



NEWSLETTER 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018

## ADVENT 2 (AUTUMN) TERM

Dear Families/ Carers,

We have continued to have an exciting and thoughtful week, learning even more about schools in Ghana, as the Director of Education from Ghana visited our School this week and participated in our lessons. We enjoyed celebrating the end of Harvest on Tuesday, dressing up in Autumn colours and sharing the wonderful Harvest boxes that the children brought in. Thank you to families for your support and the time you spent on this. We then, celebrated- the feast of All Saints with the Parish on Thursday at mass and are thinking of our friends and family in the Month of all Souls. Thank you, if you have returned the names of whom you would like us to pray for in our Liturgies this month.

Year Five, enjoyed a STEM funded trip to the Leicester Space Museum to participate in a range of science activities on Thursday. Please do have a look at our Twitter Feed and class pages on the website which has photographs of all the interesting activities the children undertake. We look forward to welcoming Neil Lockyer, CEO and Martin Fitzwilliam performance and standards from our Thomas Aquinas Academy today for their visit. Year 4- St Gregory's Class have ended the week, with a most wonderful performance on the Ancient Egyptians, which is a culmination of all their learning in their topic work. It was lovely to see so many parents come and see the brilliant learning that has taken place.

### Bonfire Menu : Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of November : School Lunches



Sausages, Baked Potato, Beans or Peas. Vegetarian Cheese Flan

### NSPCC Assemblies/ workshops

You will have received a letter about how the children will be having some NSPCC Assemblies on Monday afternoon. Years 5 and 6 will have further workshops on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November. These workshops are all part of our Personal, Health and Social curriculum.



### ART GALLERY

You are invited to a special exhibition of your children's amazing artwork! We are constantly trying to improve and ensure that there is a rich and balanced curriculum in school and that subjects such as Art, design and technology and music, have their equal place amongst all the other subjects. Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November. 3.15p.m to 5.15p.m in the school hall. A letter has been sent home today about it. The children have been working very hard at showing all their artistic talents and hope you will purchase their framed picture. It would make a lovely Christmas present! Please do take a look at the excellent film the Year Two class made about the Art Gallery! A very professional endeavour and Oscar worthy. Our thanks to Miss Hargrove the school's Art co-ordinator for organising the gallery.

## 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 and it has been lovely to see a rise in numbers. 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.

## **Menphys Catholic Schools Carol Concert: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2018**

Thank you we have had more responses back. Tickets are on sale from De-Montford Hall. Email: [dmh-tickets@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:dmh-tickets@leicester.gov.uk) or see the website: [www.demontforhall.co.uk](http://www.demontforhall.co.uk). It is a wonderful Christmas event to attend, even if your child is not singing in it.

## Flu immunisation

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



## Uniform:

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

## 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 or swimming 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.
Fridays	9a.m	Achievement assembly

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November: 2.30p.m : Remembrance Liturgy . Please do join us for this Liturgy.**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November: No whole school Liturgy that day: see Friday above.**

**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!**

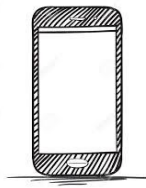
We would love some more outdoor play equipment and ICT tablets around school. This would benefit every child in school. What else do you think we should have in school? Please help us to fundraise for it?

**Next Meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> December at 3.30pm. There is child care provided. Please do come along, it is a great way to meet other parents!**

**FOSM EVENTS: Can you help out at these?**

**23<sup>rd</sup> November : School Disco**

**18<sup>th</sup> December: 3.15p.m- 5p.m Christmas Fair**



### **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 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Mass in church; All Saints 9.15a.m
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30a.m: EYFS St Leo's Nativity performance to parents.
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30 : Ks1 Nativity Performance 1 Christmas Fair : 3.15 - 5p.m
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2.30p.m: Ks1 Nativity Performance 2
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas jumper day and Christmas meal 6p.m at St Mary's church: KS2 Carols by candlelight ( this replaces the KS2 Nativity.)
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Last day of the Autumn Term School finishes at 1.30p.m
Christmas Holidays 2 weeks	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec - Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January: Mon 7 January <sup>th</sup> Inset day: staff training School Reopens Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2019

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> 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