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Dear Parents

As we prepare and look forward to the wonderful Feast of Easter it is an opportunity to share in a newsletter what a busy term we have all had and what is in store for the remaining time.

Maths Counts:

Following on from your fantastic support for the Year of Reading this year we have been working hard on the Maths Curriculum lead by Mrs Rabbette and Miss Devine. Some parents have indicated that they would be interested in learning more about Maths in school. To this end we hope to open up classrooms at the end of the day for you to pop-in and see what happens. We would also like to organise a Parents Afternoon, maybe 40 minutes long, that we can share why Maths is important and how parents can enjoy Maths with their children.

Mr Brophy on Paternity Leave:

I am sure most know that Mr Brophy became a Dad for the first time. Both Noah James and Stephanie his wife are doing well and he will be at home with his family for the next 2 weeks. Miss Newby Yr3 teacher at St Sebastian's has kindly agreed to support our Yr3 during this time. As teachers plan and work together across the Federation hopefully they will show Miss Newby what good hard working children they are.

Many Thanks: Parents Meeting

Such a great "turn out" and an opportunity to discuss your child's work and how they are getting on in school. The majority of children want to please their parents and teachers so for them to see we are working together is a very powerful message that the adults in their lives care about them and want the best for them. The results of the parent questionnaire is on the website and are very positive. Believe me we will continue to improve and live up to the children's motto "Only my best will do". Thank you for your continued support of your child and our school to make both the BEST.

The Governors, staff and I still have concerns that some parents feel they can be aggressive in expressing something they are upset with. Certainly we all have the right not always to "like" what happens but as adults we can deal with this by talking and listening to each other. TRUST is an important word in any relationship. Children should not be subjected to this angry language AND nor should the staff of the school. Even though we can't always answer questions immediately we will try to have a discussion about concerns. BUT please remember we are in school so the time we have with children is precious and exactly what most parents want, their children being taught and given 100% attention. During class time we all try not to disturb each other and wait for a break as some children can be easily distracted and come off task.

Liverpool Archdiocese Awards for Schools

These were the inaugural awards and the presentations were made at the Liver Building. Liverpool is the second biggest diocese in the country. It stretches as far as the boarder of Preston, St Helens, Wigan, Warrington and the Isle of Man so has hundreds of schools. The Federation were finalists in three categories which was a wonderful achievement especially as we only submitted two. It does go to show the quality and high standards that we aim to reach and how the Archdiocese view its two schools that on their inspections are rated as outstanding. Mrs Hilton was nominated as Support Staff of the Year, the governors as Governing Body of the Year and St Sebastian's school was nominated and won Archdiocese School of the Year.

Extra Curriculum:

Something we value and grateful for staff giving time freely to children who want to come.

Very busy term with many opportunities to perform at different activities. As always our children are a credit to their families and school and we are all proud of them all both individually as your children but also as children of our school.

Term began with a presentation of the SAINSBURYS GOLD AWARD for PE by an LA representative. **Football** both boys and girls involved in games which will continue into next term. Still involved in Cup Competitions for the younger classes. **KS2 Dance:** Not selective so those who come to club and enjoy it were involved. They enjoyed it and performed brilliantly and with pride. **Choir** at St Margaret Mary's Church brought smiles and praise from all for their beautiful singing always done with joy. Yr5 and Yr6 represented their city of Liverpool in the Indoor Merseyside Athletics finals. The smallest school to qualify for these finals. **Cross Country** the girls won the Small School League for the 3rd successive year a brilliant achievement with great determination and team spirit (out of 15 schools). **Gymnastics Festival** at the Echo arena was a wonderful display with all enjoying watching future British stars in the afternoon.

30 hours Provision for 3 year olds:

We are certainly going to meetings and looking at what it means for our setting. I have to say it sounds fantastic but the reality isn't always the same or as easy as it has been made to seem. There are problems across the Country which we continue in Liverpool to take notice of.

National Funding of Schools

For both primary and secondary, this will have a massive impact on 96% of Liverpool Schools including our Federation. An information paper will be sent out later. BUT the bottom line is that huge amounts of money will be taken away which may result in LESS staff, including teaching staff.

What to look forward to

- A) On Ash Wednesday Fr Mark commissioned some of our regular church goers and those who had received the Sacrament of Confirmation to take the blessed Ashes and distribute them in school which they did to show the beginning of LENT. The week beginning the 3 April until 6 April classes will lead the STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 9:15am. ALL parents are invited it will last 15 minutes only. Then on Friday 7 April Yr4 in preparation for Holy Week will be putting on a PASSION PLAY all invited to at 2pm.
- B) TWO FINAL CROSS COUNTRY EVENTS BOTH FINALS 28 March and 5 April both at Wavertree starting at 4:15pm and returning by 5:30pm
- C) Visit to Hucklow Derbyshire a residential for Federation children
- D) SPEECH CHOIR at St Margaret Mary's Juniors 4 April
- E) SPRING BREAK Mon 10 April to Fri 21 April school returns Mon 24 April SPLASH (HOLIDAY CLUB) information will go out next week.