PRAY, WE LEARN, WE PLAY



St Thomas Aquinas  
Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

## NEWSLETTER 8 February 2019

Dear Families,

We are looking forward to seeing you for parent's evening on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of February from 2p.m – 6p.m, thank you for making the appointments. Please enter through the parish hall and you will be invited through to the hall to speak to class teachers. You will have the opportunity to look at your child's class books and to discuss progress so far. If your appointment is before 3p.m, children can be collected at the end of the appointment if required.

Thank you to the Year Five and Six parents who attended the meeting after school on Thursday to look at RSE materials. The lessons will be covered next week in their PHSE lessons. The FOSM Pyjama day is on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February. Children can wear pyjamas over other clothes as they may be cold. We warmly invite all parents to join us for our Valentine's themed lunch on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February from 12p.m.



### World Book Day Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> of March

St Mary's school is celebrating World Book Day on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March and not on the official day of the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, due to the opportunity for individual children's photographs or with siblings to be taken on the 7<sup>th</sup> and we are sure you wouldn't want the photographs in their book costumes.

The children can wear a book related costume or their own clothes. We are collecting books for schools in Africa, so it would be an ideal opportunity if every child could bring a book they would like to donate that is in good condition and suitable for primary school pupils on World Book Day. We have been asked if those books do not include Jacqueline Wilson stories as the language are not always suitable. Thank you for your support.



### Safer Internet Day 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019

We had an excellent Safer Internet day – thank you to the school council and Mrs Davis for organising the very informative assemblies on the day and the safety messages given to the children. Please have a look at the photographs on the home page of the school website. We have been sent safety guidance for parents on TikTok.

TikTok is a video-sharing app. Users can upload and share short videos of themselves lip-syncing to songs or acting out comedy sketches, and add special effects. This app is for children aged 13 and over. They can gain followers ('fans') and browse other people's videos. You may have heard of the app by its previous name: Musical.ly. Everything that was on Musical.ly is now on TikTok. If your child previously had a Musical.ly account they will be able to access their content on TikTok.

What are the concerns? On the surface, nothing. TikTok has a reputation for being unusually free of trolling and danger. But you may have seen news reports or heard concerns about some users harassing children for images and videos on a variety of apps, including fortnite.

What should I look out for?

User profiles which talk about 'trading' or swapping pictures/videos  
Use of emojis that are commonly considered to be sexually suggestive.  
Hashtags, such as #tradefortrade, which clearly suggest the user is looking to trade illicit content  
The lyrical content of some songs – parents have raised concerns that it's not always age-appropriate

Remember: Accounts are set to 'public' by default. Public profiles can be viewed by anyone.

Even with a private account, your child's profile information can be seen by all users. Make sure your child doesn't reveal personal information on their public profile and ensure all accounts are set to private.

### **Themed Lunch days and Year Group lunch days.**

We warmly invite you to join with our children for our excellent, tasty and healthy nutritious school lunches in the lunch hall from 12.00p.m to 1p.m. A letter has been sent out to parents on some theme lunches we have organised, which we'd like to welcome you to, such as for Valentine's day. Meals are priced at £2.94. Please inform the school office, if you would like to join us on those days in the letter, as soon as possible or the dates below, so we can arrange the provision. It was great to see our Year 5 families this week.

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February: Y4** parents invited for lunch 12.20p.m

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March: Y3** parents invited for lunch 12.20p.m

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March: Y2** parents invited for lunch: 12.00p.m

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March: Y1** parents invited for lunch 12.00p.m

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April: EYFS** – foundation parents invited for lunch 12.00p.m



### **Parking Dropping off at the front entrance**

Thank you so much to all the parents who park sensibly around school, so as to not block drive-ways and residents in. We understand the frustration that there is no school parking, however due to the school's location we do not have the capacity to have a car park for parental parking and thank you for your understanding. We particularly ask for this when parking around St Mary's Close, so as to not block drive ways or residents in. Please could other parking locations be found. When there is wet weather we do endeavour to open the doors early. Please can children not be dropped off by car at the front school entrance: they need to enter through the side gates as usual.

### **Young Writer's Award: Deadline: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

The acclaimed creative writing competition seeks songs, poems, stories and scripts! Win amazing prizes for you and your school! 120 finalists attend an exclusive awards ceremony in London. Anybody between the ages of 5-25 years can take part. Visit [WickedYoungWriterAwards.com](http://WickedYoungWriterAwards.com) to discover more. You can write about absolutely anything in 750 words or less. You will need to go on the website to enter and we will be enabling the children to do this in school too.

### **ST Mary's Parish Grub Club**

The parents whose children attended in the Summer holidays are invited again to attend on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> of February and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February in the half term holiday at the same location of St Mary's School hall. Open from 11.30a.m to 1p.m. If your child is in receipt of pupil premium funding and you think your child would benefit from attending please see Miss Jordan for a form to fill in.

**Packed lunches** – it is wonderful to see so many healthy and well-balanced pack lunches provided by parents, with treat day only being on Friday and we thank you for respecting other children's allergies. However some packed lunches are including chocolates, sweets and crisps on all days of the week, which should only be on a Friday. Please support us in gaining our silver food for life award and eco award, by using reusable water bottles.

### **Year Five partnership**

Year Five had an excellent morning at Sacred Heart School on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of February. The children were commended by Neil Lockyer (the CEO of the Thomas Aquinas Academy) for their excellent behaviour, co-operation and confidence in articulating their opinions and working with the CMAT Chaplains.

### **Family English Classes: Leicestershire Adult Learning Service**

Thursdays 1.30p.m – 3.15p.m in the school's studio. Thank you to the parents who attended the fourth session this week with Pauline, it was wonderful to see you all. All parents are welcome: Learn ways to help your child settle into school, improve your own skills in English, understand letters from school and feel confident to help and support your child. You can ring Pauline on 07944055723/01163055636 for further information. We thank her for providing this free service.

**Extra-Curricular Activities:** There are still places for these after school clubs: lego club on Mondays, Activities on Tuesday, morning wake and shake on Thursday and Athletics on a Thursday. The football and multi- skills clubs will begin after half term and the science club also begins after the half term.

### **FOSM : School Parents Teachers organisation**

The school has gained so many wonderful things through their and your generosity. This half term, new bean bags have been bought for the after school club and games such as a large connect 4 and snakes and ladders for playtimes. We are purchasing large outdoor boxes to keep the games in. This will enable to zone areas at lunchtimes, giving children who do not wish to run about, opportunities to play quieter games or read.

**NEXT MEETING AND AGM 4<sup>th</sup> APRIL at 3.30p.m:** all parents welcome, in this meeting it is the Annual General meeting: so if you would like to be voted into a role please ensure you attend.

**PYJAMA day: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**SPONSORED FLOSS AFTERNOON: 11<sup>th</sup> April from 2p.m on the school playground for the whole school: raise money from the school and have fun doing the floss dance! Sponsor forms were sent out to each family this week. Extra Sponsor forms can be collected from the School office. How long can your children floss for?**

**22<sup>nd</sup> May: EYFS and KS1 Talent Show from 4p.m**

**23<sup>rd</sup> May: KS2: Junior Talent show from 6p.m**

There is a suggestion book on the table by the school hall entrance, please do fill it in if you have any suggestions of things to fundraise for or any fundraising ideas.

Further events and dates will be in next week's newsletter. Thank you for your feedback, the FOSM team have reduced events to one or two per term. We do need more volunteers for events such as school disco's and other events.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CATHOLIC LIFE AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

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

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

Fridays                         9.00 am      Achievement assembly (If we are attending mass, it will be on Thursdays.

Thank you to Saint Christopher's class Year two for leading such a wonderful liturgy about the bible, the way you remembered all your words was remarkable. Thank you to the families who joined us.

Fr David is leading the children in a Liturgy on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> of February. All Welcome.

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February: 9a.m Whole School Liturgy led by the Chaplaincy Team – All welcome.**

**The Achievement Assembly: 9a.m Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019.**

The children can take part in rosary and meditation clubs run at break time by Mrs Moore.

### **PE lessons and PE kits**

Please ensure that children have their PE kits in school all week and for those classes going swimming, their swimming kits. This is an equally important part of the curriculum and we ensure that there is excellent provision. A letter will be sent home, if they do not have their kits and if this is a recurring situation, a meeting will be called with parents to find a resolution. We endeavour in enabling the children to find their PE kit first, but labelling of all their kit would help staff to find it, if it is not on their peg. All children must have their t-shirt and shorts for indoor PE, but due to the cold weather **and particularly Key Stage Two, need to have track suit for their PE.** Please do have a look at the uniform policy for the correct PE kit for children to bring in. Children who do not have their PE kits attend PE lessons and have to write about the learning in the lesson. Children will not be exempt from PE lessons for medical reasons or injury, unless there is a written and signed letter from a parent.

### **School Uniform: hair and ties**

Any child's hair which is longer than shoulder length must be put up in a ponytail, bun or plait. Please also ensure children are wearing their school ties.

Thank you.

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### **Parent's Progress Meeting: 12<sup>th</sup> February : 2-6.00p.m : School Hall**

#### **Dates for Your Diary**

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: 9.15 mass in church: beginning of Lent
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 Following week: Year Two Sat's testing.

Thank you for your continued support for the school. The Half term holiday is from Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> of February to Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2019. School reopens at the usual time on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of February.

The next newsletter will be sent out on Friday the 15th of February 2019. I look forward to seeing you all at school.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss P Jordan    Headteacher