



## St Charles' RC Primary School

20 January 2017

*Together we follow Jesus' footsteps in our living and learning*

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas break with your families. I would like to thank you all for your generous gifts and kind wishes on behalf of all the staff.

### **Nursery applications 2017-18**

Nursery applications are available on the school website. The closing date for applications is Friday 24 March 2017.

### **Your Child's Progress**

If you have any concerns about your child's progress please contact the class teacher. Parent consultations are at the end of this term.

### **School Uniform**

A special thank you to Mrs Boyle and Mrs Porter who have been giving up their time to sell the school uniform in school as members of the PTA. They have done a brilliant job and raised money in the process. I would like to thank them for their support. They will be selling uniform for the remainder of this term, on Mondays after school as normal.

After the Easter break you will only be able to purchase our school uniform directly from the Tots to Teams website: [www.totstoteams.com](http://www.totstoteams.com)

You will be able to order your items online and your purchases can be delivered to your home, or school for your collection. If you don't have access to the internet Mrs Ambrose or Mrs Siou will be able to help.

### **Staff Training**

Staff took part in Mindfulness training this week and it was very interesting. If you would like more information it can be found on the NHS website. The link is below:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/pages/mindfulness.aspx>

### **Play Equipment**

We kindly ask that you do not allow your children to use the playground equipment before or after school. We are concerned that accidents could occur without adequate supervision from school staff. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

### **Valentines Disco**

The PTA is kindly organising a Valentines disco for Reception to Year 6, on 10<sup>th</sup> February, from 3.15pm to 5pm. Children will be provided with refreshments and sweets/snacks can be bought on the night. Please pay on ParentPay (£3.50 per child).

### **Catherine McKinnell, MP Visit**

The Junior Leadership Team invited local MP Catherine McKinnell into school to talk to them about leadership. They had a wonderful afternoon finding out about her role and asked her lots of questions. They were keen to use her advice to support them in their role leading our

school so that they can make a difference for all of the children. This was followed by a whole school assembly where every class had the opportunity to ask her questions. I would like to thank Mrs McKinnell and her colleague Mrs Bailey for giving her up their time to come and visit our children, many of whom are constituents.



## Football

The boys' football team have played Rounds 1 and 2 of fixtures in the Simpson football league. Altogether they have played four matches, winning two and losing two.

## Aspire club

A new club targeting girls in Year 3 and Year 4 started last week with fourteen girls choosing to take part. The girls have been enjoying lots of different games and dance activities with Chloe from the School Sport Service.

## Netball

Six girls from Year 6 took part in an afternoon netball competition at Walker Activity Dome. They had a great afternoon and made us proud, but unfortunately have not made it through to the next round.

## Skipping

The children in Year 3 have been learning a wide range of skipping skills during their PE lessons.

They will be taking part in a skipping festival, details of which will follow in due course.

## Diary Dates

A list of diary dates was added to the school website this week. More dates may be added so please read the newsletters and follow us on twitter for further updates.

## Year 5 Class Collective Worship

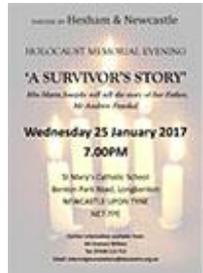
As you will know from the diary dates, every class has invited friends and families to join them in a collective worship over the next two terms. Next Friday on Holocaust Memorial Day Year 5 will be leading a class liturgy. All are welcome.

## Holocaust Memorial Evening

'A SURVIVOR'S STORY'; Mrs Marta Josephs will tell the story of her Father, Mr Andrew Frankel.

Wednesday 25 January 2017 at 7.00pm at St. Mary's Catholic School, Benton Park Road, Longbenton, Newcastle NE7 7PE.

Further information is available from: Graham Wilkins, tel: 07929 115712



## Poppy Appeal

The Royal British Legion have been in touch to say thank you for £61.71 raised by our families in October/November 2016 – thank you to everyone who bought a poppy in remembrance of those who have lost their lives in warfare.

## Attendance and Punctuality

Well done to Year 2 and Year 5 the attendance winners from last term!

As part of our drive for all children to achieve we monitor attendance and punctuality on a regular basis. The Government's aim is that all children should have at least 95% attendance over the school year. If your child's attendance falls below 95%, you may be contacted to discuss the reasons for your child's non-attendance with a view to seeking an improvement. We are keen to help parents who have genuine issues that prevent them from bringing their child to school regularly or on time. Please do contact us as we may be able to provide support.

If your child is ill and unable to attend school, please ring the school office before 9.30am on the first day of absence and leave a message explaining the reason for the absence. If notification is not received the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

### **Absences due to Diarrhoea and Vomiting**

If your child is sent home from school or is absent due to diarrhoea or vomiting they **must remain at home for a full 48 hours after the last episode of sickness**. We ask for your co-operation to help limit the spread of germs.

### **Absences for Medical Appointments**

Absences due to dental or medical appointments will not be authorised unless we have seen a hospital letter or appointment card. We do ask that any routine appointments are made out of school hours. Please note that a visit to the opticians is not classed as a medical appointment so will not be authorised.

### **Leave of Absence Requests for Holidays in Term Time**

Please note that we are unable to authorise holidays in term time except in exceptional circumstances. If you wish to request a leave of absence, you must do so in writing at least two weeks in advance of the planned absence, clearly explaining the reason for the request. We strongly discourage any holidays within term time due to the impact that this time off has on a child's learning, ability to make friendships and to be settled in school. Please note that school will not provide any work for children to complete whilst taking a leave of absence.

### **Term Dates**

Please note that the 2017-18 term dates are being considered and will be published on the school website after the Governors have approved them.

### **Homework**

We have received very positive feedback about the change in homework in Key Stage 2. We are now considering how effective homework is in Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2).

Research shows overall that homework in primary schools does not appear to lead to large increases in learning and effective homework is associated with greater parental involvement and support. The evidence base suggests that short focused tasks or activities that relate directly to what is being taught, and which are built upon in school, are likely to be more effective than regular daily homework.

[https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Toolkit/Technical\\_Appendix/EEF\\_Homework\\_\(primary\)\\_Technical\\_Appendix.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Toolkit/Technical_Appendix/EEF_Homework_(primary)_Technical_Appendix.pdf)

We want to continue with reading homework and as always want to encourage children to read a wide range of books not just reading scheme books.

I know some parents would like more homework and some would like none. If you have any comments please complete the slip below and the Senior Leadership Team will consider your views. Many thanks.

### **Half-Term**

School closes for the half-term holiday on Friday 17 February at 3.15pm and we return to school on Monday 27 February.

As always if you have any problems or concerns then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Nealings  
Headteacher

Newsletter 10 - 2016/17

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[Follow us on Twitter: @StCharlesPrimNE](https://twitter.com/StCharlesPrimNE)

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REPLY SLIP

Year Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments on homework in Year 1 and Year 2: