

NEWSLETTER 26th October 2018

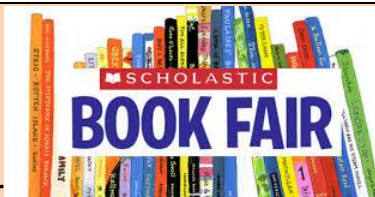
ADVENT 2 (AUTUMN) TERM

Dear Families/ Carers,

Wow, what an amazing start to this second half term! We have enjoyed having Mr Seeba a teacher from our Partner school in Ghana visit all week. He brought an array of wonderful gifts and we have learnt so much about Ghana from him. We are very appreciative of Mrs Abell for organising and hosting our visitors from Ghana.

Year Six- St George's class had a wonderful visit to Parliament on Wednesday, where they visited the House of Commons and spoke to Nicky Morgan. We have also been very involved with the Loogabaroooga Festival. On Monday, we had four visitors from the festival, who worked with the children on a range of writing and drawing from books, including chocolate Alchemy for the foundation class, Year One and Year Two. Year Three and Four then joined with other schools for the Launch of the Young Writer's competition at the Grammar school on Tuesday. They had the pleasure listening to singing from a cast member from the stage show 'Wicked' and meeting the author of the Jamie Johnson books. They asked some excellent questions; one of our children was even chosen to receive a signed football for asking the most interesting question! As part of our English lessons, we will be participating in the writing competition. Staff from other schools commented on how smart our children looked in their Winter uniforms.

We look forward to continuing our exciting learning next week as we move into November. Year 5 will be visiting the Leicester Space Museum on Thursday. November is the month where we remember our friends and family who have died. A letter will be sent home, for you to write down names of people you would like us to pray for in our Liturgies in November. We also invite you to celebrate mass on Thursday 1st of November for All Saints – a day of Obligation. Please do keep Mr Mount in your prayers, whilst he recovers; as he had an accident which has damaged his eye at the beginning of the half term holiday. Miss Jordan, Mrs Davis and Mr Wright have been teaching Year Three last week and will continue to do so next week.



Parent's Progress Evening and the book fair

Thank you for your attendance and patience at the parent's evening before half term. It was lovely to talk to you, whilst waiting for your appointment and we are glad you enjoyed the refreshments. We are also very appreciative if you bought books at the book fair- we receive free books from this.

Clubs

We do have more places for the choir club on Thursday after school: from 3.15p.m to 4.30p.m in the music studio. Maria Verentina is a professional singer and we are very grateful that she is leading this club. We can also open this club to Year Two.

Thursday wake and Shake Club: has places. 8a.m – 8.40a.m. It is only £2.00. Some parents have enquired about a breakfast club, to help them with child care. However, as we only get 8 children for this morning club, it does show that there are not enough children to attend to make this feasible.

Ancient Egypt presentation : Year 4 St Gregory's Class will be having a special presentation about their topic work on Ancient Egypt on Friday 2nd of November in the hall at 2.40p.m. All welcome!

Menphys Concert: Friday 7th of December 2018

Disappointingly we have received only 6 letters back from the year Fives and Sixes to sing at the Menphys concert on the 7th of December. We can take 18 children, but as a minimum we require 12 children. Please return forms by the 1st of November, so we can start practising in school. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to be part of a magnificent concert, for an excellent cause. Transport is arranged for the children for the rehearsal and for the evening, if parents cannot attend. Tickets are on sale from this week from De-Montford Hall. If you need another letter, please see Miss Jordan.

Flu immunisation

The flu immunisation letters have been collected. Please return any forms to school before the 14th of November. The nursing team will be on that date to deliver the immunisations.

Children's Absence from school due to sickness

A reminder that you must ring in each day your child is absent from school due to sickness, in the morning. It saves our office staff time, in having to follow up with phone calls and ensure we do not put it as an unauthorised absence.



Uniform:

Thank you for your support on our school uniform policy and for wearing the Winter Uniform.

All children need to be in the winter Uniform now to the Easter holidays, unless they have a medical requirement not to wear it and this has been discussed with the staff. Please do talk Miss Jordan or the office staff for further clarification if needed.

PE Kits/ PE lessons

Children must have PE kits to be able to participate in PE lessons. If they do not have their kit and we cannot contact anyone to bring it in, children will have to join another class for that lesson. Children must have written permission from a parent stating that they cannot take part in a PE lesson. If a child misses a sequence of PE lessons, unless they are unable to take part due to an operation or accident, a meeting will be requested with parents.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 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.
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Fridays	9a.m	Achievement assembly (No achievement assembly on Friday 12 th October due to the Staff training day.)
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Thursday 1st of November: Mass at St Mary's church to celebrate the Feast of All Saints: 9.15. Please do join us on this Holy day of Obligation.

Tuesday 30th October 2018: 9a.m: Headteacher led liturgy about All Hallows.

Sacramental Preparation for reconciliation and First Holy Communion: Preparation for these two sacraments are led by the Parish/ St Mary's church. Mrs Hunt and Mrs Murphy are the catechists. Please see the church newsletter, for when the classes and meetings for parents will begin or speak to Fr Paul. Forms/ letters need to be collected and returned to the church.



ST MARY'S FRIENDS: FOSM:

WE WOULD LIKE YOUR IDEAS! All parents are welcome to join!

We've been blessed with all the hard work and fundraising the parents do on the Friends of St Mary's. We now have a defibrillator by the school entrance for the school and community to use. We need more outside equipment for all the children to enjoy. We have about 10 parents who work so hard on the Friends of St Mary's to benefit all the children at school, it would be great if this could be shared out more, as we are a school with 205 children in it.

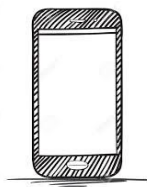
FOSM EVENTS

30th October: Harvest Festival Celebrations: Seasonal dress up day for the children with Harvest Produce baskets to be sold. On the day children can wear their own clothes or a harvest fancy dress costume for a donation of £1.00. Please note: no Halloween costumes! The winner of the best decorated and vegetable box, will receive a prize. Boxes and pictures need to be handed in by the 30th of October.

23rd November : School Disco

18th December: 3.15p.m- 5p.m Christmas Fair

6-8p.m Pamper Evening for adults. This was a lovely event – it would have been lovely to see more parents at this event.



Questionnaire results

Thank you for filling in the questionnaires on parent's evening. It was overwhelmingly positive and we thank you for your partnership with the school.

There were a few areas we need to work on:

behaviour of the children and bullying. We are working extensively in this and have started procedures to gain the beyond bullying award and update our behaviour policies and strategies in school. We would like to get a working party of parents to work with us on this. Please see Miss Jordan if you would be interested.

Children who struggle in lessons: as part of our rigorous assessment system, we put in interventions to work with children who need to catch up. We cannot put in place more 1;1 adult support for every child as the school does not receive a budget to do this and we cannot go into a deficit budget to enable this.

Information needed from the questionnaires

RE: The Ratio of RE to other subjects is the appropriate and correct amount for a Catholic School. All Catholic schools must ensure that children are taught 2 hours and 20 minutes of RE a week and all schools are legally required to ensure that there is a daily act of Worship, such as a Liturgy in school each day. We ensure that all the National Curriculum subjects are covered for all the subjects. The Catholic life and ethos is central to all our schools in the Thomas Aquinas Academy and in choosing to send your child to a Catholic School, they are expected to fulfil this requirement. Liturgies cannot be done a few times a week, as there must be in all schools a daily act of worship and if any school is not doing this, they are not meeting legal requirements.

Homework done at breaktime/ the curriculum: Miss Jordan/ Mrs Davis run a homework club on Thursday and Friday lunchtime in the Junior area at 1p.m. Just let us know if you want the children to do this for that week.

Teachers will be placing more work/homework on their class pages on the website for the children to do, but may need to send some paper copies. We will be placing more information on the school website about what is taught in each class, but we also provide a curriculum information session at least once a year.

Mobile phones: Year 6 are only allowed a phone in school, if they are walking home by themselves and the phone must be left in the school office all day. If a child is seen with a phone on the school playground, they will be told to keep it in the school office and parents contacted.

School Phone App: Thank you to the large majority of parents who said they have downloaded and use the phone app. We will be using this increasingly to message you and will send a letter about passwords soon. Please send the school any updated phone numbers for contact. **It is essential to download the app, as we can notify you about any changes to clubs or collecting children. Newsletters are always on the website and you are notified immediately on the phone app of any important events.**



Administering Medication in school

If your child needs to have medicine administered by school staff during the school day, the medication request form must be completed first. These are available from the school office. We can only administer medicine, if it is prescribed by the health professional and it is accompanied by the professional note or this is clearly stated on the medicine. For the safety of all children please do not send the medicine in with the child. It must be given to the school office with the medication, where it will be locked in our first aid cupboard in the first aid room. Thank you for your support.

Young Writer's Awards

If you are aged between 5-25 you can enter the young writer's award. We will be doing some work about this in school. There are 6 different age award categories. You will need to write about anything that interests you, in 750 words or less! All winners win four tickets to see the London Production of 'Wicked' and meet the cast members. £50 worth of books/ tokens to spend and a self-publishing package.

Kitchen Assistant Vacancy at St Mary's School: 11.30 – 1.30 daily. Please apply to the school office if interested.

Dates for Your Diary

At St Mary's we are always trying to improve our communication with you. Families requested last term, that they would like more advance notice of events, which we will endeavour to do. With the term dates, as an Academy we have kept to the Leicestershire term dates for 2018-19, after consultation with parents last year. 2019-20 dates are on the website.

Thursday 1 st Nov	Mass in church; All Saints 9.15a.m
Friday 14 th Dec	9.30a.m: EYFS St Leo's Nativity performance to parents.
Tuesday 18 th Dec	9.30 : Ks1 Nativity Performance 1 Christmas Fair : 3.15 - 5p.m
Wednesday 19 th Dec	2.30p.m: Ks1 Nativity Performance 2
Thursday 20 th Dec	Christmas jumper day and Christmas meal 6p.m at St Mary's church: KS2 Carols by candlelight
Friday 21 st Dec	Last day of the Autumn Term School finishes at 1.30p.m

Christmas Holidays 2 weeks	Monday 24 th Dec – Monday 4 th January: Mon 7 January th Inset day: staff training School Reopens Tuesday 8 th January 2019
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Thank you in advance for working with us to ensure the best for your child. I'd like to set up a regular parent's forum this year, so please do let me know when you think would be a good time to run this and if you would like to be involved with setting up our policies.

The next newsletter will be on the Website next Friday the 2nd of November. Have a super weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Miss P Jordan Headteacher

Spring Term	
INSET Day – School closed to pupils	Monday 7 January 2019
Spring Term begins for pupils	Tuesday 8 January 2019
Last day of 1 st half term	Friday 15 February 2019
Half Term Break - 1 week	Monday 18 February to Friday 22 February 2019
School Re-Opens after half term break	Monday 25 February 2019
Last day of Spring term	Friday 12 April 2019
Easter Break - 2 weeks	Monday 15 April to Friday 26 April 2019

Summer Term	
Summer Term begins for pupils	Monday 29 April 2019
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 6 May 2019
Last day of 1 st half term	Friday 24 May 2019
Half Term Break – 1 week	Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May 2019
School Re-Opens after half term break	Monday 3 June 2019
INSET Day – School closed to pupils	Friday 21 June 2019
Last day of Summer term	Friday 12 July 2019 (1/2 day)
Summer Break	Monday 15 July 2019