



Seek ye first the kingdom of God



Forming lives ready to face the future

Newsletter

I hope you all enjoyed the St Patrick's feast day celebrations. It was wonderful to see so many parents and children at the Sunday mass celebration. The whole mass reflected everything positive about the parish community. Thank you to all the staff and the children for working so hard behind the scenes with music, singing, dancing and readings to ensure the celebration was what it was. I'm not sure about Mr O'Donnell's attempt at Irish Dancing. He would score highly for effort but would struggle on technical ability and style!

First Holy Communion Programme

Thank you to the parents who are supporting their children on this important journey by attending the meetings and more importantly taking their children to mass each week. Thank you for supporting your children in this way. My thanks to all of the staff, who also give of their time to support our children and their families.

Skiing – Italy 2019

An incredible experience for the Year 5 children as they were fortunate to fly to Switzerland and then transfer by coach to their resort in the Italian Alps. A full week's skiing with fantastic instructors meant all of the children learnt to ski. The children were a credit to their families and to the school with their exemplary behaviour. St Patrick's is blessed with the range and wealth of visits on offer to the children and the ski trip exemplifies this. All of the children had the time of their lives and the confidence and change in the children was simply remarkable. My thanks to Miss Dowson for the many hours she gave to organise this. As a school, we are very conscious of the cost of such a visit but the response from parents is that they thought that if they have a year to save, the experience for their children is priceless.

A decision will be made shortly whether a similar visit will take place again next year.

School Performance

It is important that the school continues to develop and it provides the very best it can for all our children. We should never take for granted the excellent work of the school or simply just expect it to perform at the level it does. Behind the scenes, we are continually reviewing the school, the teaching, outcomes for pupils etc to make sure they are of the highest standard.

In its self-evaluation the school continues to evaluate itself as Outstanding in all areas. This view has been reinforced by many external visitors. The Academy Trust rates the school at the highest level and our School Improvement Adviser, Mr M Smit, an Ofsted Inspector, also rates the school at the highest possible level.

This is something to be proud of. This school is an incredibly special place because of the hard work that exists between the school and the families it serves.

We have highly dedicated and professional staff across the whole school, without our staff the school would not be in the position it is.

The school is indebted to the work of its Governors, who continually give of their own time to support and challenge the school. I am extremely grateful to all of them for their commitment and professional support they bring to the school



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Admissions for September 2019

This is an anxious time for many of our Nursery parents as they wait to hear if their child has a school place for September. We had an extremely high number of applications this year once again. It is a mark of the high regard that parents have for the school which is very affirming, but I am also mindful that for many parents it is an anxious wait.

Sad News

Thornaby has historically been blessed with great leaders in their schools and they have left a lasting legacy. Mrs Dee Eddy, a previous teacher at St Patrick's and Christ The King, recently died after a period of illness. Dee was married to Mike Eddy, the former Headteacher at Christ the King. They actually met while teaching at St Patrick's. This family served their schools and parishes faithfully and the schools in Thornaby would not be where they are today without their commitment. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Welcome to Ella Sherrington

Our congratulations to Mr Sherrington and family on their new addition to the family. Ella Sherrington even joined us for mass on St Patrick's day.

Attendance

A big thank you to everyone who is working hard to help improve the attendance of the children. Mr Scott is leading on attendance within the school and we are making excellent progress. Thank you for your support.

Thank you to the parents who support the school by always taking holidays out of term time. **We cannot authorise any 'holidays' in school time.** We do not want to see parents being fined for poor attendance for taking term time holidays, which is why we try to work with parents first.

After School Clubs

It is very pleasing to see the number of children who attend the after-school clubs. The range of clubs is excellent: sport; lego, cooking, drama etc. Please encourage your child to attend. A big thank you to all of the staff who provide these opportunities for the children.

World Down's Syndrome Awareness Day

On Thursday 21st March we will be wearing odd socks and we will be asking the children to bring in a donation for this worthy cause.

Class Hampers

Your child will be collecting dried food, tins etc for their class hampers, which will be presented to Thornaby Food Bank on Thursday 18th April.

Mission Boxes

Please try to give generously during Lent. We will be collecting the Mission Boxes in on Monday, 29th April.

Lent

During Lent there is no better time of the year for renewal and reflection. The three important themes of Lent enable all of us: pupils, families, teachers and leaders to take time to prepare.

We will be preparing ourselves in school as we build towards Holy Week and Easter.

Mr M Ryan
Executive Head Teacher

18th March 2019