



# St Gilbert's RC Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs C Fox BSc, Bed, NPQH

30<sup>th</sup> November 2015

## NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

It only seems like yesterday we had started back and it is already the end of November! There is lots going on - as you can see from the newsletter - so please take a few minutes to read through the information we have collated for you. As always, if you have any questions, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

*Mrs. Neville (Assistant Head)*

### MRS. FOX IS LEAVING!

As most people are aware Mrs. Fox is leaving St. Gilbert's at the end of this term for pastures new. To recognise her time and hard work at St. Gilbert's over the last 6 years, we are having a school Mass in celebration and in recognition of Christmas on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 9:00am**. Children will need to be dropped off at Holy Cross Church at this time. Parents are very welcome to stay for the Mass and we always appreciate any helpers in walking back to school from the Church. Please let your child's class teacher know if you will be available to help on the day.

### ACTING HEAD TEACHER

In Mrs. Fox's absence, from January, **Miss. Tumelty** will take on the role of Acting Head Teacher until the role is filled. Our Governors are keen that the very best candidate is selected for such an important role. We wish Miss. Tumelty our support and every success driving St. Gilbert's forward in the coming months.

### MISSION CHRISTMAS

Last year, the staff of St. Gilbert's collected for the Key 103 "Mission Christmas" gift appeal. This year we would like to extend this opportunity to the families of St. Gilbert's by opening as a collection point. For those who have not heard of the appeal, 1 in 3 children in Greater Manchester are in home that are struggling and Christmas time only adds to this burden. We're asking you to buy an extra present this year that will be given to a disadvantaged local child to make their Christmas morning special. We're looking for new and unwrapped gifts suitable for children and young people aged 0-18 years. As part of our Christian mission, we feel this is a great way to reach out to children and families in our local area and bring the light of Christmas hope into their lives. We hope that you will be able to offer an offering no matter how big or small in this spirit. Please send any donations into school by **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**.

### PANTOMIME

Thank you to all those parents who have shown their appreciation of the Pantomime Christmas treat visit. It is fair to say that everyone had a fantastic time and we were really proud of how well behaved all the children were! We are hoping that we can make this an annual trip.

### E-SAFETY

We have had some fantastic feedback about the E-Safety talk last Tuesday! Sharon Girling was an inspirational speaker and really made it clear how your child's life is increasingly filled with contact through the virtual world of the internet – not all of which is safe or appropriate for your child's age! It was very apparent that the children of St. Gilbert are very tech-savvy and while this can be a positive for learning, there are also inherent risks. Please take time to talk with your child about the things they are accessing online via laptops and iPads, applications they use and games they play on internet connected games consoles such as X-Boxes and PlayStations. We emphasise the SMART rules created by CEOP whose sole purpose is to help keep children safe online. There is a link to CEOP via the school website where you can find a range of advice on making sure your child is not at risk.

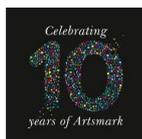
### CHRISTMAS DINNER

The annual Christmas dinner is on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December** at a cost of £2.00 per child. Please return the slip on the green letter sent out ASAP to order your dinner. The balance needs to be paid via Parent Pay.

### PARENT PAY

We hope you have had chance to access Parent Pay. It is a very efficient method of making payments with a click of a button! We will be using this from now on to receive payments for school dinners, class visits etc. Every child was sent a login for this service recently. If you do not have one or are experiencing problems with the system please approach the School Office. Also, look out for the Parent Pay app which is being launched to help make this even easier!

**PLEASE TURN OVER →**





### CHRISTMAS CAFÉ

All classes are busily preparing for the Christmas Café on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December**. While you will be offered the chance to buy one of your child's crafts, if possible, try to pop in to the cafe – not only is it warmer than waiting on the playground, but the choir are singing; classes are producing a range of crafts, decorations and treats for all to buy; *AND* who would want to miss out on the annual Christmas Tree competition?! It would be a shame to miss it!

### CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

Due to some scheduling issues, we have had to split the Key Stage 2 Christmas performances into two separate shows. This was so we could accommodate all of the families in one location for the performance – we don't want anyone to miss out! As such Year 5 & 6 will be performing on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm at St. Matthew's Church. Years 2/3, 3 & 4 will be performing on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm in school. More information will follow about how to get tickets so look out for a letter.

This year we are hoping to offer mince pies and drinks at the Infant nativities. If you can contribute a box or two, they will be much appreciated! Please send them in with your child on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December**.

### FOND FAREWELLS

We are unfortunately saying 'goodbye' to **Mrs. GreenWright** who works in the Office. She has successfully secured a position at another school. We wish her every success in the future!

### CHOIR

There are some more places available in the choir club with Miss. Ashton which runs on a Friday from 3:15 – 4:30pm. We are looking to start having some more concerts and compete in local choir festivals. Please put a note in your child's reading diary if they wish to attend and we will add them to the register effective immediately.

### SPORTS SUCCESSES

- Well done to our Football team who won 6-1 against Beech Street recently! What a tremendous score!
- Well done to all those who have turned out for the Cross Country competitions over the autumn. There has been a great deal of effort to turn up early on a Saturday morning!
- Congratulations to Eden Williams who came in 2<sup>nd</sup> over three races in the first round of Cross Country competitions! Fantastic running Eden!
- Our hockey team competed well and came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Eccles area competition last week – great team work! We are waiting to hear if we have qualified for the next level of the competition!

### WINTER WARMERS

We have noticed there are a number of children coming to school without a coat to wear at outdoor play times. The weather at this time of year is very changeable and the temperature is not often suitable to playing out without a coat on. While we can allow children to play out in blazers in the spring and summer, at this time of year we need children to have a proper coat with sleeves preferably with a hood as well in order to have their break outdoors. Please make sure you send children with a coat so that they can get some fresh air at break times even if they don't need it on the journey into school.

Equally, P.E. is a vital and non-negotiable aspect of the National Curriculum. In order to keep the children active in the winter months, our aim is to have P.E. outdoors as often as possible. All children therefore need a warm and/or shower-proof tracksuit with sweater and tracksuit bottoms in school each day if they wish to participate in sports. Sadly, shorts and t-shirts are quite impractical for the winter weather in Manchester! ☺ Tracksuits can be bought in school colours (blue or black) very inexpensively at most supermarkets or on the high street. Our uniform provider also has a school tracksuit available with the school logo on for those who are interested. Please make sure all kit is labelled with your child's name to help us return any items that get lost to the rightful owner.

### SCHOOL WEBSITE

The school website has a full calendar of events coming up this term and is updated regularly by staff. Please take a little time to consult this section in the coming weeks to stay up to date with what's happening in school. Our website is completely mobile friendly so you can see it on the move. Furthermore, we have a Twitter® account (@stgilbertsrc) that you can follow where we can send updates and reminders about school life. This can be seen on the school website or followed by regular tweeters!

For your reference here are a couple of key events you may wish to have to hand. More details will follow for the relevant Christmas shows.

Date	Event	Time
8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Y5/6 Carol Service	6:30pm
9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Y2/3, Y3, Y4 Christmas Show	6:30pm
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Nursery Nativity	9:30am
11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Café	2:15pm
15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Y1/2 Nativity	9:30am
16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Reception Nativity	9:30am
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Mass & Christmas Parties	
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Jumper Last day	Close: 1:30pm
4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	School re-opens for Spring term	

