



St Robert Southwell School Newsletter

No 8 – March 2016



Catholic Life Of The School

The Catholic Church dedicates the entire month of March to St Joseph and urges us to pay special attention to his life and example.

Oh God, the Creator of all things, you framed the law of labour for the human race. Graciously grant, by the example and patronage of St Joseph, that we may do the work You provide us and earn the reward You promise. Sustain us with your Grace to live up to our duties, in charity and justice. Amen.

Lent

Father David is saying a second special Mass for Lent tomorrow morning at 8.30 a.m., in the school hall. This is also the feast of St Patrick. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Everyone is welcome.

During Lent we also focus on giving to others. This year our Lenten charity collections are for a pupil in our school who needs to raise a minimum of £30,000 towards surgery at Great Ormond Street Hospital, which will help improve her mobility. Ava, who is currently in Reception, has a diagnosis of Bilateral Spastic Cerebral Palsy which means, without surgery, she would be unable to walk and would be dependent on a wheelchair. To help with the fund raising her family need to do for her to be able to have surgery, collections will be taken after each Lenten Assembly. Children may also wear their own clothes on the last day of term, in return for a donation towards this very special good cause.

Lent Liturgies

Friday, 18th March at 9.15 a.m. Palm Sunday, led by Year 1 (this will be followed by Celebration Assembly).

Tuesday, 22nd March at 9.15 a.m. The Last Supper, led by Year 2.

Wednesday, 23rd March at 9.15 a.m. The Way of the Cross, led by Year 4.

Easter Assembly

The Easter Egg Raffle Assembly will take place at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday 23rd March. Raffle tickets will be on sale from this Friday, 18th March. £1.00 per strip.

Year of Mercy

As part of our focus on the Year of Mercy, we ran a competition to design a Holy Door. Some of these entries will be displayed in the Prayer Room for the rest of the year.

Staff News

Mrs Egan gave birth to a daughter during the half-term break. Both mother and baby are doing well.

Friends' Association St Patrick's Day Celebration

This week we also celebrate the Feast of St Patrick, Patron Saint of Nigeria and Ireland. The Friends' Association are running a St Patrick's Day social, including Irish

coffee and cake, tomorrow afternoon, in the school hall from 3.15 p.m. Everyone is welcome. There will also be some Irish music and dancing.

Advance Notice – Meeting For All Parents

On Thursday 28th April 2016, at 7.00 p.m., we have a special speaker coming to talk to parents at our school about how to help families to be happy and healthy, and how to enable children to achieve their very best. Please make sure you put this date in your diary. We will send out further information nearer the time, and will provide a crèche on the evening.

Asking Your Child About Their Day At School

Parents often ask their children “What have you done today?”, to which they often answer “Nothing”. However, you might like to try these questions which may give you a different response:-

What was your favourite thing that happened today?

What was the most challenging thing that happened today?

What was the hardest thing you had to do at school today?

What did you do at break time?

What are you learning about in school?

What did you enjoy most for lunch today?

What made you laugh or smile today?

What was exciting today?

What are you looking forward to tomorrow?

Parent- Pupil-Teacher Meetings

Thank you to all the parents who came to the recent meetings. The feedback has been very positive and the engagement of children in discussing their own learning and targets is an important aspect of our development as a school with a clear focus on learning. We had a 98% turnout. If you were unable to attend the meeting for any reason, please telephone the school office, or speak to your child’s teacher, and we will try to arrange a suitable appointment time. The appointments for Mrs Fontenelle’s class will be re-arranged for Wednesday next week.

Polling Day and E.U. Referendum

As we are being used on both these occasions and the school is fully open to the public, unfortunately, we will be closed to pupils on 5th May and 23rd June. **Please note that Year 6 are expected to attend, from 9.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. on Polling Day, 5th May**, as the teachers will continue a normal morning timetable to prepare them for the Year 6 Tests. We recognise the inconvenience these additional closures cause and we may be able to offer some childcare, run from the small hall in school, on 23rd June only. If you need this childcare, please complete the slip at the bottom of the newsletter. Places for this will be free, but will be limited.

Safer Internet

Children under thirteen should not be using social networking . Unfortunately, social networking sites are popular places for people to try to trip children up. Children are not as cautious as adults and are more likely to be caught out. “Click Jacking” is where fraudsters attempt to get your unsuspecting child to click on something tempting, which

results in downloading malware or tricks them into sharing private information. Information can be found at “Get Safe On Line” <https://www.getsafeonline.org/>

The following websites also offer useful information:

1. CEOP – www.ceop.police.uk/
2. ThinkuKnow- www.thinkuknow.co.uk
3. Childnet – www.childnet-int.org
4. Beat Bullying – www.beatbullying.org
5. Know IT All – www.childnet.com/KIA
6. Insafe – www.saferinternet.org

Clothing

If your child is given any item of spare clothing or underwear by a member of staff, please ensure that you return it to the school office when it has been washed. Any donations of new underwear or socks would be gratefully received.

Fourth Plinth

We submitted five entries to this national competition. They are displayed on the Fourth Plinth website. We wish all our entrants luck with this national competition.

As a school, we have selected two internal winning entries, Colin Copcea, Year 3, and Neala & Roisin Newman, Year 1 and Reception.

Football Success

The girls’ team secured a place in the semi-finals of the Brent League Cup which will be played this week.

Parking

This continues to be an issue. A resident on Woodland Close has made a complaint to both the Council and the Diocese about inconsiderate parking by parents from this school.

Term Dates 2016-2017

These were sent out with the previous newsletter and are available on the school website: www.robsouth.org. I remind parents that we are no longer able to authorise holidays during term time, and holiday absence is recorded as unauthorised. Requests for special leave for extenuating circumstances, such as funerals and visa applications, must be submitted prior to the leave taking place.

World Book Day/ Library Opening

This was a great success and Mr Gardiner presented prizes to our Library Competition winners. He also commented on how wonderful it was to see all the children in school dressed up, and how much parents had supported their children. Thank you to the Friends’ Association, who have helped fund the books for our new library.

Safeguarding

In response to the feedback from the parent questionnaires with regard to the main gate, I would like to advise parents that during times of drop-off and collection the main gate is left unlocked in order to ensure a smooth start and end of day transition. It

would be impractical to “buzz in” 450 parents at the beginning and end of each day. I would draw your attention to the fact that we have a member of staff on the main gate from 8.45 a.m. each day, and that school staff are present on the playground at the end of the day. We are fortunate to have CCTV which monitors the perimeter of the school at all times. Office staff are also able to see the main gates on a screen in the office. We regularly review the school security and value ideas and suggestions made.

Sainsbury's Vouchers

The school is collecting Active Kids vouchers from Sainsbury's (available until May 2016). These vouchers help us to obtain free sports equipment for the school. There is a collection box for the vouchers in the school's main entrance, at the office window.

Parents' Forum

Thank you to those parents who came along to Parents Forum. We discussed the following:

- Responses to the parent questionnaire from the Autumn term.
- The school Presentation Policy which is focussing on improving handwriting and presentation.
- Valuing diversity in our school community and the place of high quality story books in presenting positive role models to children.

Dates For The Year

Thursday 17 th March		St Patrick's Day
Friday 18 th March	9.15 a.m.	Year 1 (<i>please note change of Year Group</i>)- Palm Sunday Assembly
Tuesday 22 nd March	9.15 a.m.	Year 2 - Last Supper Assembly
Wednesday 23 rd March	9.15 a.m.	Way of the Cross - Year 4
Wednesday 23 rd March		Last day for Nursery
Thursday 24 th March	2.00 p.m.	Last Day of Term – School Finishes
Monday 11 th April		Children Return to School
Thursday 14 th April	2.45 p.m.	Year 5 - He Is Risen Assembly
Monday 2 nd May		May Day Bank Holiday
Thursday 5 th May		POLLING DAY – School closed to Children (except Year 6)
Monday 9 th May		SATs Week
Friday 13 th May	9.15 a.m.	Pentecost Celebration – Assembly led by Year 3
Monday 23 rd May		Class Photos
Thursday 26 th May		Year 1 to Kew Gardens
Monday 30 th May – Friday 3 rd June		HALF TERM WEEK
Monday 6 th June – Wednesday 8 th June		Class 4S to Buckden
Wednesday 8 th June – Friday 10 th June		Class 4R to Buckden
Thursday 9 th June		Whole Nursery to Bekonscot (<i>please note change – both sessions going together</i>)

Monday 13 th June		Year 1- Phonics Screening
Thursday 23 rd June		E. U. Referendum - School closed to Children
Wednesday 29 th June		Year 2 to Gordon Brown Centre
Monday 4 th – Friday 8 th July		Year 6 to PGL – Caythorpe Court
Friday 8 th July		Reception's Got Talent
Thursday 14 th July		Last Day for Nursery
Friday 15 th July	2.00 p.m.	Last Day of Term – School Finishes

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Childcare on 23rd June 2016

I would need childcare on 23rd June for..... (No.) children.

Names of Children.....

Parent's SignaturePrint Name.....