

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

**Welcome Back**

**Welcome back to the New School Year. We wish you all a very happy, healthy and Holy 2018.**

**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 2018 at 11.59pm. Please make sure you do this and if you know of any other parents with children that may start in September 2018 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’.**

**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. The menus can be viewed on our school website under Our Parents page.

**Parent Workshop -** The Next **Family Healthy Cookery Club** will be for the **Year 1 families**. This will take place on the following Thursdays: 11th, 18th and 25th January 2018 (3.15pm-4.45pm) in the Dinner Centre. If families attended, the Year 2 sessions in November we are kindly asking them to give other families a chance to attend these sessions. Letters have been sent out.

**Parent/Carer Communication** – We understand the importance of communication with our parent/carers and regularly send text messages. If you have not been receiving text messages please inform the school office so they can ensure your contact details are correct or added to our text messaging service. We are also planning to reduce the amount of paper that the school uses and will be sending letters via emails. Please make sure the school has your email address so you do not miss important information. The Teachers2Parents (text and email messaging service) we currently use has an app that is free to download to all Smartphone’s, it can be found in your app store. A letter has been given to all pupils this week.

**School Uniform** – Our school uniform represents our school so please ensure that pupils continue to wear the correct uniform, plain black or navy blue coats, black shoes (no trainers). Jewellery is not necessary and only small stud earrings are acceptable.

**New Year, New Reading passport -** Well done to all the children that achieved reading passport awards last term.  Can you help your child achieve a gold reading passport this term?  Reading passports will be sent out by next week and will highlight the eight reading tasks needed to obtain a gold passport.  Let us aim high - aim for gold!   If you need any help in getting any of the books needed, please speak to your class teacher.  Reading passports are available this term for Y1 - Y6.

**Internet Safety -** Thank you to Ms Mader for leading workshops for children and parents on e safety last term.  Unfortunately, we have had a few recent cases of children forgetting the importance of e safety at home and would ask parents to ensure that they are monitoring internet access and the groups children are involved with.  Children should be discouraged from using their own names on the internet and we strongly suggest that at the primary age range they should not be involved in posting videos of themselves.

 **Y6 School Residential –** Year 6 will go on school residential from **24th - 26th January 2018** and will be visiting Grosvenor Hall in Ashford.  We are hoping the weather is good to us as we will be outside from 8.00am - 9.30pm.  Children will have the opportunity to zip wire, use 3G swing, abseil, have problem solving challenges, obstacle courses, experience a campfire and be able to dance at the disco.  We wish them a safe and happy trip. There will be a meeting on Monday 8th January at 2.45pm for parents to attend to go through the final details of the trip.

**Website Permission** - We will be sending out new letters to ALL pupils Parent/Carers asking them to complete a Yes or No question on if they **Do or Do Not** give permission for their child to be on our school website. We must have a specific answer as to Yes or No. We are very proud of our website and it is a very important tool in highlighting what pupils learn and what events etc have taken place or planned, pupils love to know their hard work and events they have taken part in is on the site so they can share their experiences with family and friends. We regularly update the site with information and photos of events and it is always a joy for parents to be able to see their child’s achievements. These permission forms are very important and we ask that you complete it and return to the school office. If you have more than one child in the school, we will require you to complete a separate letter for all children.

**Catering Assistant Vacancy - Term Time only - 16¼ hours per week. Commence as soon as possible.** Previous experience in a similar environment would be an advantage. The successful applicant will be required to assist with supporting the team with daily duties including food preparation, sandwich making, basic cleaning duties etc. The successful applicant should also be fit, as there is a small amount of heavy lifting involved. **Hours - 11.00am – 2.15pm Monday – Friday.** This post will be subject to pre-employment checks, references will be sought and the successful candidates will need to undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service check. Please request an application form from the school office, alternatively download the application and Job description from our school website and return by email to njohnstone@englishmartyrs.southwark.sch.uk - **Closing Date - Friday 12th January 2018**

![walking[1]]()**Get Fit - Walking Challenge** - 8th – 12th January 2018 is the January Walking Challenge! During the week Southwark will be running an inter-school walking challenge and they want to know which school can walk the most miles!

The winners of the walking challenge will win the Walking Champion trophy!!

Classes will be taking part in this challenge as part of our school travel plan and to promote a healthy lifestyle so please I know it is cold but try to support your child and encourage walking to school.

**Change in Carer arrangements –** If you are travelling and your child is being looked after / collected by someone different, you must please notify the school office of these changes.

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**God Bless you and your families.**

**Mrs Appah**