

***Worship Together - Aspire Together- Excel Together***

**September 2018 Admissions**  - If your child is born between the 1st September 2014 - 31st August 2014 they are due to start primary school in September 2018, you must submit your CAF (Common Application Form) online to Southwark [www.southwark.gov.uk/schoooladmissions](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/schoooladmissions) before the closing date – **Monday 15th January 2018.** If you have any concerns please call or speak to our admissions officer Mrs Taylor who is available Tuesday, Wednesday’s and Thursdays.



**School Photos –** All pupils have now received their individual and class photos. The deadline for all orders is **Monday 4th December**. Late requests will have a charge of £3.50. Please complete the inside selection clearly, with the exact money as no change can be given out and all envelopes sealed with your child’s name clearly visible.

**Computing Week 2017 -** This year, at English Martyrs’, we are very lucky that we will be able to use our new ipads. To launch this within our school, computing week will be focusing on the area of multimedia. Pupils will be using their ipads in the following weeks to create and edit pictures and videos on the theme of Christmas. Pupils will also be able to test their coding skills with **‘hour of code’** throughout the weeks. Early years and KS1 will be coding using **Scratch Jr** on the ipads. KS2 will be coding using **code.org** using the Computing suites and the ipads.  **We will also be announcing our new Digital leaders for year 3 – 6, who will become ambassadors for Computing at English Martyrs’**.

**Chorister Outreach Programme Westminster Cathedral** - Both Year 4 will visit Westminster Cathedral on Monday 4th December, for their Christmas concert in partnership with other schools.  Parents are invited to attend and to be seated by 2.00pm.

**Arch Diocese of Southwark Advent Service** – In aid of the Catholic Children’s Society Southwark Crisis Fund a special advent service will be held on Tuesday 5th December 2107 at 2.00pm at St George’s Cathedral. Year 5 will be taking part in the service.

**Chance to Dance –** 12 selected pupils from Year 3 will be auditioning at the Royal Opera House on Tuesday 5th December. This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils and very exciting for English Martyrs’. Last year the school was successful in obtaining 4 scholarships for pupils from the Royal Opera House.

**Welcome Back and Good Luck** – We would like to welcome back Ms Sudell from maternity leave. Ms Sudell will be working three days per week and we are very happy to see her return. Ms McMillian our Speech and Language support will be leaving to have her first baby on 30th November. We wish her all the very best and look forward to her visiting with her new arrival in the New Year.

**December Dates for your diary** – A notice has been put on our school notice boards and emailed to parents on all the exciting events planned throughout December. Please have a look and take note of the Christmas performances so that you are free to attend. Please ensure you arrive before the start of the performances as to not cause any disruption, all pupils have begun their rehearsals and are working very hard to impress you.

**Own Clothes Day and Christmas Dinner - Thursday 14th December**

Pupils can wear their own clothes on 14th along with their specially made hats and thank you cards for the dinner staff while enjoying their Christmas dinner. Cost per child £1.00, to be paid before 14th. Pupils to give their money to their class teachers and T.A.s for collection.

**Last day of Autumn Term – Wednesday 20th December 2017- SCHOOL CLOSES EARLY.**

If your child is in A.M. Nursery, normal practice will continue and you will collect your child at 11.30AM.

There will be **NO** P.M. Nursery.

If your child attends full time Nursery they will be collected at 1 P.M., KS1 children (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) will be collected at 1 P.M. KS2 children (Years 3-5) will be collected at 1.15 P.M. Year 6 pupils will be finishing at 1.00pm. **Pupils return to school 3rd January 2018**



**Cold weather Alert**  - We are expecting a fall in temperatures over the next couple of days, resulting in a very cold front. As a school, we are following guidelines from Southwark on ways to keep the pupils and staff warm and safe during the cold period. Please make sure your children wear warm appropriate coats, hats, gloves and scarves to school and take extra care when out to keep warm.

We understand Christmas is a very expensive time of the year for all families and we ask you to help those less fortunate this Christmas and if you would be so kind as to donate something small. Tinned food, packet of biscuits, dried soup, pasta and rice to create a food parcel and present to our church. Every little bit helps and we will be very grateful for anything you can donate.

 **Please do not send in any fresh items.**

**Advent** is a season observed in many Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. The term is a version of the Latin word meaning "coming".

**What is the true meaning of Advent?**

**Advent** is the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas (or sometimes from the 1st December to Christmas Day!). This is the coming of Jesus into the world. Christians use the four Sundays and weeks of **Advent** to prepare and remember the real **meaning** of Christmas.

**What is Advent and What Happens?**

**Advent** is the season before Christmas **during** which Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus. However, **Advent** always finishes on Christmas Eve. If that falls on a Sunday, it is considered to be the fourth Sunday of **Advent**.

 **What do all the candles of Advent mean?**

The **Advent** Wreath. The **Advent** Wreath is the widely recognized symbol of **Advent**. The wreath is made of a circle of evergreen branches laid flat to **symbolize** eternal life. Four **candles** stand in the circle and each one represents one of the four Sundays of **Advent**.

There will be a special Advent assembly on Monday 4th December as part of our R.E. Celebration assemblies for staff and pupils



Wishing you all a safe and warm weekend

God Bless

Mrs Apph