**English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School Newsletter**

 **13th January 2017**

**Welcome Back**

**Welcome back to the New School Year. We wish you all a very happy, healthy and Holy 2017.**

**Thank you to all the Parents/Carers and Pupils for all the wonderful and thoughtful cards and gifts that were received. We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and are all ready to enjoy the New Year.**



**Admissions Reminder – If you have a child that is due to start Reception class in September 2017 please make sure you have completed the Common Application Form on Southwark’s website, link provided** [**http://www.2.southwark.gov.uk/info/200289/primary\_school\_admissions**](http://www.2.southwark.gov.uk/info/200289/primary_school_admissions)

**The closing date for online submissions is 15th January 2017 at 11.59pm. Please make sure you do this and if you know of any other parents with children that may start in September 2017 advise them to do the same. We welcome any parent that is having difficulty with the application to speak to a member of our Early Years Team and the school office staff. We would love to have you and your child as part of our strong team at English Martyrs’.**

**Educational Trips – There are many exciting trips planned throughout the term for your child’s class. The purpose of each trip is to enhance your child’s visual learning outside of the class room and all trips are linked to topics they are studying in school. Some exciting things have been planned in school this year. Year 5 will be taking part in workshops on how to be Members of Parliament and learn debating skills, so watch out for their new skills at home! Year 3 will be taking part in Chance to Dance in mid Jan through to Feb and our beautiful choir have been selected to join many other schools in a performance that will be held at Wembley in March. Parents will be invited to attend. More information regarding this fantastic event will be shared soon.**

**Class assemblies –All classes will be performing a special assembly this term and invites to parents will be sent out. Please see a list of assembly dates and times.**

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| **1K** | **31st January at 2.40pm** | **5E** | **23rd January 9.15am** |
| **4J** | **30th January at 9.15am** | **3M** | **6th February at 9.15am** |
| **5T** | **6th March at 9.15am** | **2E** | **7th February at 2.40pm** |
| **1L** | **7th March at 2.40pm** | **3C** | **13th March at 9.15am** |
| **2J**  | **14th March at 2.40pm** | **4G** | **27th March at 9.15am** |

 **We look forward to seeing many parents on the day. Please arrive on time**

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**E-Safety – The internet can be a wonderful learning resource but it comes also with lots of warnings. Please be extra aware of your child’s internet and social media usage for their own safety. Pupils receive E-Safety training in school and are aware of the possible dangers but please remember that it is the responsibility of the parent also to help keep your child safe.**

**School Attendance – Please make sure you call the school office by 9.00am to report your child’s absence and state a full explanation of your child’s absence. Taking children on holidays during school term time or absences due to late arrivals back without consent from the Head Teacher will result in a meeting with the Head Teacher and could become unauthorised absences.**

**School Dinners – We offer a warm and nutritious meal each day, accompanied with salad and fruit, yogurts, cheese & biscuits for desserts. The menu changes weekly. We would like to encourage you and your child to have school dinners, with the confidence of knowing that they have a warm meal in the middle of the day. If your child does have a packed lunch and decides to change to school dinners we ask for a weeks’ notice to the school office.**

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**Read with your child – A notice was put on display inviting dads to read with their child. Reading is one of the most important skills a child can have, it expands their imagination, strengthens their writing skills as well as their vocal skills. Thank you to those that took advantage of this programme and we hope to offer it again soon.**

**Parent Workshop – Do you need help finding a job? - CV Writing and employment skills workshop available for parents on 19th January from 9.00am – 11.30am. If you are interested in looking for work and need some help to get started, this is the session for you. Limited places available so please contact the school office for more information.**

**Parent Governor**

**We Need You.** We are currently looking for a new Parent Governor and would be delighted to hear

from anyone who has:

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| * An interest in the performance of the school.
 | * An open and enquiring mind
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| * A desire to contribute to and represent the community
 | * The ability to look at issues objectively
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| * The confidence to ask questions and join in debate
 | * The ability to work well with others
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| * A willingness to listen and make informed judgements
 | * Time to spare
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**We are responsible for:**

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| * Protecting the School's distinctive Catholic character
 | * The admission of pupils
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| * Holding the School to account for standards and achievement.
 | * Monitoring and evaluating the school’s performance
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| * Setting the aims and ethos of the school
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If you are interested, it may be helpful for you to know what is involved. The commitment to the role would involve you in attending meetings and undertaking training. The Governing Body meets once a term. Governors are asked to be on one of the sub- committees. All the meetings take place on a weekday evening; training is freely available through the Local Authority and the Diocese of Southwark. Please contact the Head Teacher if you would like more information.

**Returning Staff and New Staff – A warm welcome back to Mrs Kakande, Yr6 and Ms Duffin, Nursery who returned from maternity leave after the Christmas holidays. We also welcome Mr O’Leary in class 3C.**



**Weather Concerns – The weather report indicates we are in for some very icy weather with the possibility of snow. Please take extra care when out and wrap up warm with appropriate clothing.**

Year 6 Theatre Show – Sacred Heart have invited pupils from Year 6 to watch their performance of Annie on 6th February, the performance will start at 1.15pm.



Mr Ogunmuyiwa – School Governor is a member of the Guy’s and St. Thomas’ Trust and has asked our school and parents if they would like to take part in fundraising for Guys’ and St. Thomas’ and Evelina London. Every little bit helps.

***Is your New Year's resolution to be more active? Get your year off to the perfect start now by signing up to one of our challenge events for 2017! Get fit and get fundraising to help Guy's and St Thomas' and Evelina London provide even better support for our patients, visitors and staff.***

 **St Thomas' Abseil Skydive Ride London**



[**Sign up now**](http://email.supportgstt.org.uk/_act/link.php?mId=AQ8281100607794869733756185015&tId=83109615)

To find our more please visit see the link provided <https://www.gsttcharity.org.uk/>