



St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School Newsletter Friday 15th October 2021

Little Flowers Growing and Giving Glory to God

October; the month of the Rosary

As October is the month of the Rosary, there has been an opportunity to pray a decade of the Rosary at the start of this week. Thank you to Year 3 and Mrs Allport for leading the Rosary for the school via Google Classroom.



Playleader Training

On Tuesday, a group of Year 5 children left before the start of the school day for a day of Playleader Training. The children; Arinze, Arissa, Ava, Che, Eesah, Fatima, Maya, Mila, Remy, Rylei, Saron and Thiago, were a credit to the school throughout the day, even being complemented by staff from other schools. Thank you to Mrs Keogh for taking the children on this training. Our Playleaders will be leading games and activities for the Infant children at dinnertimes.

Year 4 Class Mass



Year 4 attended our Harvest Mass in school yesterday morning. Thank you to Fr. Peter for leading the celebration of Mass. Thank you to our readers; Andrea, Josh, Motunrayo, Edward, Mia, Liz, Tannia, Osagie, Eesa, Amanvir and Divine who played their part in leading the mass.

Fr. Peter then met with Year 1 and led a Harvest Liturgy with the children of that class.

Helping Hands

Last week children in the Junior classes should have brought home a letter launching our campaign to raise funding for 'Helping Hands' to provide resources for homeless people. Once emptied (!) the Smartie tube that your child was given can be used to collect 20p coins. These filled tubes are to be returned to school by Monday 8th November. The money raised is to be used to buy items needed by Helping Hands for homeless people. We are asking that all of our Junior children help us to raise funds in support of 'The Dignity of the Human Person'.

Attendance and Punctuality

Well done to Year 4, which was, for the third week running, the best attending class last week. Their attendance last week was 98.7%. Congratulations to the most punctual classes for last week, which were; Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 5. 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 booklet for this week, next week and the week of the half term break, linked to the gospel readings at this weekend's masses and masses for the following two weekends, is available on the 'Home' page of the school website. The theme for this weekend is 'Greatness'.



Book Fair in school

Next week, we will host a Book Fair in school. During the week, the children will have the opportunity to view the books that will be in school.

This year, Travelling Books have provided digital links rather than printed handouts showing the books that are available. Mrs Connell and Mrs Guest have offered to manage the book fair after school in the hall on Monday 18th, Tuesday 19th, Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd October. Once you collect your child from school, you may then come to the hall, via the main office entrance, to view the books and buy directly from Mrs Connell or Mrs Guest.

Below is the link for the leaflet highlighting some of the books available:

<https://images.scholastic.co.uk/assets/a/47/91/travelling-books-invitation-autumn-2021-2028914.pdf>

This the link for making payments in person, your child bringing money to buy a book into school or online payment:

<https://images.scholastic.co.uk/assets/a/b2/d7/tbf-fairs-payment-instruction-flyer-2034077.pdf>



Black History Month

Sunday 24th October is United Nations Day, so next Friday 22nd October, children may come to school wearing their own clothes, ideally including colours reflecting their family's origins, for example, for me that would be green, white and gold; for our Polish children, white and red, for our children with Jamaican origins it would be green, black and yellow. Children whose families come from two or more countries can choose a selection of their colours. Children are also welcome to come in their national dress if they wish.

Birmingham City Council Special Educational Needs and Disability Webinars

Birmingham City Council are leading webinars on different aspects of Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND). If they are of interest, please click on the link below. Further information can be found on the attached leaflets.

SEND and Welfare Benefits webinar:

Monday 18th October 10.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. <https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/send-welfare-benefits-update-18th-october-1030am/>

Monday 18th October 2.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m. - <https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/send-welfare-benefits-update-18th-october-2pm/>

Applications to transfer to Secondary School in September 2022

Below is information and relevant links taken from the Birmingham City Council School Admissions website page relevant to Year 7 Admissions for next September. Please note that applications are to be made before the start of next half term in school:

[Apply online](#)

List six secondary schools in order of preference

Make sure you have read the admission arrangements fully for the schools you are interested in and know how likely it is that your child will be offered a place there. It is important that you include at least one realistic preference for a school that your child would have met the criteria for in previous years.

If you have included preferences for any schools that require you to complete a supplementary information form or includes social and medical needs as a criteria and require you to send evidence please ensure that you send the supplementary information form or/and any required supporting medical evidence etc. directly to the school in question. Please note that failure to do so may mean that your child's application is assessed by the school under a lower criterion and may mean they are not offered a place.

Submit your online application form

You will receive email confirmation that you have submitted your application form. Please check this to make sure everything is correct.

You can amend your preferences right up to 11:59pm on the closing date.

IMPORTANT: *if you amend your preferences, please ensure you re-submit your application form before the closing date otherwise your application will not be processed.*

We will take your final submission as the application to process.

Please do not use this form if your child has an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). Information about the secondary transfer process for children with special educational needs is available here: [Introduction to SEN secondary transfer](#)

Closing date: 31 October 2021 (11:59pm)

*It is really important that you apply on time. If you apply late you are less likely to get offered a place at any of your preferred schools. **Applications received after the 31 October 2021 will be classed as late applications and will not be processed until after the offer of places on 1 March 2022.***

Other useful information

[Parents guide of how to complete an online application](#)

[Online application password reset guidance](#)

Nasal Flu Vaccinations

A couple of weeks ago, your child should have received information for parents/carers to complete giving consent or not for the nasal flu vaccination to be administered. This form was to have been completed and returned to school by last week. Thank you to those parents/carers who have completed and returned their forms.

If you have not returned your form and wish your child to receive the nasal flu vaccination on Tuesday 2nd November, please complete and return the form to school. Please contact school if you did not receive or have mislaid the nasal flu vaccination form.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings at the start of next half term will be telephone meetings. Today, you should receive information about the telephone Parents' Evening appointments. Please contact the school office next week if you have not received information about your child's telephone Parents' Evening appointment.

Covid-19 cases in school

Since the start of this term, several children have tested positive for coronavirus and had to isolate. Thank you to the parents and carers of those children who have taken swift and appropriate action for their child to go into isolation if they tested positive. Thank you also to those parents and carers who have been cautious and tested their children if in any doubt as to the cause of any symptoms their child may have.

The current guidelines are that if a child tests positive for coronavirus, that child's siblings may attend school. If that is the case I would ask that the siblings are also tested to ensure that they are negative and can be in school.

If parents and carers test positive, following the guidance, the child may be in school. This, of course, is dependent on the parent or carer having the means to get the child to and from school whilst that parent/carer is isolating.

We are seeing a number of children and staff who have cold and flu symptoms. Whilst the staff are testing themselves twice a week, there is no expectation that children in primary education are regularly tested. I ask that if a child is presenting with any symptoms that may be linked to coronavirus that you do a lateral flow device test, which are readily available and free, or book a PCR test at a testing centre. Many thanks in anticipation of your support.

Welcome

Welcome to Miss Kaza, Miss Nell, Mrs Fiaz and Miss Jama who have been working in school from this week in Reception, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 respectively.

Dates for the Diary

- Monday 18th to Friday 22nd October - Book Fair at the end of the school day. (No Book Fair after school on Wednesday 20th October).
- Wednesday 20th October - Year 3 visit to Singers Hill Synagogue.
- Thursday 21st October - Year 2 visit to Guru Nanak Gurdwara.
- Friday 22nd October - Black History Month non-uniform day wearing own national colours. No donation requested for this event.
- Friday 22nd October at 3.20 p.m. - End of the first half of the Autumn Term.

- Sunday 31st October - Applications for secondary schools for current Year 6 children who are residents of Birmingham to be completed at <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>.
- Monday 1st November at 8.50 a.m. - Start of the second half of the Autumn Term.
- Tuesday 2nd November - Immunisation Team in school to provide Nasal Flu Vaccinations for all children given parental consent.
- Tuesday 2nd November from 1.00 p.m. - Year 4 Telephone Parents' Evenings.
- Tuesday 2nd November from 2.00 p.m. and Wednesday 3rd November from 3.30 p.m. - Year 3 Telephone Parents' Evenings.
- Wednesday 3rd November from 1.30 p.m. and Monday 8th November from 3.30 p.m. - Year 5 Telephone Parents' Evenings.
- Thursday 4th November from 3.30 p.m. and Thursday 11th November from 3.30 p.m. - Year 6 Telephone Parents' Evenings.
- Thursday 4th November from 3.30 p.m. and Wednesday 10th November from 1.30 p.m. - Reception Telephone Parents' Evenings.
- Monday 8th November from 3.30 p.m. and Tuesday 9th November from 3.30 p.m. - Year 1 Telephone Parents' Evenings.
- Tuesday 9th November from 1.30 p.m. and Thursday 11th November from 3.30 p.m. - Year 2 Telephone Parents' Evenings.

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