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 **English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School Newsletter**

**27th May 2016**

**Half Term Holiday – Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June**

**Pupils return to school on Monday 6th June**

It has been a very busy half term that has involved lots of exciting trips and events. Thank you to all the children and staff for their hard work.

Year 2 and Year 6 have completed their SATs, displaying that all their hard work had been worthwhile. We are very proud of all of them. Thank You to all parents/carers for their support in encouraging your child and helping them to continue to grow in their positive attitude to learning.



**First Holy Communion**

 Pupils in Year 4 will be celebrating their

 Holy Communion in the church on

28th May 2016. Please come and support

the children on this special holy celebration. it is a wonderful celebration to be part of.

**Special Delivery**

Congratulations to Ms Duffin – Reception T.A on the birth of her beautiful daughter.

God bless her and her family.

Good luck and God’s blessing to Mrs Kakande who is expecting another boy and will be going on maternity leave after the half term

**Parent Writing Workshop - Year 3 & 4**

Thank you to all parents that attended the writing workshop. We hope to continue with more workshops to encourage parents to support their child’s writing in other year groups soon.

**Birthday Celebrations**

If you wish to celebrate your child’s birthday with their class friends, we ask that party bags contain some small healthy items such as, biscuits or fruit; we cannot cut cake and hand out to pupils. If you would like to provide a box of celebrations or roses, the child will hand one to each child at end of the day.

**School Trips**

Many of our year groups have been on some very exciting and educational trips this half term; ask your child more about where they have visited and the links to their class topics. Trips are very important in helping the children experience learning in a different environment and can make their topic much more exciting and visual. During the holiday take advantage of our City and all the wonderful places to visit and explore.

**Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities**

**Parent Workshop**

Thank you to the Parents who this term have been attending a workshop lead by The Race Equality Foundation and Ms Essel our Learning Mentor. The course is run for 13 weeks and helps parents build positive family relationships, manage anger and stress as well as other help and support. If you would like to know more about the programme please visit the link <http://www.strengtheningpractice.org.uk/>

We appreciate the support and time the parents and the organisation of the course have given to the programme and the positive attitude towards developing and strengthening their skills as a parent.

Year 6 will visit St George’s Cathedral on 8th June to learn more about the Year of Mercy and take part in the Jubilee Year liturgy. They will also be visiting Sikh Central Gurdwara on Wednesday 15th June to gain a better understanding of the Sikh fait, its history and to visit the Sikhs place of worship.

**OTHER FAITHS WEEK:  SIKHISM**

In RE last week, pupils were learning about SIKHISM.  Children in each year group were finding out more about different aspects of this faith, such as the Sikh festivals of Vaisakhi/Diwali, Guru Nanak, Sikh Places of worship, the Holy Book and the Sikh articles of faith.  There are several good websites that children can use at home to find out more about this faith such as [www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/sikhism/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/sikhism/) They can also borrow books from the school or public library.

**Year 6 – Splash Performance**

You may have already heard your child talking about Splash and hopefully practicing their songs and moves at home! This annual creative arts project is run with the Southbank Centre Learning & Participation, it is All About the Music Trust and Southwark Music Service. This year’s show is called Shakesperia, the children use music & street-dance to share and explore some of the most famous quotes from the works of William Shakespeare. There are over 600 children taking part from 13 Southwark schools and will be performing at the Royal Festival Hall on **Tuesday 5thJuly 2016 at 7.00pm** (ending approx. 8.00pm). Public tickets are priced at £4.00 (plus charges for online and telephone bookings – see below) from the Southbank Centre Box Office. **However,** the easiest and cheapest way to buy your ticket(s) is via our school **group deal when the price is only £2.00 per ticket (adult or child)!** But the offer is only available for a limited time, so do act quickly.

**Westminster Cathedral**

**Year 4’s recent hard work with their singing and performance practices have been a wonderful experience and something they have all really enjoyed. The time has finally arrived for them to be able to show off their skills, they will be participating in the main event at Westminster Cathedral along with other schools on 8th June 2016.**

**The performance promises to be a wonderful, entertaining evening and parents are welcome to attend. The performance is due to begin at 2.45. Please see your child’s class teacher regarding tickets to attend.**

**School Inset Day**

The school will be closed to all pupils on 11th July 2016 for staff First Aid training.

Pupils return on Tuesday 12th July.

**Year 6 Leavers Mass**

Year 6 last day at English Martyrs’ will be on Tuesday 19th July 2016. The Year 6 Leavers mass will be held on this date at 2pm.

**Thank you and Good Luck**

After 4 years our Traffic Controller Mr Granger will be moving on to take up a new role and will no longer be working with our school. On behalf of the whole school, we would like to say a big thank you to him for his hard work in keeping our children, parents and staff safe when crossing the road and wish him all the best.

**Parent Meeting**

Thank you to all the parents that attended the meeting with Mr Young on Wednesday 25th June to discuss ideas and suggestions for parents to be more involved in the school planning and presentation for the summer fete in July. Also to discuss setting up a Parent and Teachers Association (PTA) in September. The response was very encouraging. Mr Young will provide more information after the half term.

**Pre History Topic**

Year 1 have been working hard this half term learning about Prehistory. They have been looking forward to sharing their learning with other classes and have created a mini Year 1 museum in the middle hall (Building 1). They have invited other year groups to visit and share in their learning.



**Attendance Results**

Congratulations to all year groups

on achieving 97% or higher on attendance since the beginning of the term. Our school target is 97% and all classes are achieving this and more. Keep it up!

**School Event**

The whole school will be celebrating the Queens 90th Birthday with a “street party” in the school playground on 10th June. See if you can help your child find out some interesting facts about the Queen.

Year 2 will be visiting the famous London Landmark Buckingham Palace to take a closer look at the history of the palace and the Royal family.

**Half Term Holiday**

Please take advantage of our large and beautiful City of London and enjoy the many parks, libraries and free museums that it has to offer. Do continue to support your child’s reading and learning at home.

Wishing you all a relaxing, safe and enjoyable half term holiday.

God Bless.

Mrs Appah

**Year 6 visit to Parliament**

Year 6 visited the Houses of Parliament on 24th June and were introduced to our local MP Neil Coyle , where they displayed their skills on the new dabbing dance craze, please visit the link to see more about this <http://www.southwarknews.co.uk/news/dabbing-dance-craze-lands-westminster-mp-neil-coyle-get-schooled-walworth-school-kids/>

 The purpose of the visit was to learn more about the legislative process in Britain.