

Newsletter



Spring Term: Issue
6th March 2020

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

Forthcoming dates

9/10 Mar Individual photos
19 Mar Y3 Assembly 9.15
(date change)
16-20 Mar Art Week
25 Mar Y1 & 2 music hub performance 2.30
25/26 Mar Parent Evening
31 Mar Y4 Easter Assembly 9.15
1 Apr Y5 Easter Assembly 9.15
2 Apr Y6 Easter Assembly 9.15
3 Apr Break up 1.30
6-17 Apr Easter holiday
20 Apr Back to school
24 Apr House of term mufti
24 Apr Y2 cake sale
30 Apr Y1 Assembly
30 Apr Quiz night
8 May Bank Holiday
4 May Y2 SATS
11 May Y6 SATs week
18 May Y2 SATs ctd
21 May Ascension Day
22 May Spirituality Day
25-29 May Half term week
1-5 Jun Y6 Y6 School Journey
6 June First Holy Communion Mass 11am

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 were going to a desert island which book would you take and why?

What do you think? Take a moment to discuss this at home, or with your friends.

Appeal for our school charity: the Newman Fund

Dear Parents,

As you know, I have been anticipating for some time that the ongoing decrease in funding to schools would begin to take its toll, and last week this was confirmed when we received our allocated budget for the next financial year. Although costs to the school are rising, our budget is not increasing enough to allow us to continue to spend as much money as we have in the past. The governors and I are going to have to begin planning significant cuts, and we need to save £70,000 of spending if we are to break even next year. Your financial support would make the world of difference if you can spare something to help us.

Most of our school budget goes on staffing. People in an institution such as ours are the cogs that enable it to work. In order to keep staffing levels as they are, we need support from you to spend on the other things that we need for our school to be a bright, clean, enriched and resourced environment. Our school achieves among the top results in country but this doesn't happen by magic, and it needs continual attention and investment to consistently thrive.

Your contributions would be used to sustain our spending on:

- Reading books, and information texts to support curriculum topics
- Furniture for classrooms
- Art materials such as clay, paint, paper, charcoal
- Music specialist teachers who are experts in their field
- Playground equipment such as cricket bats, netball hoops, and bikes and trikes for Reception
- School trips (which are always subsidised despite parents' contributions)
- Materials for practical science experiments
- Maintenance materials to keep the school bright and clean
- Computer equipment which constantly needs updating
- Speech and language therapy and Educational Psychology services to support learning
- St Luke's playground for lunch playtime to give children space to run and play
- The level of swimming lessons offered (which are higher than many other schools)
- Partnerships with curriculum specialists such as Ivydale Technology and Westminster Archives to enrich subject areas

If you plan to give regularly to a charity- please consider giving to us. It would support the school not only for your own child but for future generations. The Newman fund is not used for luxuries, it's for what we really need to keep our school running at its current level of effectiveness. If you would like to help, and plan to donate, please do it now before you forget, as the new financial year begins on April 1st.

Last year we were so grateful for the £40,000 raised in the Newman Fund by parents' very generous donations and monthly contributions via direct debit.

- ✓ £10 a month (£120 a year) would pay for art materials for one class for a whole term
- ✓ £20 a month (£240 a year) would pay for colouring pencils for each class
- ✓ £50 a month (£600 a year) would pay for a day's visit from an educational psychologist
- ✓ £100 a month (£1200 a year) would pay for specialist music lessons for one month

Of course we know that it's not possible for some families living very close to breadline. A coffee each day from a coffee shop costs £20 a week. That's £80 a month. Could you help us?

We would be so grateful, and it would make a huge difference. You can find the necessary forms to donate on the parent's section of the website. With my thanks and very best wishes,

Mrs Griffiths, Headteacher

Parent/Teacher meetings

Later this month, on the 25th and 26th of March, there will be parent/teacher meetings after school. Sign-up sheets are on the cupboard doors in the hall. Appointments need to be kept to ten minutes, otherwise there can be a terrible backlog, and parents who have later appointments can end up waiting for a long time. The appointments are for teachers and parents only, children do not need to attend.

These meetings are very important for you. Your child's class teacher will be able to let you know about the progress they have made in each core part of the curriculum. They will also share with you the next steps which are planned for your child's learning, what their targets are and how you can help at home. In turn, it is a good opportunity for you to ask questions and let the teacher know of any concerns.

Please note: Unfortunately, an increasingly large proportion of parents have been unable to attend parents evenings due to work commitments, and have requested alternative days and times. Teachers have been kindly trying to accommodate them but this is no longer sustainable, as staff have lesson preparation, planning and marking to attend to. Please make every effort to sign up for a meeting on the allocated days. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Parents' association News

Dear Parents,

Let me begin by thanking the Year 3 parents for the delicious pancakes they served up on Shrove Tuesday and thank you to you all for your support: we raised over £240 which will be donated to the Lenten charity, the Catholic Children's Society.

There will be a coffee morning and uniform sale on the 24th March which will give you an opportunity to pick up any summer uniform items you may be missing. In the meantime if you have any pieces of uniform to donate please speak to your rep. As usual we welcome clean, good quality uniform but no trousers, shirts and blouses, shoes and hosiery. We are particularly short of ties and hats so if you have any at home that you no longer need, we would really appreciate them.

Have a lovely weekend
Alex

Reminder: Photographs

Individual and sibling photographs will be taken next week, on Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th March. Please ensure that hair is tidy and children are wearing clean white shirts and jumpers/cardigans on both days. If PE is scheduled, kits must be brought into school to change into. Pupils can bring their own combs or brushes to school that day if they use them sensibly.

Reminder: Change of Date

We need to change the date of the Year 3 class assembly from the 12th March to the 19th March. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused.



Games for Wet Playtime: Donations needed please

We would be grateful of your donations of table top board games and puzzles which are no longer needed and in good condition. We need no more than 10 games for each class from Year 2 to Year 6. Please email your class rep to let them know if you have something, and which class it would be suitable for. The class reps can let each other know what is being donated, so that we don't end up with too many things.



Good manners

Please can parents encourage children to remember their manners in school, at home, and in the local community? Children can be encouraged to:

- Use words such as 'please', 'thank you', 'excuse me', and 'pardon'
- Hold doors open, let people go first, ask how people are
- Pick up things they have dropped and take care of their possessions and the belongings of others
- Walk, don't rush, and look out for other people

Please take the time to instil these values. Good manners will help our children go far and are just as important as qualifications, skills on the sports field, or playing a musical instrument- probably even more so!

National Army Museum



Year 6 took part in a hugely insightful workshop on London during the Blitz and thoroughly enjoyed looking round the very interactive exhibitions. They were even told by a member of the museum staff who has worked there for many years that they were the most engaged, enthusiastic and well-behaved class she had ever had the pleasure of meeting in the museum!

IT'S WORLD BOOK DAY!



Congratulations to all the winners of our costume parade on Thursday, including Mr Bump, a Tiger Who Came To Tea and Gangsta Granny. Everyone made a real effort to join in and embrace a love of books and reading throughout the day. Some people are already planning their costumes for 2021- we can't wait!

Please update your child's records

It is very important that we have the correct information regarding your child's emergency contacts and medical background. Lately, the school staff have tried to make contact with several families whose telephone numbers and addresses have changed. It is especially important to have this information in case of illness or accidents.

In addition, staff heard from several parents when we were offering hot chocolate on 'pyjama day' to say their child was recently diagnosed as allergic to cow's milk. This information must be given to Miss Betts via the school office as soon as parents receive it from their child's doctor. Miss Betts updates the medical passports which staff use to ensure that children are kept safe.

Coronavirus

The school is receiving daily updates on coronavirus from the Department for Education and is following the recommended advice for educational establishments. It is important that the children are not unnecessarily worried, but continue to keep good hygiene and wash hands regularly. We ask that parents send their child to school as they usually would unless advice changes. The DfE have issued details of a helpline that parents can access if they have any queries: Phone: 0800 046 8687 Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk
Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Glassdoor

We raised £343.75 for GlassDoor to help the homeless during our Pyjama Day last month!

Ian, the fundraising officer for GlassDoor wrote to us to say "It's great to hear the news regarding your final total!

That's an excellent amount and equates to the provision of food, shelter and support for 15 guests in the Glass Door night shelter.

Thank you all so much for your generosity and kindness."