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 **English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School Newsletter**

**26th May 2016**

 **Half Term Holidays – Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June**

**Pupils return to school Monday 5th June**

**Suncream, sunhats and water -** As we are now seeing some sunshine, please make sure that your child can enjoy the sun by having sun cream applied in the morning and bringing a sunhat into school.  All children should have a water bottle with them, which they can refill during the day.  Sunglasses are not required, we encourage wearing a sun hat to help shield the sun from pupils’ eyes.

**School Uniform –** We do hope the lovely sunshine continues, please remember to label your entire child’s uniform clearly with their name and class to avoid pupils losing any items. We have lots of winter coats in lost property – could they be yours?. Summer dresses can be blue or yellow, and boys grey shorts; please do not send your child in wearing tights with their summer dresses, we do not want the pupils to get too hot during the school day. Please also remember that small stud earrings are acceptable to wear, not hooped, if seen your child may be asked to stop wearing them or possibly be removed.

**Child Safety Advice –** We have been asked to speak to pupils regarding their safety to and from school. We know that some pupils arrive and go home from school on their own or with siblings so we ask that all pupils try to stay together in small groups as much as they can, pupils have been spoken to regarding strangers approaching and what to do. During the school holidays, please try to be extra vigilant while out in parks enjoying the sunshine.

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**Y2 SATs -** Well done to Year 2 children who worked brilliantly through May during their Y2 SATs.  We are all so very proud of you.

**Phonics -** Children in Y1 will be checked on their understanding of phonics at the beginning of June.  Please make sure that children read many books over the half term.

**International Links with other schools –** On Friday 19th May we warmly welcomed 6 Head Teachers from different schools in Finland, they visited English Martyrs’ to gain some knowledge of how Inner London schools work, and enjoyed fish and chips with year 6 pupils at lunchtime. It was a pleasure meeting them, they made some lovely comments on our school and pupils making us all very proud of all the hard work staff and pupils achieve each day.

**School Trips –** There have been many exciting educational trips throughout this half term, all linked to class topics, to enhance their learning. Outdoor learning opens up the imagination and motivation, and there will be many more planned after the holidays. Please do take advantage of our city and all that it has to offer this half term. Many libraries and museums hold workshops during the holidays and lots are free. Visit Southwark website to see what is on offer.

**Year 1** **-** classes visited Crystal Palace Park; they visited the dinosaur’s exhibition to learn more about the past and to create drawing as part of their history topic this term.

**Year 1 Parents –** Friday 26th May at 2.30pm Bld 1, Parents were invited to come and enjoy year 1’s Stone Age museum created by year 1 pupils as part of their pre historic topic in class.

**Year 6** – Year 6 visited Dulwich Picture Gallery and met Joe Berger, author of The Pudding Problem. He showed them how he illustrates his books and read part of his latest book.

**Splash! For Year 6** – Year 6 children are participating in Southwark Splash, a fantastic creative arts project in school, which culminates in a spectacular performance at the Royal Festival Hall (Southbank) on Monday 3rd July 2017. The concert will begin at 7pm and finish at approximately 8.00pm. We are all very excited, as it is very rare that children get the opportunity to perform in such a venue and it is something that they will remember for the rest of their lives. Rehearsals are going nicely, and the children are all very enthusiastic. The tickets are now on sale, for the amazing price of £2. This will be a wonderful show, please come and support your child and enjoy the evening.

Following the events that took place in Manchester Arena on Monday evening, we would like to extend our sincere condolences to all the victims of this attack, in particular, those traumatised by the unexpected loss of relatives and friends. The whole school took part in a 2 minute silence to remember the victims of this tragedy and their families sorrow.

There are no words sufficient for the grief of losing a family member and the devastating nature of this event surely serves only to increase that pain.

Although nothing can prepare us for such loss, we pray that you will find consolation in each other, and peace in the knowledge that Christ is there for all of you at every moment in your lives, no matter what you face.

At this time, we encourage all people to renew their efforts to nurture respectful dialogue, with a view to fostering peace and trust in our communities.

The answer is not in violence or arms, but in reaching out to others, openly discussing differences and endeavouring to forgive past actions.  It is by these measures that we have the opportunity to bring about the light of understanding and avert animosity.

Please visit the website links provided below offering support, helpful advice and guidance, they are very good and may help you explain things to your child if they are worried or concerned regarding recent events and news coverage.

* For parents and families, the **NSPCC** website now includes updated information and practical guidance about what to do if young people are worried about terrorism: [**www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/supporting-children-worried-about-terrorism/**](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/supporting-children-worried-about-terrorism/)
* Finally, for young pupils in particular, the team at **BBC Newsround** have put together an excellent page of advice and reassurance for those worried or frightened after these events: [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/13865002**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/13865002)

***Dates for the diary***

Sports Day – **Year 1 & Year 2 – 27th June** – **Year 3 & Year 4 – 28th June**, **Year 5 & Year 6 – 29th June**

**Art Exhibition** –Tuesday 27th June. Times to be confirmed - Come and see your child’s work exhibited.

**Splash -** Year 6 concert 3rd July at 7pm

**Inset Day** - Monday 10th July – school closed to all pupils, pupils return to school Tuesday 11th July.

***God Bless – Enjoy and be safe this holiday***

***Mrs Appah***