

Dear Parents

Thank you to all of you who have already returned your completed survey, and can we please ask that all others are returned by the end of the week. It is only by receiving a significant number of completed surveys that we can build a clear picture of our strengths and areas to develop further.

We are confident that one of our strengths, and something we offer that most local schools do not, is our highly qualified, experienced specialist staff. Mr Meakin is our specialist teacher for PE and we are delighted that from September he will be extending his time with us, so will be at St Teresa's for four days a week, some of this time will be as a teaching assistant. Mr Meakin has many exciting plans to develop sports here at St Teresa's including involvement with a wider range of tournaments and competitions; hosting tournaments; sports-based holiday clubs and extension of the daily mile and sports clubs. Watch this space!

We have been delighted that Miss Simon has taken on the role of STEM lead and she has worked hard to build up resources, run our recent STEM week and develop the use of the science room, which the Key Stage Two classes use for science lessons. Being in school full-time enables Miss Simon to organise events across the school. The change to STEM, from science, as a department within the school, reflects the changes to the curriculum, the links made between the subjects and brings our teaching more up to date. Once the weather is warmer, we will be inviting you in to visit our new STEM den!

Our other specialist teachers include Madame de Lauriston for modern foreign languages, and there are not many schools that have a native speaker teaching French and Spanish in the primary sector, so we are extremely fortunate to have her! Mrs Aldus is our specialist teacher for art and is passionate about her subject, as well as being very talented and creative herself. Mrs Powell has been working with Mrs Aldus and taking the lead in design and technology lessons, and the range of experiences and projects the children work on has been growing each year. This is fantastic preparation for the work they will be doing in secondary school.

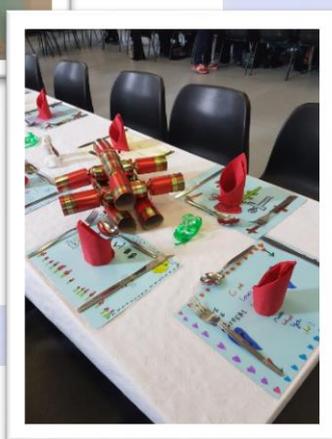
Not many schools can boast they have a professional musician teaching music to their children, as we do with Mrs Adams. Hopefully you have all had the opportunity to attend a performance of either the choir, orchestra or whole school musical event and seen the amazing skill and talent that Mrs Adams finds and nurtures within the children. Miss Craker is now leading our computing curriculum and works closely with all teachers to ensure that this, rapidly changing, area of the curriculum is kept up to date and our children develop the skills they need. Mrs McLarty leads our PSHME curriculum and has developed many new initiatives in this subject, such as engaging the children in environmental issues, recycling and taking part in Parliament Week, as well as inviting visitors into lead assemblies.

Mrs Roberts is our lead in mathematics, I take the lead in English, Miss Shaw is the coordinator of our educational visits and Mrs Aggett is both our lead for the RE curriculum and our Lay

Chaplain, which involves a huge amount of work around the Church year and events, which she does with great care and knowledge. We are also fortunate to have Mrs Webb and Mrs Peters, who are very experienced and qualified within the area of learning support and specific educational needs.

All teachers are qualified to teach all subjects, however we are not necessarily 'experts' in all areas of the curriculum. In having specialist teachers, your children really do get the best of so many experiences, and a wealth and breadth of knowledge and skills, that they are unlikely to find elsewhere. Having specialist teachers also means that class teachers can focus on core skills and pastoral care, which is the foundation of all we do. We are looking forward to extending our areas of specialism as we appoint new staff. Miss Russell is excited about joining us and using her skills in creative arts, drama and school productions!

Our Book Swap is taking place this afternoon and there are piles of books ready for the children to choose! It would be super if this could be a regular event, as it is a wonderful way of inspiring children to try something new and increase their range of reading materials. A huge thank you to Mrs O'Donovan and her 'book swap team' for all their hard work in organising this event. I hope your children are all engrossed in their new books this evening.



The senior citizens of St Teresa's Parish were treated to a belated Christmas meal yesterday and our children had made some wonderful placemats for the occasion, beautifully coloured with prayers and decorations. Mrs Bolton said how much the senior citizens had enjoyed themselves and were delighted they could take the placemats home with them.

Don't forget our Maths Parent Workshop on multiplication and division, on 18<sup>th</sup> January at 8.30am, and do feel free to invite a friend who has children at another school, if you think they would find it useful.

It was lovely to hear of one of our pupils, Eduard in Year Six, giving up some of his Christmas holidays to work with the elderly residents of a local care home. He has decided to start the 'Generation Link - Be my friend' movement, with the goal to build up links between generations by providing a series of activities in care homes such as arts and crafts, music, literature and insight of using modern technology to improve the quality of life for residents in nursing and care homes. Well done Eduard, a wonderful 'act of kindness'!



# Diary

## **This Week**

- 14<sup>th</sup> Jan • Year Three & Year Six Swimming Begins
- Book Swap
- 18<sup>th</sup> Jan • Year Three Visit – Henley River & Rowing Museum – [Details](#)
- Mathematics Workshop for KS1 & KS2 Parents 8.30am

## **Looking Ahead**

- 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan • Read Write Inc (Phonics) Workshop for Parents 8.30am
- 25<sup>th</sup> Jan • Year Five attending Sing, Perform, Inspire Workshop – [Details](#)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Feb • Key Stage One Celebration – Parents welcome 9am – Details to follow
- 4<sup>th</sup> Feb • EYFS Parent Consultations
- 6<sup>th</sup> Feb • EYFS Parent Consultations
- 7<sup>th</sup> Feb • Girls Football Tournament – Years Five & Six
- EYFS Parent Consultations
- Year Six French Trip Meeting 6pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> Feb • STPA Quiz Night - Details to follow
- 15<sup>th</sup> Feb • Last Day Before Half Term Begins – Normal dismissal times
- 18-22<sup>nd</sup> 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

## **Year Three Trip**

A reminder to Year Three parents to please complete the Consent Form on line for the Henley River and Rowing Museum trip - [Consent Form](#)

## **Parent Workshop - Mathematics**

Don't forget our Maths Parent Workshop on multiplication and division, on 18<sup>th</sup> January at 8.30am. Do feel free to invite a friend who has children at another school, if you think they would find it useful. The workshop will be concentrating on Key Stage One and Key Stage Two, however, all parents are invited and may find it useful for the future.

## **Read Write Inc (Phonics) Workshop**

All parents are welcome to attend the session on our phonics scheme, Read Write Inc, used in Reception to Year Three. This will take place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 8.30am in the Reception area.

## **Watches**

Further to the email that went out to parents last week, can we please remind you again that no child should be coming to school with a Fit Bit, mobile phone or watch on which they can make calls, send texts or take photographs. We would also appreciate no pedometers, either as a standalone device, or as part of their watch. Whilst we appreciate this promotes health and fitness, it also distracts the children from their lessons.

Children from Year Three upwards, may wear a plain, small watch only, but this must be named. Thank you for your cooperation in this, we are sure you can understand the reasons for this.

# NEWS

On Friday Year Two welcomed their parents to join us for the Express Showcase of last term's Cornerstones Learning.

Focusing on health and well-being, the children took their parents to the playground to take part in exercise games that they invented. The parents were put through their paces around the courses, getting heart rates up and building up a good sweat.

Thankfully Year Two had created smoothies using natural and healthy ingredients to drink after the strenuous activity. We all gathered in the dining hall and carried out a smoothie tasting session, where the children and parents sampled our four different smoothies and evaluated them according to appearance, texture and taste.

It was a lovely end to the first week of term and I'm sure you'll be making smoothies at home now.

- Mr Palmer



Mrs J Draper & Mrs Y Roberts  
- Joint Head Teachers

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STPA



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**SAVE THE DATE**

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**STPA**

***PIZZA  
&  
QUIZ NIGHT***

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

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**FRIDAY 8TH FEBRUARY  
ST. TERESA'S SCHOOL**

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More details to follow.

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CHEER