Newsletter



Spring Term: Issue 3 9th February 2018

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

Forthcoming dates

20 Feb: Year 3 class Mass and First

Communion Meeting for

parents

27 Feb: Year 1 and 4

class Mass

1 & 2 Mar: Book days (more information to

follow)

5 & 6 Mar: individual and sibling photographs

Please note that class trips are not added here, please check your child's bag daily for letters from the teacher.

Get thinking!

If you paint over a window, is it still a window?

What do you think? Take a moment to discuss this at home, or with your friends. Don't worry about whether your answer is right or wrong. It is the process of thinking, and trying to explain your ideas that is important.

Please note...

Each Monday from now on, club leaders and music tutors will open and close the door on Bury walk at the beginning and end of their club/lessons. Parents collecting scooters should enter the playground from Cale Street afterwards. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding half term, I would like to thank those of you who have helped our school in one way or another this half term: whether it be helping at coffee mornings and cake sales, helping children read, or organising and attending the parent social this week- every positive gesture makes an enormous difference to our school community. With every good wish for a safe, restful and happy half term holiday.

Mrs Griffiths, Headteacher

Lent begins next Wednesday. Why is it important to us as Catholics?

Lent lasts 40 days, not including Sundays, and is a time of preparation for Easter. Lent finishes on Easter Sunday morning. It begins the day after Shrove Tuesday (Ash Wednesday); in some parts of the world Shrove Tuesday is called 'Fat Tuesday', in France 'Mardi Gras' and in the Caribbean 'Carnival' (Latin for 'going without meat'). In Britain, Shrove Tuesday is often known as Pancake Day. For Christians this means one last party and celebration, eating up all the nice, sweet, enjoyable things in the cupboard before beginning Lent.

Why is Lent important to Christians? Lent reminds Christians of Jesus' time of temptation and fasting (going without food) in the desert which lasted for 40 days and nights. Christians believe that by copying Jesus' example they can become better Christians. By eating less, fasting at certain times or giving up their favourite food they will have more time to focus and think about their faith, to read the Bible and pray. They become more self-disciplined and stronger willed at resisting all types of temptation. They appreciate all the things they do have and become more aware of other people's needs.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. In the Bible if you were really sorry for something you had done you would wear sackcloth and put ashes on your head so everyone could see you meant it. Today Roman Catholics and many members of the Church of England go to church where the priest will burn last year's Palm Sunday crosses and use the ash to put a mark on a person's forehead.

When we return to school after the half term, we will begin our annual Lenten collection for the Catholic Children's Society, and we will display our Lenten promises.



Our Newman Fund charity is now active! Please support the school as much you are able to; every penny will make a real difference to us. If you have mislaid the forms sent home last week, please ask in the office for a replacement.

Parents' Association News

The PA has had an exciting couple of weeks. The tea morning was a huge success- we raised over £344 from uniform sales and advance tea orders. Shortly, both the Oratory Chelsea Blend and the Oratory Breakfast Blend will be available to buy. Your reps will be in touch with more details.

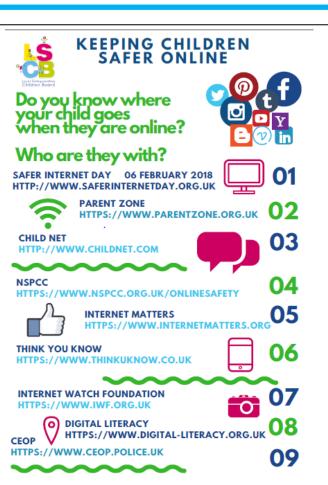
We had a wonderful evening at the Hoop & Toy on Wednesday for our Valentine's party. Both Démodé and Hot Property sounded amazing. Démodé's jazzy swing set started the entertainment off before Hot Property rocked us for the rest of the evening. Mr Corcoran laid on a fabulous spread to absorb some of the alcohol. I didn't try all 22 varieties of gin on offer but I certainly had a few! There was a fun, cosy atmosphere in the pub and we all had a brilliant evening. The bands' time, sound engineer and food were all donated so nearly all of the £1499 we raised will go to the school. We've already agreed to buy a water pumping station for the Reception children to play with. Thank you for your support.

Have a lovely half term Alex Yates PA Chair



Reminder

The Year 3 class Mass is on Tuesday 20th February at 2.15pm. It will be followed by a meeting for parents about the preparation. Parents of older children in other classes who are making their First Communion this year may also attend.



Uniform

Please ensure that all items of missing uniform are purchased over the holidays. Shoes should be velcro, or tied with lacesslip on shoes are not allowed. Trainers must be predominately white. Many thanks.

IXI

Thank you to those parents who kindly contacted us to let us know that the children's IXL maths logins were not working after our membership had been renewed. The situation has now been resolved and the logins are live again.

Social Media

Social media sites, including Whatsapp, are a wonderful way for parents to communicate with each other. Class groups on Whatsapp are a good tool for sharing information. However, if any parent has a question, concern or suggestion about the school, this should be raised through the correct channel of communication.

Non-urgent suggestions and questions should be brought, in confidence, to parent forum via class reps, but queries or complaints concerning individual children or members of staff should be raised with the teacher, or with Mrs Griffiths. The school's complaints policy can be found on the website if parents are unsure. The school will always listen to parents' concerns and try its best to resolve any problems, or alleviate any worries.

Using social media as a platform for discussing complaints is counterproductive, and can make other parents feel awkward. Effective communication following principles of mutual respect sets a good example to the children, and is the correct route to ensuring the best learning experiences for them.