

Newsletter

St. Anselm's Catholic Primary School



8/3/19

Dear Parents

I wanted to update you on school dinners as a few parents have raised concerns. I met with Natalie, our Edwards and Wards manager, this morning.

I also undertook a survey with a sample of children who have school dinners, to see what their thoughts were. 37 children, from a range of year groups, undertook a short questionnaire. This represented about a third of the children who have school dinners. Their comments were as follows:

Over half of the children (20) were very positive making comments such as: School dinners are nice, I really like them, delicious, lovely, improved, really good, nothing would make them better.

Other children (14) had mixed feelings: Some are nice and some need improving, I like some meals but some I don't like, good but some can improve, they are better but could still improve, I enjoy most meals.

Three children fed back to say they did not like school dinners at all.

There were some common themes that came through such as the overuse of pepper which we will address straight away. Also, that not all the choices are always available. Again, we will try to address that from today. It's not always possible to get it exactly right as we are not able to have too much waste, but it should be better than it is. Some children wanted ketchup and it was agreed that would be available for some meals and this was actioned today. I think the children's feedback shows that there are mixed opinions amongst them but that, on the whole, they are happy with school dinners. Our favourite comment came from one of the younger children who wrote: 'maybe a cheese board for pudding would be nice'! We know that there was a real problem with the new menu last summer term, across the local authority, but the children were able to confirm that the meals had improved since then.

Edwards and Wards have to work to very strict nutritional guidelines and produce meals for a small amount per head. They are not allowed to use salt in any of their cooking. The meals are basic but the food is organic and is freshly prepared by Pauline on a daily basis. The cakes are home-made (with organic eggs) and so is the bread. The children are given a main course and a pudding and, on top of that, they can have salad (4 or 5 choices), bread, yoghurt and fruit. Some of the children wanted to have an input into the menu choices but we do, unfortunately, have to stick to the published menu. One parent had commented that what is on the menu isn't always what is served. I mentioned this to Natalie and it seems we have the wrong menu on our website so we will get the correct one out to you soon as possible. There was also one occasion last week when an alternative was served but this is unusual.

We will continue to monitor the situation, but I am pleased that in general, the feedback from the children is quite positive. I have certainly witnessed this over the past week as I have sat with them at lunchtime and have seen them eat up their food.

In order for parents to ask any further questions, and to try some of the food, Natalie will lead a tasting session on Tuesday 2nd April at 2.45pm. All parents are invited to attend if they would like to.

Thank you for all the effort you went to to dress the children up yesterday for World Book Day. We had a very successful and fun couple of days and it was lovely to get positive feedback from parents about our visiting poet. Many thanks to Miss Ogilvy who organised all the World Book Day activities.



PE

We know that there have been a lot of coughs and colds recently. However, we feel that if children are well enough to be in school, then they are well enough to be doing PE. In fact, exercise is a good tonic and can aid recovery. We understand that there will be some exceptional reasons when children have to miss PE (eg when specified by the doctor or if they have an injury) but otherwise they will be expected to take part.

Don't forget to pick up a parent questionnaire from the school office. We value your feedback.

I'm sure you will have seen that the building work has started. We are on hold at the moment as we are waiting for the new fencing and gate to be made and delivered. Work should start again in about two weeks.

Best wishes,

Hattie Elwes

School uniform

Just a reminder that Uniform 247 is now our main school provider. The uniform is similar though one change is that the cardigans now have a logo, as well as the jumpers. If your child already has a cardigan without a logo, that is fine, but newly purchased ones should have a logo. The same goes for the white polo shirt for the summer.

The summer dresses remain with John Lewis and should be bought from there. The dresses are the blue gingham dresses, either the cotton dress or the poly-cotton dress.

<https://www.johnlewis.com/john-lewis-partners-ingham-cotton-school-summer-dress/p765160>

<https://www.johnlewis.com/john-lewis-partners-school-belted-ingham-checked-summer-dress/p14473>

Spring Term Dates

March

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

12th Parent governor Q and A 8.15am

15th PTA social event

25th Theme week

April

2nd Food tasting session led by Edwards and Wards 2.45

3rd Theme week assembly 2:30pm

5th Mass 10:00am

End of term 2:00pm

Sports Day

13th June 2019

INSET

14th June 2019