

Newsletter



Autumn Term: Issue 7
2nd December 2016

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 the term.

Dear Parents,

This week's newsletter is full to the brim with detail for the coming weeks. Please mark the dates and times in your diaries. Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes, Mrs Griffiths, Headteacher

Governors' surgery

On Tuesday 6th December, there will be a governors' surgery held in the Site Manager's office from 8.30-9.30. Governors will be there to listen to your queries and concerns. We are here to support the children's learning and your journey as parents, and any feedback from you is most welcome. If you have suggestions of things we can improve on, we will take your comments on board. Likewise, please give us positive feedback- it lets us know what is working well and enables us to continue good practice. You may write to the Governors if visiting the surgery in person is difficult and the Governors will always contact you with an answer to your enquiry. Do make the most of this channel of communication.

Forthcoming dates

7th and 8th Dec: reception class parents' evening
8th Dec: flu vaccinations for certain classes (letters have been sent)
9th Dec: music sharing 2.15
13th Dec: panto for children in the school hall
15 & 16 Dec: Infant nativity plays 2pm
16th Dec: music sharing 9.15
19th Dec: Junior carol service 7pm
20th Dec: 'Children's day': Christmas lunch and entertainment
21st Dec: Break up 3.30pm
3rd Jan: back to school
9th – 13th Jan: School science week
13th Jan: Year 4 cake sale
17th Jan: Year 3 and 2 class Mass, 2.15pm
20th Jan: Year 3 class assembly
24th Jan: Coffee morning
Please note that class trips are not added here.

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.

Ice skating: Fr John is organising a skating trip on Friday 9th December at 4pm at the Natural History Museum (www.nhm.ac.uk). He advises booking in advance. Buying a family ticket is cheaper. Remember NO unaccompanied children. Have fun!

Long hair

Please remember that long hair should be tied up in order to keep it out of children's faces as they work, and also to prevent the spread of head lice. Thank you.

Stamps wanted please!

A local church collects used stamps and sends them to a charity for the visually impaired where they are converted into cash. It would be lovely if families could save stamps from Christmas cards and donate them to this charity via the school. Used stamps may be posted through the letter box near the entrance to the office in Bury Walk. Thank you.

Music sharing

Mrs Bryan's music classes this term will be performing pieces in the school hall. Parents are welcome to join us. Friday 9th Dec: Year 1 and 2 at 2.15pm and Friday 16th Dec: Year 3, Year 5 and orchestra at 9.15 am.

Governors' Fund

Each year the Governors invite parents to make a donation of £30 towards the upkeep of the school and the building. On behalf of the Fathers of the Oratory we would like to thank you for your very generous donations to the Governors' Fund. At the present time, most families are yet to contribute and we ask that any outstanding contributions are sent to the school office by **Friday 16th December** at the latest. Of course, in time of hardship, the school understands that contributions may not be possible, but it may be that some families have simply forgotten. Thank you for your support which is as always greatly appreciated.

Advent at Oratory Primary

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 is 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 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.

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.

Infant Nativity Plays

Our infant nativity plays are on the 15th and 16th December at 2pm in the school hall. Due to limited space, the show is repeated on each day so please only attend **ONE** performance. The performance is also being filmed, so that you can enjoy it again afterwards! When you arrive in the hall, you will see that the front row is reserved for governors and staff. Please keep these chairs free. 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. *If you are able to offer your sewing talents to undertake some simple costume alterations, please contact Mrs Byun in Year 2. Thank you!*

Christmas Carol Service

On Monday 19th December our Junior Carol Service will take place at the Oratory Church. The service will start at 7pm, however, **all children must arrive at 6.40pm** 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.

PA news...

As Advent is well and truly under way and the beautiful Christmas tree and Nativity scene are joyfully adorning the hall, it's time to draw your attention to two events at which the PA would appreciate some parental help. Firstly, the Infants' Nativity play takes place on the 15th and 16th of December and we would like some donations of mince pies and (screw top) mulled wine to serve to the audience afterwards. Secondly, the children's Christmas lunch is on the 20th December. The PA will transform the hall for the children and provide a pizza lunch. Any help with the hall decoration, serving lunch and clearing up afterwards would be much appreciated. There will be more information about both these events via your reps over the next few days.

Alex Yates & Mariko Kondo

'Children's Day' and Christmas lunch

Tuesday 20th 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