



Newsletter — November 2016



OUR JOURNEY IN FAITH

Congratulations to our wonderful group of Reception children who took part in a beautiful liturgy to celebrate their first half term in our school. We were delighted that so many of their families could join us. During the liturgy the children were presented with a prayer panel and a prayer book which we hope will be useful at home for families to share to support their child's journey of faith.



November is traditionally the month the Church keeps to remember those who have died—All Saints and All Souls. Please pray for deceased members of our school community and their families. During the coming weeks (until 11th November) we will be supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Poppies will be on sale each day with a suggested donation of 50p. Additional items will also be for sale ranging from 50p to £1.00.



As you know Pope Francis declared this year the 'Year of Mercy' where we are all invited to be "Merciful like the Father." The year of mercy draws to a close on 20th November. In school we will celebrate the end of this year with a special liturgy, the theme of which is "He is Mercy." During our liturgy Bishop Seamus will address the children using a video link. We hope the legacy of this year will be long lasting, so we continue to be merciful and compassionate to all.

FIT AND HEALTHY

Many of you will have been surprised to meet "Strider" at school just before the holidays. We were pleased to welcome Cynthia and Strider to school on behalf of the Living Streets appeal. During an assembly the children discussed why walking to school is a great idea for body and mind, as well as the environment. Badges were given out to pupils and each month a badge will be awarded to each pupil who manages to walk at least once a week. 'Park and Stride' counts—this is where you may need to travel by car but can then park a 5 minute walk away from school. Please support us in this initiative the best you can and if you do need to park close to school please do so safely and thoughtfully.



You will know that we always encourage our pupils to develop safe and healthy lifestyles and part of this curriculum (Personal, Social, Health Education—PSHE) includes educating our children about food choices and the importance of healthy eating. Although we encourage pupils to bring a snack to school to have before attending an after school club, we ask that you ensure that this is just a small item like a piece of fruit or plain biscuit. If your child brings a packed lunch to school then please ensure they have at least one portion of fruit or vegetables included. Sweets, including chocolate bars, are not to be included in packed lunches. Key Stage 2 pupils may bring in a piece of fresh fruit to have at break time, not cereal bars or dried fruit. Younger children will continue to have fruit provided each day. Many thanks for your co-operation.

HOME—SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Many thanks for your attendance at our recent Parents' Evenings. They were very well supported and we hope you found them a useful insight into how your child is doing at school. Information will be coming out shortly about your child's curriculum evening which all parents/carers (Y1-6) are invited to. The dates were shared at Parent's Evening but just a reminder: Y5 and Y6 Monday 14th November/Y3 and Y4 Monday 28th November/Y1 and Y2 Monday 5th December. All meetings from 5-6pm in the school hall.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

Remembering Harry

Many of you will know that one of our past pupils, Harry Gray, died suddenly in April. Harry's mum, Danni, is keen to support The Great North Air Ambulance (GNAA) who airlifted Harry to hospital and allowed the family invaluable time with him in his final hours. Next Wednesday 9th November we will have a special assembly in school led by the GNAA staff who will talk to the children about their service and charity. There is a colouring competition which children may enter if they want to at the cost of £1 per entry. The children can bring their money in on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday next week and will receive a picture to colour at home. All entries to be returned to your child's class teacher by Monday 14th November. On Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th November there will be some small items on sale in the school dining room. (pencils, rulers, small toys etc). If your child would like to purchase something then you can bring them into the dining room once you have collected them. Please use the main school door. All proceeds will go to the GNAA appeal.

Please continue to remember Harry and his family in your prayers.

Wish Tokens

We are collecting the Gazette "Wish Tokens" for the Parish SVP group. They will help the SVP Lourdes Fund. If you have any tokens please send them into school.

Winter Uniform

Many thanks for ensuring that your child is now in their winter uniform. Please check that all clothing is labelled. Can I remind you that girls should not be wearing fashion suede boots for school as they can pose a tripping hazard.

Carol Service

Our annual carol service led by our Y4, 5 and 6 pupils will be held at Holy Rosary Church at 6pm on Tuesday 20th December. This date and time is now confirmed.

Friends of St Paul's

Look out for the invitation to our Family Night next Thursday 10th November. It's sure to be great fun!

ATTENDANCE AND SAFEGUARDING

Thank you for supporting our aim to raise our attendance percentages. I am pleased to inform you that our attendance for October 2016 is 97%

Class results are:

Reception: 98% /Year 1: 97%/Year 2: 99%/Year 3: 97%/Year 4: 98%/Year 5: 95%/Year 6: 96%



WELL DONE YEAR 2



We will be taking part in National Anti-Bullying week during November. The children will be sharing messages about keeping themselves safe and what to do if they feel friendships are not good. We work hard to teach children important messages around bullying, please encourage children to talk to an adult if they are worried about friendships.

It is important that we know where your child is each day of term time. Please remember that a request needs to be made to myself if you intend taking your child out of school during term time for holidays. There is a form available from school that needs to be completed. It is also essential that you inform school as soon as possible if your child is unable to attend for any reason. Please phone the office before 10am on the first day of absence. Please also ensure that children are collected promptly at the end of the day. Many thanks for your co-operation.



And finally.....some lovely news. Miss O' Kell's baby boy arrived during the holidays! We were delighted to hear the news and I am pleased to report that everyone is doing well! We look forward to meeting him soon.

Thank you for taking the time to read all the information on this newsletter. As always, if you have any concerns then please let me know. Thank you for your continued support.
Mrs S Sinclair—Headteacher.