



Immaculate Heart of Mary
Catholic Primary School
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'Together with Jesus, we love to learn and learn to love'

Ethos statement for next week: "I know that it is ok for me to make mistakes."

1st March 2019

Dear Parents,

The glorious weather for half term and the start of the week has been a wonderful start to this half term, and it has also meant that the astro turf is progressing well.

Thank you to the overwhelming majority of our parents who have been so supportive whilst the car park has been out use. The car park will continue to be unavailable for next week. Can I please ask you to continue to be considerate to our neighbours with your parking. Hopefully by 11th March the number of heavy goods vehicles accessing the playground will have reduced.

Please see the school website and twitter for updated photographs of the work. The foundation work that has been happening this week is extremely impressive and for the first time in years the children will be playing on a level and smooth surface.

This work could not have happened with out parental support through VCS contributions (**so if you have not returned your form please do so as the coffers are now empty and we need to build up funds for future work**) and through the amazing fund raising of IHOMSA. The money raised by IHOMSA in the last four years has been over £50,000. However without more parents willing to give up time to be part of the committee we will lose this vital source of income and social interaction. Please consider becoming a committee member and sharing the responsibility of organising events.

IHOMSA Coffee Morning – Our coffee morning on the last day of term was a great success. Thank you to everyone who organised the event, brought cakes in or came along on the morning. We are very grateful for your support.

Canon Tim – For those of you who did not attend Mass last weekend, the Bishop has announced numerous moves throughout the diocese. Canon Tim will be leaving the parish in September to be parish priest at St Joseph's Pontefract. Canon Tim does a great deal of work in school which many of you will be totally unaware of and we will all miss him greatly.

Lent - It may be hard to believe but next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday the start of the forty day period of Lent. The purpose of Lent is to prepare for the great feast of Easter. This year for the first time in my long memory we will be returning to school in Easter. So as well as celebrating Lent we are also celebrating Easter. Lent is a time to reflect and take stock of our lives. An opportunity to put God's values back where they belong and in so doing find the peace that only God can bring. The three main themes of Lent are Prayer, Fasting and Alms Giving. The better our focus on these aspects of Lent the greater our celebration of Easter.

The purpose of any fasting, almsgiving or extra prayer is to open up a space for God to work in our lives at an even deeper level. In a sense as we live in an increasingly materialistic world Lent grows in importance. This season reminds us that we are not what we consume, happiness does not lie in buying more things. The belief “I spend therefore I am” is not true. The truth is far more joyous. We are the beloved children of God and Lent is the season in which we can express our love to God.

During Lent as a school we fundraise. Each Key Stage 2 class will organise stalls and they will begin with Year 6 on Monday, so children coming to school with a small amount of money to spend on stalls would be appreciated.

Key Stage 1 will be having a coin collection, and we will be having a sponsored run around our new astro turf. The money raised will go to various charities. The main charities this year will be Catholic Care, St George’s Crypt in Leeds, Sylvia Wright and Water Aid.

Although we are wanting to raise funds for a number of charities, we do not want families to feel pressured that they must provide money each day for their child. The teachers before and during Lent remind the children that it is not necessary to take part in every activity every day. Every family is different and some children will be given pocket money, some may not. Please talk to your child and agree on an amount of money that they are allowed to bring in to school for activities.

EASTER ACTIVITIES ADVANCE NOTICE

As we are returning to school on Easter Tuesday we thought we could celebrate Easter by the children doing various Easter activities at home in the holidays! Your child can choose between the following options – they can make their own Easter bonnet, or an Easter Garden (in an old shoebox or item of similar size) or decorate a hard boiled egg. These items to be brought into school on Tuesday 23rd April when we return to school. If you really want you can do all three! Nearer the time there will be examples on the website.

Ash Wednesday Mass – Our school mass is on Wednesday 6th at 10.30am. Year 4GB because of activities in school that day will be attending the 9.15am Mass.

Year 3 More Than Dance Easter Celebration – For all parents but especially our Year 3 parents, Thursday 25th April at 6pm in IHOM church.

MOMO – You will no doubt have heard in the news and through the children about the MOMO challenge on the internet. Although much has been written in the media about it, the whole thing has now been declared a horrible hoax. It does serve as a reminder to keep track of what our children are interacting with online and the importance of having regular conversations with children that just because it’s on the internet or your friends are talking about it – it is not real!

Year 5 Debating Competition - Congratulations to Liam, Eoin and Rachael on winning the Debating Competition held at the Civic Hall before half term. The team successfully argued against the motion that we should only use renewable energy sources – quite a tricky argument! We think we have seen some future politicians in action.

Staffing - As some parents may be aware we were fortunate to employ Mr Kane as he was returning from abroad to spend some time back in England to be with his mum after the death of his dad. Mr Kane will be leaving our school in the summer to teach in Chicago. We are very grateful that we have had the

benefits of Mr Kane's talents this year and wish him every success for the future.

World Book Day – World Book Day is on Thursday 7th March. There are lots of in-school events planned during the week but on **Thursday 7th the children will come to school in their pajamas** and bring with them their favourite book. Children in Reception will have the choice of either coming in in their pajamas or dressing as a pirate.

IHOMSA 100 Club – Congratulations to Mr Smithers who has won the £100 this week. Remember you can still enter! Please contact Mark Butler on ihomsa13@gmail.com

St Patrick's Night Ceilidh – On Saturday 16th March 7-11pm there will be a ceilidh at the Queen's Hall. Tickets are available from the Parish Office Monday-Thursday 9.45am-12.30pm or email parishhalls@gmail.com or phone 07516 705 428. Tickets cost £10 per family, £5 per adult and includes Irish Stew!

St Patrick's Day Parade – The parade will take place on Sunday 17th March in Leeds City Centre and we will be having a float again. Please put the date in your diaries! Letters with more information will be sent home on Monday.

Recommended Reading – This week's recommendations are:

Year R – Stone Soup by Marcia Brown
Year 1 – The Trouble with Jack by Shirley Hughes
Year 2 – The Diary of a Killer Cat by Anne Fine
Year 3 – The Hundred Mile an Hour Dog by Jeremy Strong
Year 4 – Flow by Pippa Goodhart
Year 5 – Double Act by Jacqueline Wilson
Year 6 – Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS – Attend Today Achieve Tomorrow
Can we reach our whole school target of 98%? If we reach 98% our attendance will be Outstanding.

Attendance – Well done to the whole school on achieving 96% attendance. Special congratulations to RAG who achieved 100%.

Year Group	Attendance Wk. Comm 11 th Feb	
YR	RAG – 100%	RCD – 94%
Y1	1LG – 99%	1LR – 97%
	1SC – 95%	
Y2	2JM – 97%	2HC – 95%
Y3	3GG – 95%	3AW – 99%
Y4	4GB – 95%	4DK – 91%
Y5	5HS – 93%	5JR – 97%
Y6	6FE – 98%	6CK – 95%

Stars of the Week

Congratulations to the following children who have been awarded Star of the Week in their class!

RAG – Isabella	3AW – Gupi
RCD – Solomon	3GG – Maeve
1LR – Daniel	4GB – Lydia
1LG – Marisa	4DK – Natalia
1SC – Kal-EI	5JR – Nikola
2JM – Elissa	5HS – Jude



Happy Birthday to –

Year 1 – Brendan, Joshua & Bobby

Year 3 – Sofia, Mary, Eva & Thomas

Year 5 – Sebastian

Year 6 – Ramaya



Forthcoming Events – new dates in bold		
Date	Time	Event
Thurs 7th Mar	am	YR & Y1 Tiny Tales & Tunes
Fri 8 th Mar	9.15am	5HS Class Assembly
Fri 8th Mar	2.15pm	Y3 Ancient Egyptian Museum
Fri 15th Mar	All Day	CAFOD Family Fast Day
Fri 15 th Mar	9.15am	4DK Class Assembly
Fri 15 th Mar	All Day	KS2 St Patrick's Merit House Non Uniform Day – Brownies/Cubs etc may wear those uniforms
Tues 19th Mar	All Day	Sponsored Run
Fri 22 nd Mar	9.15am	1SC Class Assembly
Mon 25 th Mar	7pm	IHOMSA Meeting
Weds 27 th & Thurs 28 th Mar	3.45-6.45pm	Parent's Consultation Evening
Fri 29 th Mar	9.15am	RCD Class Assembly
Fri 5 th Apr	3.25pm	School closes for Easter
Tues 23 rd Apr	8.45am	School reopens
Sat 15 th June	10am	4GB First Holy Communion
Sat 22 nd June	10am	4DK First Holy Communion

Mrs. A. M. Phillips
Headteacher

Prayer

St David, you chose to live a simple life, and helped others whose lives were simple not through choice but circumstances. Pray that I may consider my choices and live more simply in order to make a big difference to others. Show me the way to make small tasks occasions of prayer. Kindle in me a love of God so that in everything I do, I will keep that spirit of prayer. Amen

CAFOD prayer to St David.

If you are worried or concerned about the wellbeing of any of our pupils please ask to speak to Mrs Phillips, Mrs Hill, Miss Hargreaves or Mrs Roberts.

