



# St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School Newsletter Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

## *Little Flowers Growing and Giving Glory to God*

### **Overnight experience**

Last Friday night, sixty-three Junior children came to school at 8.00 p.m. and stayed at school until 8.00 a.m. on Saturday morning for an 'Overnight Experience' at St. Teresa's School. This initiative is linked to the focus of 'Dignity of the Human Person', the theme running across our curriculum this term.



The children had a simple supper of biscuits and hot chocolate. The thirty-six children from Year 3 and Year 4 who joined us slept on mats, in sleeping bags or under blankets and duvets in the hall; this was to reflect finding shelter indoors. The twenty-seven Year 5 and Year 6 children made temporary shelters from large pieces of cardboard and slept outdoors on the grassed area by the playgrounds. In the morning, breakfast was toast and water. This experience was to enable the children to gain an understanding and empathy for the challenges facing the homeless.

The children who participated were amazing. They embraced the opportunity fully and despite the hardship behaved wonderfully. Thank you to the parents and carers who allowed their children to participate. A particular thank you to the staff who led the event; Miss Walk, Miss Gold, Miss Gibbon, Mrs Allport and Miss Bennett joined me to give the children this unique insight to the life less fortunate people lead.



### **Year 6 Class Mass**

Year 6 attended our first mass in school of this school year yesterday morning. Thank you to Fr. Peter for leading the celebration of Mass. Thank you to our readers; Avani, Balraaj, Imani, Ruth Sam and Deshon who played their part in leading the mass.

### **MacMillan Cancer Support**

Thank you to all who donated money today in which will be forwarded to MacMillan Cancer Support. Whilst it was not the wished for Coffee Morning experience, it is a recognition of the work of this vital charity. There was a very green hue around school today. Thank you to all who participated but more importantly donated, in some cases substantially more than £1, to support the work of MacMillan Cancer Support.

### **St. Teresa's feast day**

Next Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> October, is the feast day of our parish and school saint. Children may wear their own clothes on that day. There is no specific colour theme. Year 3 will need to be mindful that, weather permitting, they will be doing outdoor P.E. in the afternoon. There is no 'charge' for this non-uniform day.

Next Friday morning, Year 5 and Year 6 will be representing the school at the parish mass at St. Teresa's Church.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Well done to Year 3, which was the best attending class last week with a 97.3% attendance. Congratulations to the most punctual classes for last week, which were; Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6. Each of these classes had no children late being registered in school.

### **School meals**

Next week is Week 1 of the menu choices. The menu for the first half of the Autumn Term is on the School Dinners page on the school website which is at: <https://www.stteresa.bham.sch.uk/parents-info/school-dinners>

## Catholic Life

The Wednesday Word, linked to the gospel readings at this weekend's masses, is available on the 'Home' page of the school website. The theme for this weekend is 'Goodness'.



### Eloquent and Truthful

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 'eloquent' and 'truthful'.



**Eloquent:** the ability to speak or write fluently, persuasively and appropriately. We are eloquent when we use language to express our ideas or opinions clearly and with conviction. When we choose our words, we should do so carefully so they are kind and compassionate, and don't hurt others. Eloquence isn't limited to speaking and writing. We can express ourselves in other ways like music, drama, painting or dance. We should use our creative gifts to say things in a way that is interesting, truthful, memorable and faithful.

**Truthful:** God wants us to be truthful in all we do. Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life', so being honest and truthful means we are following in his footsteps and living life the way God wants us to. Being truthful is being faithful to ourselves and to Jesus. We should stand up for the truth.

### Class pages on website

Please go to your child's Class page on the school website to view the overview for the work that children will be doing the Autumn term and to see the 'Parent Briefing' for that class. The Autumn Overview gives curriculum information to parents/carers. The briefing powerpoint provides key information about life in your child's class. Previously we were able to share the briefing in a face-to-face meeting, but for this year it is posted on the website.

### Welcome

Welcome to Liz who joined our school at the start of this week.

### Changes to the start and end of the school day

From Monday, the opening and closing times at school will change slightly. The fifteen minute 'window' will be reduced to ten minutes. Therefore, the gates will be open from 8.50 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. and in the afternoon the gates will be open from 3.10 p.m. to 3.20 p.m.

It does take time to hand over the children at the end of the day, this is particularly the case for the Reception children. Please could parents/carers collecting their children from the Reception class wait on the playground, by the blue metal fencing rather than by the multi-coloured wooden fencing by the pathway leading out of the school. This will prevent the point between the Infant playground and the start of the pathway becoming a bottleneck, which is not only an inconvenience but many parents, carers and children are, quite rightly, trying to keep their distance from others. Many thanks in anticipation of your support.

### Dates for the Diary

- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> to Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September - A group of Year 5 children at the Caritas Christi In Urbe Residential Visit in Staffordshire.
- From Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September - Changes to start and end of day timings. (See above).
- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September - Year 4 visit to St. John's C of E Church, Perry Barr.
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October - St. Teresa's Feast Day - Non-uniform day.
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October - Year 5 visit to St. Mary's Convent, Handsworth.
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October - Year 6 visit to St. Mary's Convent, Handsworth.
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October - Wrates Photography in school to take individual and family school photographs. Should any parent/carer not wish their child/children to have their photograph taken please inform the school office staff; Mrs. Connell or Mrs. Guest.
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October - Year 3 visit to Singers Hill Synagogue.
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October - Year 3 visit to Guru Nanak Synagogue.

D. Corkery

D. Corkery