

St Gilbert's RC Primary School

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15th March 2017

Dear Parents,

Re: Newsletter-March 2017

During Lent we spend our time 'spring cleaning' our minds and souls after a long period of winter and prepare ourselves for the delights of the upcoming Easter period. In school we have put this in action through the way we decorate our prayer areas, the Lenten promises our children make, the periods of reflection we build into our days and the fundraising we have done during this time.

Parking:

We know that Cambell Road and the surrounding roadways are very congested before and after school but we ask that you be considerate of the community that live in these streets and not block access.

World Book Day:

World Book Day was fantastic with such imaginative costumes. The effort made was, as always, very admirable. Please see the school website for a few photos of the day.

Science Week:

We have had a great time in science week, especially the Sublime Science workshops. Our local inspector recently viewed our science books and was very impressed with the work being done. Thank you to all the parents who contributed £1 towards the workshop.

Trim Trail:

Work will soon begin on a trim trail in our KS1 playground. This has come from Lottery funding and has been purchased to encourage movement by our children during break times. Children will only be allowed on this when supervised and it is being built to the current safety expectations but as with any outdoor of activity where children are challenged, there are always risks of slips and bumps. We will be talking to children about keeping safe. Please stay away from the build area during construction for your own safety. We also politely ask that you do not allow children to play on this equipment during drop off and collection times. The school will not be responsible for any accidents occurring at this time and we do not want any equipment damaged.

Celebration of the Home Nation Saints:

As each home saint day arrives we are marking the celebration with a short ceremony where we raise the flag of that saint and pray for the nation they are associated with. We hope to develop the pupils' awareness of this part of British culture and how it relates to our faith. We ask that on these days, pupils dress in their rainbow/brownies/cubs/beavers uniforms. Parents are very welcome to join in the celebration and all times are on the school website.

Easter Bingo:

On Friday 7th April, we are hosting an Easter Chocolate Bingo night where parents and children are invited to dab themselves a full house and take home a chocolate bonanza whilst enjoying a pie and pea supper. A letter with more details including details about ticket prices and times will be sent out shortly. We are asking children to wear non-uniform on Friday 31st March in exchange for a chocolate Easter egg donation. Reception need to wear school uniform and they do not need to provide a chocolate egg as they are on a school trip.

New Holiday Dates:

The 2018-19 and the 2019-20 holiday dates are now available on the school website. The Governors have kept all holidays in line with the Local Authority where possible except in relation to the Easter period where the Diocese strongly advocates that Catholic schools should be in school for Easter week. One of the Easter weeks has been moved to June as the Governors concluded that it made more sense to have a shorter holiday before SATs tests and a longer holiday in June. This means a better preparation period for exams and allows parents to take advantage of cheaper family holiday prices in June.

Welfare Position Available:

We currently have a welfare position available. If you are interested please see Mrs Darcy for an application form.



LOTTERY FUNDED

Number of Applicants for Nursery and Reception:

This year has seen another large number of applications for places. We have received 114 requests for Nursery places and 103 requests for Reception places. Unfortunately this always means we have to disappoint some families and often baptised Catholics. We hope the expansion of Holy Cross and All Saints school to 1.5 class entry means that families wanting a Catholic education will be able to receive one within their community.

Late Collections:

Collections after 3:25pm will mean your child is put in aftercare and charged for that night's session. This is due to the fact that at this point there is nobody supervising your child because staff are often in meetings or needed to work in other parts of the school.

Pupil Absence:

If your child is absent due to illness you must phone school each morning with the nature of the illness and on their return to school this needs to be supported by a signed written letter or completed absence form. These are added to your child's record which are accessed by the Local Authority when monitoring attendance. When possible all medical/dental appointments should be made outside of school hours. If an appointment can only be taken during school hours, it is expected that you will return your child immediately to school. All medical appointment cards must be shown to the school office who will make a record on your child's attendance file. For more information please see the attendance page on the school website.

Communication:

Our primary form of communication is our website and we work hard to keep this as up-to-date and relevant as possible. We also send out newsletters and use twitter. Twitter is a free tool which, unlike many other systems, can be accessed anywhere via the internet and allows us to quickly put up photos and videos. I would encourage you to create a profile if possible so all updates are sent as notifications. We have begun to use text messages to supplement the website and twitter, please ensure that mobile phone numbers are added to parent pay.

Upcoming Diary Dates:

Date	Event	Parent Information
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. Parents welcome to attend
Monday 20 th March	Y6 Heights & weights – School Nurse	
Tuesday 21 st March	Local artist in school to work with children	
Thursday 23 rd March	Local artist in school to work with children	
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	Opens after school until 3:45pm
Tuesday 28 th March	Local artist in school to work with children	
Wednesday 29 th March	Year 1 trip to Lark Hill Place	More information to follow
Thursday 30 th March	Local artist in school to work with children	
Friday 31 st March	Own clothes day in exchange for an Easter Egg/Donation of chocolate	
Friday 31 st March	Year 3 - John the Baptist Assembly 2:30pm	Parents welcome to attend
Friday 31 st March	Reception trip to Stockley Farm	More information to follow
Tuesday 4 th April	Local artist in school to work with children	
Thursday 6 th April	Local artist in school to work with children	
Friday 7 th April	Year 5 - Jesus the Miracle Worker Assembly – 2:30pm	Parents welcome to attend
Friday 7 th April	Easter Bingo	This is an evening event for the whole family, please look out for a letter coming soon.
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	Stations of the Cross Prayer Service – 8:30am	Parents and children welcome
Wednesday 12 th April	Yr 3 Garden of Gethsemane Assembly 9:15am	Parents welcome to attend
Thursday 13 th April	Stations of the Cross Prayer Service – 8:30am	Parents and children welcome
Thursday 13 th April	Yr 4 Crucifixion Assembly 9:15am	Parents welcome to attend
Thursday 13 th April	EYFS/KS1 Easter Bonnet and Stetson Parade KS2 Egg decoration/Holy Garden Competition	More information to follow
Thursday 13 th April	School Closes 3.15 p.m.	
Friday 14 th April	Good Friday – School Closed	

We wish the best of fun to our Y6 who are challenging themselves at Robinwood this week and look forward to their safe return.

Yours sincerely,

Miss J. Tumelty
Head of School



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