



St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School Newsletter Friday 12th January 2018

Little Flowers Growing and Giving Glory to God

Welcome back to school for the start of the Spring term and 2018.

The Catholic Pupil Profile Virtues

This half term the two Virtues that are to be a focus for us and the other Catholic schools in the archdiocese of Birmingham are to be 'curious' and 'active'.

Curious: exploring God's creation and asking questions to find out more.

Everything around us was created by God. Being curious about these things - from tiny insects to enormous planets, from the languages of the Earth to the patterns made by numbers - brings us closer to God.

Active: working to make things better where we can.

As we use our curiosity to explore, we find things that could be better: a friend is unhappy; a neighbour is lonely; there is litter in the playground; the whiteboard needs wiping. Some of these problems we can fix. By being active we take responsibility for these tasks and look after God's creation.



Wednesday Word



The Wednesday Word sheet was given to the Junior children earlier this week. Please do make time to consider the theme of a 'New Start' from this weekend's gospel.

School dinners

The school menu choices are on our school website (www.stteresa.bham.sch.uk), click on 'Parents and Carers Information' then click on 'School Dinners' and scroll down the page. The first week of term is Week 3 of the rota.

Reception places for September 2018

Parents/carers who have a child born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014 need to make an application for their child to start a Reception class in September 2018 by no later than next Monday, 15th January 2018. This is done by an application at www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions.

Autumn Reading Challenge

Congratulations to all of the Junior children who completed the Autumn Reading Challenge and received their certificates at this morning's Congratulations assembly. Any Junior children who are interested will be offered the Spring Reading Challenge.

P.E. kit

This half term the children will be using the hall for P.E lessons. To participate the children must have their indoor P.E. kit with them; a t-shirt, shorts and pumps. Please ensure that these items have the child's name on them.

Top Table

Once again, starting from next Friday, children are chosen from a year group to eat at the Top Table for a range of positive behaviours or work. Next week the children chosen will be from Year 1.

Attendance and Punctuality

Well done to Year 3 who were the best attending class for the last week of the Autumn term with a 96.5% attendance. Congratulations to the most punctual classes for that week which were Reception and Year 1.

Attendance for the Autumn term.

The attendances for the Autumn term were:

- 1st -Year 4 - 96.7%
- 2nd - Year 6 - 96.3%
- 3rd - Year 3- 96.0%
- 4th - Year 2 - 95.0%
- 5th - Reception - 94.8%
- 6th - Year 1 - 94.7%
- 7th - Year 5 - 93.7%.

Well done Year 4. You are the class to beat! Which class will have the best attendance in the Spring term 2018?

The average attendance for the school in the Autumn term 2017 was 95.3% which is a decrease on the Autumn term of 2016, which was 95.65%. Let's aim to improve on this attendance throughout the year.

100% attendees

In the Autumn term there were five children in Reception, four from Year 1, ten from Year 2, six from Year 3, twelve from Year 4, six from Year 5 and four from Year 6 with 100% attendance. Well done to all forty seven of these children.

However there are thirty two children in the school whose attendance, being less than 90%, classes them as 'persistent absentees'. This is a worryingly high number. Several of these children's absences are for reasonable, usually medical reasons, but this degree of absence equates to at least a day out of school every two school weeks!

If your child is absent from school please do contact school to inform us of that absence.

Pupil Premium

Yesterday, you should have received a letter regarding funding for school through Pupil Premium. It is urgent that any eligible parents/carers contact school to access this funding.

Jack and the Beanstalk performance

On Monday, the school will be visited by M&M Theatre Company for a performance of Jack and the Beanstalk. To contribute to the cost of this event we are asking for a donation of £2.00 from each child. This is obviously far cheaper than taking the children out to a theatre and transport costs incurred. Children may also come to school dressed as a character from a fairy tale on that day.

R.E. Inspection Report

Today you should have received a copy of the R.E. Inspection report from 9th and 10th November. Well done to everyone involved in attaining this positive report. The report is also available on the school website under the 'Parents/Carers Information' page then 'Inspection Reports' then scroll to the bottom of the page.

Dates for the Diary

- Friday 12th January - Reception and Year 1 to see 'Stick Man' at the Town Hall.
- **Monday 15th January** - Visiting theatre group performance of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' at school for all children. **Children to pay £2.00 for performance and may dress as fairy tale characters for the day!**
- Wednesday 17th January- from 9.20 a.m. to 10.20 a.m. Healthy Eating and Energy Drinks workshop for Year 4 class parents and carers with their Year 4 children. Letters with further information to be sent out at the start of next term.
- Thursday 18th January at 3.30 p.m. - Meeting at school for the children preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation and their parents/carers, with Fr. David.
- Friday 26th January from 9.15 a.m. to 10.15 a.m. - SENSitive - a drop in session for parents and carers at the John Bosco Room at St. Teresa's Church.

Best wishes,

D. Corkery

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