

St Gilbert's RC Primary School

Cambell Road
Winton
Eccles
MANCHESTER
M30 8LZ

Head of School: Miss J. Tumely
Executive Head: Mrs J. Forshaw



☎ 0161-789-5035
☎ 0161-921-1671
🌐 www.stgilbertsrc.co.uk
✉ stgilberts.rcprimaryschool@salford.gov.uk

20th January 2017

Dear Parents,

Re: Newsletter-January 2017

In our first newsletter of 2017 the staff and governors of the school would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. On behalf of all the staff may we also add a sincere thank you for all of your kind and thoughtful Christmas wishes, cards and gifts.

Communication:

Please can I remind you about the different forms of communication we use as a school. Our website is our main tool of communication but this is supported by monthly newsletters and regular tweets on our twitter feed. Where necessary we also provide specific letters, posters and phone calls. This January we are beginning our text message system, however, unlike twitter which is free to all users, every text we send costs the school money. Due to this, we will not send constant messages but use it when necessary. Please can you see the office to check we have the correct mobile number for your family.

E-Safety:

There is unfortunately a secrecy app for photographs and videos, called 'HiCalculator'. The app appears and operates on a mobile device as a calculator, however, once a password has been entered the children can secretly store photographs or videos on the app as well as share them with others.

Y6 Boosters:

Y6 are working extremely hard since their return in 2017. Every evening in school sees a booster class of some variety so that we can arm them in the best way possible for the upcoming SATs. Please can the Y6 staff and I extend our thanks to all the parents who are showing such huge support to their children and the school.

Teaspoons:

A plea for packed lunch children to return any teaspoon they may have borrowed to eat a yogurt! We are losing up to 200 teaspoons each half term which we then have to use funds to replace. If you spot one in a lunchbox please send it back.

Welcome:

Please can I formally welcome Mrs Stevens to the team. Mrs Stevens has joined us to work with Y6 and Y4. She is very keen on teaching reading and has already started a fantastic reading club using the ipads.

EYFS Area:

Just a gentle reminder, to parents of children in EYFS, not to open the gates into this area before a teacher opens them at 8:50am. We would greatly appreciate if you could help us with this.

Medication Policy:

There is a new Medication and Medical Conditions Policy on our school website. Please take 5 minutes to read the document. If you require a paper copy please request one at the school office.

Multi-Faith Week:

We are excited to try something new in this year's Multi-Faith Week. This week you should have received a letter in your child's bag inviting you to join their class for a craft exercise which links to the faith they are studying. Please let the teacher know on Monday if you are able to attend so we can ensure enough materials are available.

Gardening Club:

As we start to look forward to Spring, it is the perfect opportunity to become excited about gardening in school. Every class has an upcoming project which will see them growing different fruits and vegetables in our garden. We do have a hard floor in the polytunnel but occasionally you may receive a letter asking if they could bring wellies that day. As the children are working outside they will need a coat but school will provide gardening gloves.



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Communication with the Teacher:

At the end of the day our class teachers are available on the door for a quick chat or to book an appointment for something more significant. It is important you and the teacher have this opportunity to have this communication in a professional and constructive manner and is often used as a time to celebrate the development of your child. However I have been concerned on a small number of recent occasions when parents have reacted aggressively to something their child has told them at the end of the day and spoken unprofessionally to the teacher. Nobody, in any job, should be spoken to in this manner.

Y5/6 Parents Meeting:

Thank you to all those parents who attended the recent grammar and maths SATs meetings and the staff who ran them. The comments we received were very positive and the level of attainment in the SATs papers shocked many.

Home Reading:

Y3-YR are sending home 'Comprehension Cards'. These are to help you when working with your child to question their understanding and develop their comprehension skills.

Trips:

We have enjoyed some wonderful recent trips including one which saw a horde of Vikings leaving school and getting on a bus. In order to make life simpler we have now moved the payment of all trips onto ParentPay. Before a trip you will receive a letter explaining how your can pay for this trip.

Attendance:

Attendance and punctuality continue to be a focus. Our recent attendance letters have been very useful to parents in helping them to understand the level of attendance their child has. It is an accumulation of days from the beginning of the year so by Easter the overall days calculated for the attendance percentage will increase. If you require clarification please contact Mrs Neville who will be happy to assist you.

Upcoming Diary Dates:

Date	Event	Parent Information
w/b 23rd January	World Faith Week + Parent Craft	
Tuesday 24 th January	Year 5 to Ordsall Hall	
Friday 3 rd February	St Gilbert's Day Treat	St Gilbert's Day Mass 2:15pm.-All welcome
Tuesday 7 th February	Safer Internet Day	
Tuesday 7 th February	Y3 First Swimming session	Swimming hats essential-available from the office
Mon/Wed 13 th , 14 th , 15 th Feb	EYFS RWI Workshops	Separate letter to be sent
Tuesday 28 th February	Shrove Tuesday Pancakes for Lunch	
Wednesday 1 st March	Ash Wednesday Mass	10:00am at Holy Cross Church- All welcome.
Wednesday 1 st March	St David's Day Flag ceremony and clubs uniform flag raising 2:45p.m.	Please wear your beavers/cubs/brownies/rainbows uniform to school
Friday 3 rd March	World Book Day + Costume Parade	Mr Men and Little Miss Theme
Wednesday 8 th March	7:00pm Preparation for First Reconciliation at Holy Cross Church	
Wednesday 8 th March	Year 5 to visit St Patrick's	
Monday 13 th March	Year 3 at Brockholes	
Tuesday 14 th March	School Photograph (Classes)	
14 th or 22 nd March	7:00pm First Reconciliation Service at Holy Cross Church	
Wednesday 15 th March	Rec heights and weights – School Nurse	
Wednesday 15 th March to Friday 17 th March	Year 6 at Robinwood	
Friday 17 th March	9:15am St Patrick's Day Ceremony	Flag raising ceremony at school
Monday 20 th March	Y6 Heights & weights – School Nurse	
Thursday 23 rd March	Parents Evening at 3:30pm	
Friday 24 th March	2:30pm Mother's Day Assembly - Nursery	Parents welcome to attend
Thurs/Fri 23 rd & 24 th March	Book Fair	
Friday 31 st March	Rec trip to Stockley Farm	
Sunday 9 th April	Palm Sunday	
Monday 10 th April	Rec/Nursery Palm Sunday Assembly 9:15am	Parents welcome to attend
Tuesday 11 th April	Y1/2 Last Supper Assembly 9:15am	Parents welcome to attend
Wednesday 12 th April	Yr 3 Garden of Gethsemane Assembly 9:15am	Parents welcome to attend
Thursday 13 th April	Yr 4 Crucifixion Assembly 9:15am	Parents welcome to attend
Thursday 13 th April	School Closes 3.15 p.m.	
Friday 14 th April	Good Friday – School Closed	

Miss J. Tumelty
Head of School



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