



St Charles' RC Primary School

7 October 2016

Together we follow Jesus' footsteps in our living and learning

Dear Families,

Please take a moment to read through the latest news and information.

Medical advice for parents

Parents and carers can now find NHS advice at your fingertips to help you look after your children's health. I have included information on our school website under the Parents section. There is also a link to an App that gives easy to understand guidance on childhood illnesses e.g. meningitis, diarrhoea as well as advice on bumps and bruises.

For the App search NHS Child Health in the App Store.

Keeping safe

We had an additional assembly this week to talk about walking to and from school safely, particularly when the dark nights arrive. I have asked the children to stay on main roads that are well lit when they are walking to and from school and for them to be vigilant. We have been notified by the police that people dressed as clowns have been trying to scare children in the local area.

Junior Leadership Team

The junior leadership team - School Council – met with Mrs Hill and my-self today. It was our first joint leadership meeting. They were all really enthusiastic about the new role and were keen to plan for school improvement with me. Minutes from the meeting, including details of our first improvement priority, will be available on the school website shortly, under the School Council.





Year of Mercy

As the end of the Year of Mercy approaches we continue to carry out corporal works of Mercy. Thank you to all of those who attended our 'Brighten up the Harvest' celebration led by the School Council and Mini Vinnies.

Did you know?

Almost 800 million people are hungry around the world.

1 person in 9 will go to bed hungry tonight.

The world produces enough food to feed everyone.

66 million primary school-age children go to school hungry.

Prayer – The Hungry

We pray for all those who are hungry.



Loving God

*We pray for all those who struggle to get enough to eat,
especially all the children who feel hungry each day.*

*We ask that they may know they are not forgotten
and that they may come to share in the abundance given for us all.*

*Help us to follow your example of mercy
to build a brighter future and a fairer world
as we work together to end poverty and injustice.*

We ask this in your name, Lord.

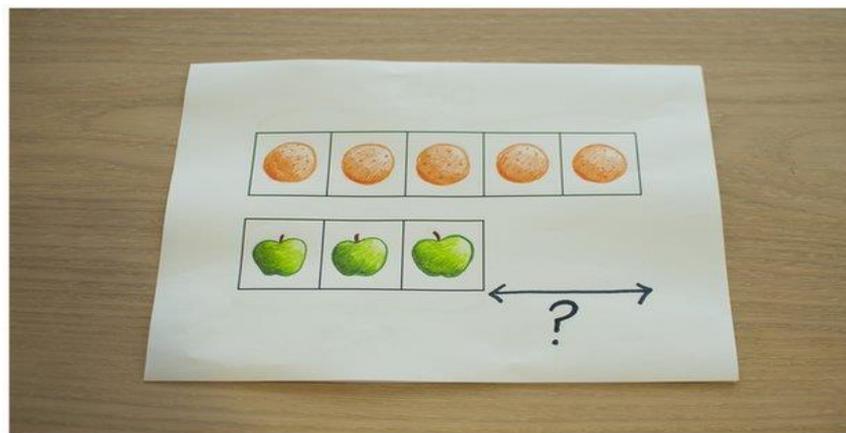
Amen

We will continue to support others in the Year of Mercy and we are having a 'Good Samaritan Day' in school on the 8 December to celebrate the end of the year. Information to follow soon.

Mathematics in school

Mrs Higgins and I have been observing the teaching of maths across the school. I have really enjoyed seeing your children take risks and develop their fluency and reasoning skills.

Mrs Higgins will be attending training next week on using the Singapore Bar model. It's a tool children can use to understand almost any concept in maths, including multiplication and division and algebra.



An example of the bar model.

We will be providing information sessions for you regarding teaching calculation and supporting your child in mathematics. If you would like further information please check out the link below.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/0/24925787>

Handwriting competition

We are continuing to try and improve presentation in all subjects. We have all enjoyed using the Nelson handwriting scheme and the teachers' handwriting is improving too!

Please encourage your child when they are doing their homework to ensure the following:

- They always use their best handwriting.
- They always use a ruler to draw **any** line.
- They form numbers as well as letters correctly.
- They do not cross out or scribble on their work. Children should use a ruler to cross out any errors if necessary.

National Poetry Day

Yesterday we celebrated National Poetry Day and Mrs Damti organised a poetry recital across the school. It was a fantastic celebration and the children were amazing! Everyone can join in our handwriting competition by copying out their favourite poem. Good luck everyone!

We welcome parent and carer entries too to join the teacher competition!

All of the classes have decorated their book areas and the winning class will be announced later today. Photograph to follow!

Grand Designs

We are planning our own grand design of our school library. We want to provide an engaging library that will appeal to all ages across the school with a particular focus on Key Stage 2. We have ordered a lot of new books to meet the demands of the new curriculum and hopefully they will arrive in school soon.

The children will have the opportunity to take part in a democratic vote to select their favourite design idea.

Reception Welcome Mass

Please join us at St Charles' RC Church next Sunday 16 October at 10.15am to welcome our new Reception class to the parish.

Harvest Celebration

Thank you to all the families who came in to school to celebrate our CAFOD Harvest liturgy which was led by the school councillors and Mini Vinnies. Thank you also for your very kind donations of food for asylum seekers in Newcastle, and money for CAFOD – all of which is both greatly needed and appreciated.



PTA

The PTA are hosting a meeting at The Brandling on Gosforth High Street at 8pm this Tuesday. The PTA are keen to recruit new members and fresh ideas; everyone welcome.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Many thanks to everyone who came and enjoyed coffee and cakes in support of this wonderful cause. The children enjoyed the cake sale at break time too.

Football

The girls' and boys' football teams have both kicked off their seasons with some pleasing performances. The girls took part in the first round of the ESFA cup and did extremely well despite not making it through to the next round. For a lot of the girls it was their first experience of representing the school in football, and they did so impeccably.

The boys' football team have played in two tournaments already this year, taking part in the Bishop's Cup and the ESFA cup. In the Bishop's cup the boys got off to the perfect start with a 3-0 win but could not sustain the good form and ultimately didn't make it through to the next round. In the ESFA cup the boys produced the best performance from a St Charles' team for many years despite losing their opening game 2-1. They did experience success with a resounding 5-1 win to end the campaign. Unfortunately, the boys were unable to make it through to the next round though.

Year 6 Residential Launch

The launch meeting for the Year 6 residential trip will be this Monday 10th October after school in the Year 6 classroom.

Have a lovely weekend with your families.

Mrs L Nealings

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