

# Newsletter

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

## Forthcoming dates

**21 Oct** half term week  
**28 Oct** back to school  
**30 Oct** Flu Immunisations  
**7 Nov** Year 6 Assembly 9.15  
**11 Nov** Anti Bullying Week  
**15 Nov** Y4 cake sale  
**19 Nov** Class Mass: Year 5 & Year 2 2.15pm  
**20 & 21 Nov** Parent/Teacher Meetings  
**25 Nov** Parent Forum  
**5 Dec** Y5 Assembly 9.15  
**12 & 13 Dec** Infant's Nativity Play 2pm  
**18 Dec** Junior Carol Service 6.30pm  
**19 Dec** Christmas Lunch  
**20 Dec** Break up 1.30pm  
**7 Jan** INSET school closed to pupils  
**8 Jan** Back to school  
**15 Jan** Year 3 Class Mass and First Communion meeting  
**27 Jan** Parent Child Bookshare 3.45  
**30 Jan** Y2 Assembly 9.15  
**6 Feb** Y4 Assembly 9.15  
11 Jan

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

## Get thinking!

Would you rather live in space or live under the sea?

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.

## Dear Parents,

We have had a lovely final week of this half term. International week always develops ties in the community and strengthens the children's sense of self-worth and confidence. Each child has been given a 'Heritage Book' to complete over the holiday which will contain information about their family background, customs and traditions. We hope this will be a valuable family project which will give you an opportunity to celebrate your family history together. Please help and encourage your child to complete their books carefully, as they will be going on display in the school hall for everyone to read. If your child's writing is still at a developing level, you can scribe for them or help them with spellings. I wish you all a very happy half term break.

Best wishes, Mrs Griffiths, Headteacher

## St John Henry Newman poster competition



In a poem, Newman wrote: 'Lead kindly light amid the encircling gloom, lead Thou me on.' Let us pray that we too might look towards Christ as our guiding light, when we seem lost and in the dark.

After the special scenes in St Peter's Square on Sunday, we in the Oratory community are grateful to have Newman as a fine example of what we can do to be saintly. We all have a voice which comes from inside ourselves that tells us what is right or wrong. Newman called it the 'inner voice of conscience'. He argued that the voice of conscience is really the voice of God the Holy Spirit speaking within us.

The deadline for the St John Henry Newman poster competition has been extended to the first day back after half term. The RE monitors have very kindly organised this, and will be judging the competition and awarding the prizes.

## Class Mass date change

The class Mass for Reception and Year 6 which had been planned for the 13<sup>th</sup> November needs to be rearranged for logistical reasons. We will let you know the new date as soon as we have it and apologise for the inconvenience.

## Parent Forum Minutes

Please see the school website for the notes from the meeting of the last parent forum. Your suggestions are appreciated and considered carefully based on the school's priorities.

Please remember that concerns about children, other parents or members of staff should be raised directly with the class teacher or Mrs Griffiths in confidence, and should not be discussed on public forums such as group email or social media.

## Pick up

As you all know only too well, our school hall is a very busy place at the end of the day. To support the flow of movement and to make pick up a more pleasant experience for everyone, we ask that parents follow the 'anti clockwise convention' where parents enter the hall by turning right through the door and leave via the opposite side. We love to see our families getting along so well, but please do not congregate in the hall to chat once your children have been dismissed! Talking outside will make more space for others.

## Parent Association News

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your continued support for the PA this term: the coffee morning raised over £300 and the Year 5 and Year 6 cake sakes raised valuable funds too: thank goodness to everyone who baked and provided all those lovely treats for us.

I am putting together a wish list of things that Mrs Griffiths and the staff would like the PA to contribute to this year, so they can be our fundraising objectives. So far we have redoing the infants' reading scheme as well as a couple of coach trips organised for the older years. I'd like each individual year to benefit from the PA's fundraising this year (in addition to the Christmas events which the PA pays for and all the children enjoy), whether it's additional trips, workshops or equipment for the classroom.

Our Autumn fundraising starts in earnest at our social event on the 6th November. Please come! Tickets are just £20, which includes canapés, and all proceeds go to the PA. It's really easy to buy tickets: go into Classlist, events and purchase them. That night our auction will be launched and will be live until the end of term. If you have anything you can contribute to the auction or you know a business that can, please get in touch with me!

Have a lovely half term, Alex Yates, PA Chair

### Fundraising information

Some new parents to the school have asked the difference between the three ways that the school raises extra funds:

#### The Governors Fund

As a Voluntary Aided School, under the trusteeship of the Oratory Fathers, rather than the Local Authority, it is up to the school governing body to raise funds for the upkeep of the school building. Parents are asked for a contribution of £30 per family every year. This contribution pays for cyclical repairs and refurbishments (new toilets, repairs to the roof etc.). The school newsletter will inform parents when the payment is due.

#### The Newman Fund

This is the school's charity set up to allow parents to make one off, or regular contributions if they are able to do so. Parents can arrange standing orders to be paid directly from their bank each month. This is used to pay for extras that the school budget does not stretch to, such as the hire of St Luke's pitch, books, art materials and other expensive resources which add to the enrichment of the children's school life.

#### The Parents Association Fund

This fund raises money through events such as coffee mornings, cake sales, auctions, and Quiz night. Money from the Parents Association is used to pay for Children's Day at Christmas, subsidy of some more expensive school trips, and other resources that have been requested by the school, such as text books or computer equipment.

All contributions are confidential, and the school understands that circumstances mean that families are sometimes unable to contribute. All children benefit equally from resources funded in these ways. The accounts of the funds are published annually.

### From Playground to Plate

You've heard about food going from farm to fork, well what about from playground to plate? Here are two of our green fingered Year 6 pupils who planted some carrot seeds last spring, and have now harvested a crop of orange beauties (small but otherwise perfect).



And here they are the next day, after making carrot coleslaw which they added to the Mexican burritos they made as part of international week. A fusion recipe!



### Did you know?

Parents, did you know that our school has five rules linked to important values? All behaviour can be linked back to our rules and they are worded positively to model correct behaviour.

**Listen:** focus and follow instructions.

**Endeavour:** try your best, always.

**Appreciate:** treat our school with care.

**Respect:** be kind and polite.

**Nurture:** look after yourself and others.

Some parents have very similar family rules which all members of the family agree to follow. They report that their family rules help them to maintain routines and boundaries at home. You could even stick them on the fridge!

# International Week



The school was a riot of colour, dance, language and song this week, as we learned more about our children's diverse heritage. They are rightly proud of their backgrounds and families, but more importantly, they are even prouder of being part of such a strong multicultural community, where differences are to be respected and celebrated. For our final assembly of the week we read 'Green lizards and red rectangles' by Steve Antony, which is a story of war and peace. We reminded ourselves that we are responsible for the world's future harmony, and if we follow Jesus's example of love and kindness to others we can live peacefully together for the years to come.