



First Holy Communion

Nine children enjoyed a very special day last Sunday as they celebrated their First Holy Communion. They all looked wonderful and were very reverent during the Mass. Thanks are due to Mrs Norton who gave up her own time after school to prepare the children for this big step in their life journey.

Retirement

The priest who celebrated the Mass was Monsignor Nannery. He has been involved with our parish, and our school, for thirty six years and is looking forward to enjoying a well-earned retirement in the Summer. On Saturday June 16th there will be a celebration of his years of service held at The Cathedral with a party in the Bishop's garden afterwards which is open to all who would like to attend. We have been invited to bring children to sing as part of a joint schools' choir with our other parish schools Holy Cross and the Cathedral.

Mrs Nicholls

Over the Easter holidays Miss Elder enjoyed a wonderful wedding and became Mrs Nicholls. Class 5 are now used to using her new name but it is taking the rest of us a while to get used to.

School Money

We know that many parents are having problems logging on to the new School money site - EDU spot. If you are, the parent login can be found by googling EDUspot parent login. Once on this page the log in details should be the same : Email, telephone, password and child's name. If you still have problems please call in and speak with Mrs Way or Ms Taylor in the office and they will help.

New Starters

Congratulations to our Year 5s who welcomed our next entry of Foundation Stage children to the school on their visit this week. It is an annual event where the older children meet their new buddies for the first time. This year it was noticeable how the year 5s were focussed on their little buddies as opposed to reliving their own Foundation experience as has been the case for some in previous years.

Raglan Rd Safety

There have been concerns raised about the safety of children when crossing Raglan Rd to get to or from school. One parent witnessed a near miss where a speeding car (driven by a parent) had to brake violently and swerve to avoid an oncoming car on the bend of Raglan Rd. We have been in contact with transport officials from the council and have had one monitoring visit from an officer with more expected. Most of the traffic at the start and end of the day is school related so please be aware of your driving habits in this high risk area. Many parents are also in the habit of using the zigzag lines as a handy dropping off point.

Please do not do this. The lines are only there as a safety measure for our children.

We don't want anybody's child to be the one who is hurt by careless driving.

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Does your child have problems sleeping or getting to sleep? Our school nurse has offered to run a free workshop for parents in school lasting approximately 30 mins to give you some strategies and ideas to improve the sleep situation. A provisional date of 22nd May has been suggested. If you are interested (even if you can't make that date) please contact Lorna Taylor, Family Liaison Officer, or Sally Burke, SENDCo.

Discos

The Discos last week were really enjoyed by the children who attended. Judging by the amount of sweets consumed I suppose that they were still 'dancing on the ceiling' after they got home. In terms of fundraising it was not our most successful venture (a profit of £30 was made) but in terms of children's enjoyment it was a great success.

Ice Cream Fridays

The year 6 children are keen to leave a legacy for after they leave St Joseph's and have decided that they would like to raise money which could reduce the voluntary contributions parents are asked for school trips. On hot Fridays (after their SATs) year 6s will sell ice-creams at the end of the school day with all profits going towards the cost of school trips in the future. Let's hope it is sunny next week. PTO

Headlice

For years headlice have been an ongoing problem in every primary school in the country, and indeed around the world. The days of the 'Nit Nurse' are far behind us but we know that a child, or a member of staff, coming home with a new infestation is a cause of great stress to families. We want to reduce the possibility of that stress as much as possible, but it is a problem that will never go away completely. We have searched the globe for advice being given to parents to help manage the problem. One of the better sources was in New South Wales in Australia. Their advice is

- Regularly check your children's hair
- Tie back and braid long hair
- Keep a fine tooth head lice comb in the bathroom and encourage all family members to use it when they wash their hair.

However they too state, 'There is no single solution to eradication, only persistence.'

Tying back of long hair is the only one of these we can monitor in school and we encourage parents of children with long hair to have it tied up as much as possible. We would like parents to inform us if they have noticed eggs or live creatures when carrying out their checks so that we can warn other parents in the class to be extra vigilant in their checking and cleansing routines. I am not endorsing any products, and it may have been a coincidence, but personally I found the frequency of infestations in my family dropped when we began using cheap 'tea tree oil' based conditioner.

There has been a recent infestation in one class in the school which has proved difficult to manage. This has caused great frustration on the part of some parents who have taken to social media to express their frustration. Some of these messages have been very negative about other families supposing them to be the cause of the problem. Inconsiderate posts, based on supposition, are very hurtful and reflect badly on the community of St Joseph's as a whole. Posts of that kind are the very type that we are attempting to educate the children not to use when they are online. Please bear in mind the impact making derogatory comments can have, not just on the recipients but also on any children involved, before pressing the final 'post' button.