



St Robert Southwell School Newsletter

No 7 – February 2016



Catholic Life Of The School

Lent

Lent started today with Ash Wednesday. This is an important part of the Church year, when we try to think of others and do an extra good deed.

Year of Mercy

When we experience the merciful love of God the Father, we are more able to share this with our neighbour. As part of our focus on the Year of Mercy, the children are being encouraged to think about merciful acts.

Safer Internet Day

Yesterday was Safer Internet Day. This is a good opportunity for children to be reminded about the safe use of the Internet. The following website: saferinternet.org.uk has lots of useful information as well as an on-line quiz, which you may wish to discuss with your child.

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

Football Success

Well done to our Year 6 boys, who have secured a place in the finals of the Brent North Football League. Congratulations also to the girls' team, who have one match to play to secure a place in the semi-finals.

Year 5 Trip to the Gordon Brown Centre

Year 5 had a very full and successful week at the Gordon Brown Residential Centre, and participated enthusiastically in all the activities on offer. A big thank you to all the staff who supported this trip and ensured it ran so smoothly.

Pupil Premium Award 2016

I am proud to share with you that we received a letter from Sam Gyimah, MP, the Under-Secretary of State for Childcare and Education, advising us that we have won a local award in the Key Stage 2 category for the attainment and progress of our disadvantaged pupils since 2011. A copy of this letter is available for you to view on the school website.

Sustainable Travel Award

I am delighted to announce that we have been officially awarded a silver star for sustainable travel, largely due to our encouragement of children, to walk, cycle and ride scooters to school.

Parking

You may have seen in the press that, in some parts of the country, warning notices are being issued to parents who drive and park dangerously near schools. These warning notices are being followed up with prosecutions. Unfortunately, we still have a small number of parents who show a complete disregard for the safety of our children and local residents when dropping and collecting their children. The Year 5 children were delayed by nearly an hour setting off on their trip because one of the coaches was unable to get to the school due to poor parking which restricted traffic on Slough Lane/Salmon Street. Furthermore, we had complaints from the neighbours that parents also blocked their driveways whilst waiting to say goodbye to their children on the morning of this trip.

Term Dates 2016-2017

These dates are attached to this newsletter for your information. 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.

Attendance

Well done to Class 4S who are the only class to manage 100% attendance for one week in January. I would like to remind parents that regular attendance at school enables children to make the best progress.

World Book Day

World Book Day is Thursday 3rd March and the children may come to school dressed as a book character on this day. This also coincides with the official opening of the school Library.

New School Library and Learning Zone

We are very grateful to the Friends' Association for their support of the new Library and their very generous contribution of £10,000 from their funds, which has covered the cost of most of the new books.

The children have begun to use the Library over the last few weeks and are allowed to take out one book at a time. I hope you have enjoyed sharing these new books with your child.

The official opening of the new school Library and Learning Zone will take place on Thursday 3rd March. Father David will visit during the day to bless our learning space and Mr Barry Gardiner, MP, will also come to present prizes to the winners of our Library competitions, outlined on the competition sheet, which will be sent out separately at the end of the week.

Phone Calls From School

If you receive a phone call from school and you are unable to take the call at the time, please make sure you have listened to the message left before you return the call to the school.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a high priority for schools. The staff have had updated Child Protection training, including awareness of the issues relating to Female Genital

Mutilation. They have also had training on the Government's Prevent Strategy which relates to the potential radicalisation of children and young people.

Emergency Evacuation of School Premises

We have been asked by the Metropolitan Police to make parents aware that there have been a number of hoax emergency calls to schools in London. These hoax calls are intended to severely disrupt public buildings and the education of children. I would draw your attention to the following advice from the Metropolitan Police which states: "If your school makes a decision to temporarily suspend lessons while safety checks are carried out, please do not attend the school premises to remove your child unless you are asked to do so. And do not phone the emergency services for updates on your child. This delays genuine people in need from getting help. Schools will keep you informed and will always arrange for the care of pupils, making appropriate decisions about their collection and care. Please do not attend and remove your child from school in the event of another school being affected by an alert as this results in missed learning opportunities for all."

If you have any information regarding hoax calls, you may call Crimestoppers anonymously on: 0800 555 111.

In the event that we need to evacuate the school, or children need to be collected due to a critical incident, we will notify you by text with the relevant information.

Please make sure school are told of any change to mobile numbers.

Sainsbury's Vouchers

The school is collecting Active Kids vouchers from Sainsbury's (available until May 2016). Sainsbury's are offering Active Kids vouchers with purchases up to 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, by the office.

Parents' Forum

The next Parents' Forum meeting will take place on Thursday 25th February at 2.00 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. Current members will be sent a copy of the agenda. If you would like to join the Forum, please complete the slip at the bottom of this newsletter.

Dates For The Year

Monday 15 th - Friday 19 th February		HALF TERM WEEK
Monday 22 nd February		Children Return to School
Thursday 25 th February	2.00 p.m. and 6.30 p.m.	Parents' Forum
Tuesday 1 st March		St David's Day
Wednesday 2 nd March <i>(Please note change from previous published date)</i>	Parents' Forum	Year 4 Voice in a Million - Wembley Arena

Thursday 3 rd March	All Day	World Book Day
Friday 11 th March	All Day	Year 3 to Roald Dahl Museum
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
Monday 9 th May		SATs Week
Friday 13 th May	9.15 a.m.	Pentecost Celebration – Assembly lead 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		One Year 4 Class to Buckden
Wednesday 8 th June – Friday 10 th June		One Year 4 Class 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
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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Parents' Forum

I should like to join the Parents' Forum.

Signed..... Print Name.....

Children's Names and Classes:

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