



Newsletter

Happy New Year

I hope you all had a lovely holiday at Christmas with your families. It seems a long time ago now. The children have settled back in to school really well and the atmosphere in the classrooms is outstanding with children working hard and enjoying their lessons. They are a credit to you.

Staffing

Mr Kendal became ill over the holidays and will not be with us for a short time. I will keep you informed of his progress. I would have to say that Class 10 have simply continued to work hard and are getting on with their lessons in his absence.

Unfortunately, Mrs Staley is quite ill at this time and she may be absent for some time. Please keep her in your prayers.

The school recruited an additional teacher to work across Year 5 on a temporary basis. Mr Bennison will be working in Year 5. He is a very experienced teacher and the children seem to enjoy his teaching and his lessons.

An additional Teaching Assistant in Year 5 joins our staff. Mrs Rosales-Munoz has joined the team, she is a qualified teacher and is fluent in Spanish so I am sure she will be a great addition to the school. She will be working across Year 5.

Security

The school office has finally opened and the office staff are pleased they are not having to work in the library anymore.

The school is trying to improve all its security and safeguarding arrangements to make improvements where necessary.

There are a few changes, which I would ask for your understanding on:

I am sure you will agree, we can't have adults wandering around the school unsupervised.

Some parents are very understanding about this and I thank them for that.

If a parent needs to come in to school on a morning to see the teacher, they should come to the office and ask to do so. I would ask, if possible, to simply give any messages to the adult at the school playground doors and the adult will pass them on. On a morning, teachers need to be in class to prepare for the school day.

In the interests of safety and safeguarding, parents will be stopped from entering the building unsupervised.

At the end of the school day, please collect your child as usual from the playground and if you need to enter school, please speak to a member of staff, who will then accompany you to where you need to be.

Packed Lunches

Could I ask parents to be mindful about the types of foods that are appearing in packed lunches. **Children are not allowed to bring flavoured water into school.** If you want to give your child sugary drinks they will need to go home for their lunch. Some flavoured water contains as much as seven teaspoons of sugar. Drinking water is provided for all children.



Please try to give your child an appropriate packed lunch with the avoidance of chocolate, cakes etc.

Crisis at Christmas

During our Christmas parties we prayed for the homeless and the children all brought in some 'loose change'. Over £329 was collected and this has been sent to the charity Crisis. Many thanks for your generosity once again.

RE and Catholic Life

A separate RE Newsletter will be sent home shortly informing you of what the children will be learning during this term. We are also forming a Chaplaincy group which will have representatives from school and the parish. If you are interested in becoming a member of this group please see Mr Conwell for more details. As we are in the Year of Mercy, we need to explore ways in which we can be merciful to the needs of our local and the wider community.

This should be an exciting half term:

- Our Year 5 children are off to Scotland Skiing.
- We begin our First Holy Communion Programme on Wednesday, 20th January at 3.30pm, with our first meeting
- Children are off working in the community, reading to residents at Mandale Care Home
- Sports are flourishing with our amazing Cross Country Teams already setting the standard at local competitions
- The basketball team are through to the local finals
- We continue to host other schools and teachers from the local area to exemplify some of the high standards in our school. Thank you for the teachers who give of their time to do this.
- The children have been chosen to communicate with the Astronaut Tim Peake and his team
- Our chickens should be arriving at the end of the half term after the work by the School Council!
- Our maths in Motion Club will be starting soon for Year 6 children. Mr O'Donnell is desperate to get them to the national finals again. No pressure there then!
- Our amazing choir will be at the Cathedral next week. A huge thanks to Mrs Sims for her inspiration with them.



The list goes on...

Have a very Happy New year with your families.

God Bless

Mark Ryan
Head Teacher
15.1.16