

Dear Parents

It has been lovely to welcome the children back and hear all about their Christmas holidays. This half term we are focussing on kindness, particularly in the words that children use towards one another. Understanding that words have the power to be hurtful is so important and we appreciate you supporting your children with this at home too.

We are delighted to welcome a few new children and their families into St. Teresa's this term: Olivia, Jayce, Autumn, Anna, Charlie, Henry and Thomas (Pre-School); Florence (Year One); Fíonn (Year Two); Mia (Year Four) and Isaac (Year Five). We hope they will all feel very welcomed and immediately feel the friendship of our pupils, staff and parents. Sadly, we said goodbye to Sebastian (Year Six) at the end of last term who had been given a wonderful opportunity at Tring Park School of Performing Arts, as well as performing over the festive season at the London Coliseum in the Nutcracker. Many congratulations to Sebastian and we wish him much happiness in the future.

We will also be saying goodbye to Mr Palmer at the end of the February half term. We will be sad to see him leave, but wish him well in his new role as an EYFS and Key Stage One Sports Leader in his new school. On a positive note, we look forward to welcoming Miss Georgina Russell who will be the Year Two class teacher. Miss Russell brings with her a wealth of experience including drama and PE amongst her many talents, and know she is exceptionally keen to embrace the next school's production.

We will be sending out a parent survey to yourselves this week and would greatly appreciate your feedback, as it helps us understand what you would like from us, what we do well and what we need to improve on. All feedback is very important to us so that we can continue to build on the successful relationship between ourselves and provide the excellent education and service we pride ourselves on. Obviously without your feedback we cannot ensure we answer all your questions. There is a silver box in the reception area for you to place your completed forms. Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete the questionnaire.

This term we will continue to offer a number of workshops to parents. Our first is a mathematics workshop on 18th January at 8.30 am. Following on from parent requests from our workshop on place value last term, this time we will focus on multiplication and division through Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. Please come and join us. Ideally let the office know in advance but anyone is welcome on the morning. If you wish to bring a friend too, who you think would find it useful, even if their children do not come to St Teresa's, then please do.

Our Student Council have been busy as always. As part of our Steps to Success, to continue to celebrate the pupils' achievements, the children have created postcards that will be sent home once a child has completed their Steps to Success ladder, to celebrate their success, so keep an eye out for a postcard through the post. The winning entries were created by Seren and Phoebe (Year Six). Well done to them and you can see a selection of entries in the Reception Area.

House points – Well done to St. Catherine who were marginally in the lead with 2693 house points at the end of the Advent Term. Well done to all of our pupils for working so hard both academically and in their behaviour towards each other to gain so many house points.

Diary

This Week

- 7th Jan • School Opens to Pupils 8.20am
- 7 - 11th Jan • No Clubs this week
- 8th Jan • Whole School Mass – 10am joining Parish Mass, parents always welcome

Looking Ahead

- 14th Jan • Year Three & Year Six Swimming Begins
- **Book Swap – See details below**
- 18th Jan • **Year Three Visit – Henley River & Rowing Museum – Details to follow**
- **Mathematics Workshop for KS1 & KS2 Parents 8.30am**
- 23rd Jan • **Read Write Inc (Phonics) Workshop for Parents 8.30am**
- 25th Jan • **Year Five attending Sing, Perform, Inspire Workshop – Details to follow**
- 1st Feb • **Key Stage One Celebration – Parents welcome 9am – Details to follow**
- 4th Feb • **EYFS Parent Consultations**
- 6th Feb • **EYFS Parent Consultations**
- 7th Feb • **Girls Football Tournament – Years Five & Six**
- **EYFS Parent Consultations**
- **Year Six French Trip Meeting 6pm**
- 8th Feb • **STPA Quiz Night - Details to follow**
- 15th Feb • **Last Day Before Half Term Begins – Normal dismissal times**
- 18-22nd Feb • **Half Term**

Items in red added to the diary since the last Weekly Letter to Parents was published

Dates for this academic year are all available on the school website.

There you will also find copies of school policies (hard copies may be requested from the office) and details of the curriculum for each year group.

Notices

Television

If anyone has replaced their television in the run up to Christmas, then we would be very grateful for the old one! Our one in the main reception area, used for assemblies, wet plays and indoor PE sessions at times, is in need of an update. Many thanks.

Senior Citizens Party

St Teresa's Church will be holding their annual Senior Citizens Party on Saturday from 12pm. The organisers have asked if there are any children who would like to help with the entertainment by coming along and playing a musical instrument or singing, which would bring a smile to the faces of many. If your child would like to participate please contact Paula McAleavey on 01844 275 818 or 07867 900 693.

Swimming Year Three & Year Six

A reminder that swimming lessons for Year Three and Year Six start on Monday 14th January. Children will need to ensure that they have their swimming costume, towel and cap, as well as their coat, hat, scarf and gloves for the walk to and from the swimming pool.

St Teresa's Book Swap - Monday 14th January 3pm

Please see details on Page Four.



NEWS



Christmas activity week was another great success. The children had great fun from baking with Mrs Stanley to a Christmas Disco with Miss Craker! Keep your eye out for our Easter activity week.



Choir on Tour



Before the Christmas break our Choir entertained residents at Icknield Court Care Home, Woolerton Court, as well as the newer residents at Churchill's, Eaves Court. We sang our hearts out to spread some Christmas cheer which, after all the performances last term, rung our last ring! The children were wonderful and did St Teresa's proud. Well done to all of them.

Mrs J Draper & Mrs Y Roberts
- Joint Head Teachers



We are very pleased to announce the first St Teresa's Book Swap, a new way for our children, and their parents, to find a great book to read, to recycle books they've finished with and to encourage reading for pleasure.

If you or your child would like to take part all you'll need to do is bring a book(s) in to school on Monday 14th January and hand it over to the Book Swap Team who will be waiting to collect them from you.

Donated books must be in reasonable condition (lightly used second hand books are ideal). They can be picture books, chapter books, fiction or non-fiction, books children may read on their own, or books to be read aloud by an adult.

Swapped books may be kept forever so please make sure your child does not donate any book that they will want back.

St Teresa's Book Swap is all about supporting children in developing a love of reading for pleasure. We hope our Book Swap will provide a small way of helping children keep reading new books without incurring any cost, as well as learning about the value of recycling. Ultimately it is the children's love of reading we want to support but we also think it's a great opportunity for parents to get involved so there will be a section for 'Parents' as well as 'Children' so please do donate your books as well and join us for a browse before the children finish school.

The very first Book Swap will take place on Monday 14th January in the Walsingham Hall from 3pm. Look out for more info on how it will work later on this week.

We look forward to supporting your child develop a lifelong love of reading,

With Best Wishes
The Book Swap Team

STPA



SAVE THE DATE

STPA

*PIZZA
&
QUIZ NIGHT*

Bring your friends
along for a fun-
filled Quiz Night
and Pizza Supper

FRIDAY 8TH FEBRUARY
ST. TERESA'S SCHOOL

More details to follow.