

Dear Parents

Thank you to all of you who have returned the parent surveys. There is still time to return them if you have not completed one, as we are keen to hear from all of you.

Very aptly our topic for RE this first half term is all about community. Many of our pupils know and understand the sense of belonging to a community including the school community. We have always prided ourselves on our pastoral care, as well as our academics, and that staff know every child by name and that nobody is overlooked. Indeed, it is by getting to know your children well that we can help them to develop their individual gifts and abilities. Many of our parents comment on how St Teresa's feels like a family. In fact, a family who visited the school last week commented on how friendly all the pupils and staff were and the sense of the real family feeling of the school. We still hold this value of the school very dearly. Many of you, in the surveys, have commented on the family aspect of the school, understanding we know and support each of your children in our care, ensuring we help them to grow to have confidence in themselves and the resilience to move through life in a positive manner. We have an open door policy because we are always happy to discuss any queries or concerns you may have so that we can discuss them.

Another parent who visited last week was keen to know the qualifications of our staff, as having visited a few local independent schools found that not all teaching staff were qualified teachers. All our class teachers are qualified teachers, which is unusual for an independent school, as we pride ourselves on our ability to ensure your children receive the best education. Our teaching assistants are also incredibly capable, some have a HLTA qualification which means they are qualified to teach supply lessons. We also have high staff/pupil ratios so your children are again receiving more individualised attention to develop their learning further.

Sue Roddick from the Tanzanian charity visited the school this morning to update us on Amosi and Elizabeth, the two children we sponsor through school in Tanzania. It was wonderful to see how well they looked and how money raised had also gone towards refurbishing a classroom. We will be raising funds during week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> February to continue to support them through school.

Celebrations at school last week included Star of the Week awards to Ashley (Year Four) for writing his own book all about a boy and his adventures and for Eduard (Year Six) who played music in a local care home during the holidays to build up links between generations. Well done to both of them!

Explore Learning also visited the school to award Seren, Phoebe, Hattie, Will and Cristian certificates for getting through to the second round of the National Young Mathematics Award, which is a huge event across the country involving around 900 schools. Well done to them!



Our E-Safety ambassadors and Computing Stewards did a presentation to the pupils, on how to stay safe online. They stressed the importance of not giving away personal information and that people are not always who they tell you they are online. They also demonstrated how quickly a photograph, that you think you have just sent to a close friend, can be spread to a wide number of people. The pupils also listened to the story 'Chicken Clicking' by Jeanne Willis, and the poor chicken needed the advice of our ambassadors, as the friend he clicked online was none other than a hungry fox. Our ambassadors will be working further with our pupils this year.

Jamie (Year Three), Jamie (Year Three), Noah (Year Three) and Cara (Year Three) all completed their Steps to Success ladders, which is much to be celebrated as they are focused on using the three attitudes to learning – Risk, resilience and reflection to make them more confident learners.

Last week Father Joseph joined us for a Liturgy for the Epiphany and Blessing of the School. This is an ancient tradition using the words 'Christus Mansionem Benedicat'. Holy chalk was used to mark the doors with 20+C+M+B+19 as a reminder that every time we enter the building we are asking for God's blessing on our lives and on our school.

2019 means 2,019 years after Jesus was born, C is for Caspar, M is for Melchior, B is for Balthazar, which are the names traditionally given to the three wise men who visited Jesus from far away. Their initials CMB also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*.

## Diary

<b>This Week</b>	
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 – <a href="#">Details</a>
<b>Looking Ahead</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	• Key Stage One Celebration – Parents welcome – Details in notices below
4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	• EYFS Parent Consultations • Choir Rehearsal Longwick School – (Years 4, 5 & 6) – details per Mrs Adams email
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 Page 5
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

## **Mathematics Workshop**

Thank you to all those parents who attended the workshop on multiplication and division on Friday last week. A lot was gone through, demonstrated and discussed, but if you were unable to attend and would like a copy of the slides please let the office know.



## **Phonics demystified!**

Come and find out how Read, Write Inc. is taught at St. Teresa's on Wednesday at 8.30am. Find out how a lesson is taught, familiarise yourself with the resources and the terminology used. All welcome to attend.

## **Mission Together Red Boxes**

On October 1<sup>st</sup> Father Wayne came to talk to us about the charity Mission Together. Through their prayers and sharing, children around the world live out its motto of 'children helping children.' We would be grateful if the red collection boxes that were given out to everyone that day could be returned as soon as possible. Thank you to all of you who have already returned them.

During 2019 the Northampton diocese will be supporting Missio and Mission Together in preparation for the Extraordinary Month of Mission in October.

## **Key Stage One Celebration**

The children in Year One and Year Two would like to invite their parents and families to their Key Stage One Celebration on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 9.00am in the Church. Refreshments will be served in the Dining Hall from 8.20am.

# NEWS

## **Book Swap**

A big thank you to Mrs O'Donovan and her team of helpers who did a fantastic job of arranging our first Book Swap Event. Nearly 400 books were donated and there were only 70 left over, so a great result. We hope to hold another one in the near future so keep stock piling those books, including adult books.



### **Year Three visit to Henley River and Rowing Museum**

Year Three had an incredibly busy and exciting day at Henley River and Rowing museum, finding out more about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. They handled artefacts, sorted food and looked at the type of homes these ancient people lived in. The children made their own paint by grinding charcoal, painted a cave with terracotta clay, made 'grave goods' out of clay and made their own Bronze Age hoard of coins by casting. In exploring the museum, they learned more about the Stone Age and about the local area of Henley and how it has changed over time.



### **Reception**

As part of their Vehicles topic, the Reception children had a treat today when they received a visit from Wing Commander Hoare to teach them about the different jet planes he has flown. They asked some super questions and found out all sorts of interesting facts about flying and planes. Thank you wing Commander Hoare.



Mrs J Draper & Mrs Y Roberts  
- Joint Head Teachers

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STPA

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

£10  
per person

**PIZZA  
&  
QUIZ NIGHT**

8  
people per  
table

Bring your friends along for a fun-  
filled quiz night and  
wood fired pizza supper.

Bar and raffle on the night.

**FRIDAY 8TH FEBRUARY  
7.30PM  
ST. TERESA'S SCHOOL  
(WALSINGHAM HALL)**

To book your place (or table)  
please contact Amanda McGrail  
at school, or email  
[Amandamcgrail@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Amandamcgrail@hotmail.co.uk)  
or text/call 07796686280