

# Newsletter



Autumn Term: Issue 8  
4<sup>th</sup> December 2015

We work together, we play together, we laugh together, we pray together.

## Reminder

Due to Christmas events, there are no clubs during the last week of this term.

## Dear Parents,

Thank you very much to all the wonderful parents who have been working hard to sew for us this week. The job has been done quickly and efficiently and I am really grateful! It was lovely to hear many positive comments passed on from the governors after governors' surgery. Thank you to those who took time out of their day to pass on their thoughts, it is much appreciated. Please read the newsletter carefully, there is lots of important information about events in the coming weeks. Have a nice weekend.

Best wishes, Mrs Griffiths, Headteacher

## Forthcoming dates

**8<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Pantomime performance of Rapunzel for the children

**10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Nativity plays 2pm

**16<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Carol Service 6.30 for 7pm

**17<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Children's Christmas lunch

**18<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Last day of term

**4<sup>th</sup> Jan:** INSET day, school closed to pupils

**5<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Back to school

**18<sup>th</sup> June:** First Holy Communion 11am

\*Please note that class trip dates will not be included here

## Faber's Got Talent Assembly

Congratulations to Faber class' children and staff on their entertaining and celebratory assembly this morning. From sports to art and music to dance, we all enjoyed learning about your special talents, and can agree that you are certainly a very accomplished bunch!

## Headlice

There have been reports of headlice in certain classes. Please check your child's hair over the weekend. You can buy treatment in chemists, or alternatively, putting plenty of conditioner and combing through with a nit comb is a very effective method. Long hair should be tied up as a preventative measure.

## Parents: Please **DO NOT** park on our zig zags.

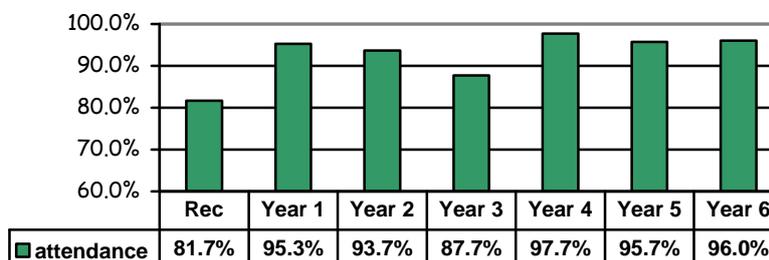
It has been noticed that some parents choose to park on the zig zags outside our school when picking up and dropping off their children. Please may we remind you that the school worked with the council to have the zig zags installed in order to ensure the safety of the children when crossing the road before and after school. It is disappointing that it is our own families who are flouting this rule. We would appreciate your cooperation on this.

## Well done to...

(R), Elena (Yr1), Daniel (Yr2), Aitana (Yr3), Pedro-Antonio (Yr4), Max Yr5), Everyone! (Yr6), Leonardo Year 5 and blue house for achieving certificates this week.

**Congratulations everyone!**

## Congratulations to Year 4 with 97.7% attendance last week!



## 'Children's Day' and Christmas lunch

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December is Children's Day. Pupils attend school wearing their own clothes (a Christmas jumper would be fun!) and enjoy lunch that the Parents' Association will very kindly provide. The infants will have an entertainer in the morning and the juniors have a disco in the afternoon. The children always have a wonderful day as do the parents who very kindly organise the catering and decoration of the hall! **We ask for a donation of £2 per child to cover the cost of the entertainment. Please give this to the class teacher on the day. Thank you**

## Advent at Oratory

As a Catholic school, we will be using this opportunity to encourage the pupils to remain focused on this period of the Liturgical Year and not to jump ahead to Christmas. Advent is about preparation and waiting and it's important we do not skip past this important time in the Church's calendar.

We will be preparing in several ways:

- ★ Using purple cloths on our prayer tables in the hall and in each class. Purple is the colour of Advent.
- ★ Lighting our Advent Wreath and learning about its meaning.
- ★ Making Advent Calendars and Advent Promises to encourage us to prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus.
- ★ Sending home 'Posada' bags with the infants. They will include travelling figures of Mary and Joseph who children will take turns to welcome into their home each evening.

Although Advent ends on Christmas Eve, we also want the children to be able to celebrate the wonder of the Christmas season together, and so in the last week of term we will:

- ★ Create and share gifts and cards (including setting up our Christmas Post box).
- ★ Add joyous decorations to the Christmas Tree made by Loosh Club.
- ★ Add all the figures to the crib.
- ★ Celebrate together through our Carol Service and Christmas Lunch.

In January we will return to school in time to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany together. The children will be making crowns to add to the tree and the Year 6 Parent Reps have agreed to organise a celebratory cake sale after school to raise funds for the Year 6 Yearbook.

## Infant Nativity Plays

Our infant nativity plays are next week, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm in the school hall. Due to limited space, the show is repeated on each day so please only attend **ONE** performance. When you arrive in the hall, please keep the front row of chairs free for staff and governors. One of the parent reps has kindly organised for the production to be professionally filmed. The DVD will cost £20, but the company requires at least 35 families to buy a copy. Please indicate your interest with parent reps by email. If numbers are more than 35, then we will go ahead and book the company. After the performance, the Parents' Association will kindly provide refreshments while you wait for your child to get changed into uniform again. We would really appreciate it if some junior parents could volunteer for this so that infant parents can concentrate on the performance. When the children are ready you will be asked to collect your child from the classroom, and you may also take any siblings from the juniors. Thank you to parents for helping us to prepare costumes for the children!

## Christmas Carol Concert

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December our Junior Carol Service will take place at the Oratory Church. The service will start at 7pm, however, **all children must arrive at 6.30pm** and take their place at the front of the church. The pupils must be clean and tidy in appearance, **wearing white shirts and blazers**. At the end of the service, the children will process down the aisle, and wait with their teacher outside where you can collect them. Please let the teacher know that you are taking your child. This is a religious service, and **NO PHOTOGRAPHY IS ALLOWED**. Please ask your friends and relatives too, as unfortunately every year there are a handful of people who sadly do not respect this request and need to be reminded during the service. Many thanks.

## Reminder: School Council's good table manners awards and poster competition

Leah and Sofia H in year 6 are organising a good table manners poster competition. Entries can be in paint, pencil, or felt tip, or completed on the computer and should be A4 in size. The final entry date has been extended to Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, to give you a little bit of extra time.

Some ideas to include are:

- ★ Chew with your mouth closed
- ★ Say please and thank you
- ★ Pick up food you drop
- ★ Use cutlery properly
- ★ Elbows off the table

The best 7 posters will be displayed in the hall, and the top 3 will receive prizes. Each week, Year 6 school councillors will award pupils with good manners a certificate in assembly. Good luck!