English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School Newsletter

October 2019

Worship Together - Aspire Together- Excel Together

Half Term Holiday Monday 21st –Friday 25th October
Pupils return to school Monday 28th October

Head Teacher's Message - I recently wrote to parents to announce my intention to retire from my post as Head Teacher at the end of the spring term 2020. This was a hard decision to make and I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You to all parent/carers, family members, pupils, past and present and staff for your support and trust in me throughout my role as Head. I am extremely proud of all the pupils parents and staff and the commitment they have shown throughout my time at English Martyrs'.

Religious Education at EMS

The beginning of a new academic year is often a good time to stop and reflect upon the core values as a school. The children have been introduced to the values of Faith and Respect and we hope to foster these qualities in our pupils.

As part of our RE programme, which is entitled The Way, The Truth and The Life (WTL) each year group has begun a new topic, please refer to our RE Newsletter on our school website on our Faith page which was emailed to parents and a copy can be obtained from the school office, focusing upon the topics for the term. This provides parents with information about RE and makes suggestions about home activities that will support pupil's learning.

CAFOD- Family Fast Day is held on Friday 4th October, please send in money which children have saved; Cafod is a Catholic charity which the school supports. A minimum of 50p can be sent with your child to support Cafod, and given to their class teacher.

Aylesford – Year 6 pupils went on a pilgrimage to Aylesford where they had an opportunity for Reconciliation, mass and reflected on the Rosary during the Rosary walk. We were very fortunate to have Fr Louis to guide the children and staff on our spiritual journey.

Chaplaincy Room – Our chaplaincy room was blessed by Fr Louis and our junior chaplains and prayer monitors were inducted into their roles on the same day. The junior chaplains have already held assemblies for all children on Cafod's Family Fast Day. Prayer monitors are developing prayer and reflection in the classrooms. Thank you to Mrs Taylor and Fr Louis for supporting our children. You can view some photos and quotes from the pupils on our website Faith page.

Sisters of Charity – Reception children are very privileged to welcome the Sisters of Charity every Tuesday to the Chaplaincy room to support the teaching of RE

First Holy Communion – If you would like your child to receive First Holy Communion please contact the parish.

Month of the Rosary - The month of the Holy Rosary is October and the entire month is dedicated to the Rosary. The feast of the Rosary is held in memory of the glorious and triumphant victory at the battle of Lepanto. The Rosary is being held for children in both school buildings each morning at 8.30am.

Flu vaccine – Letters have been sent home with pupils offering the nasal spray vaccine to all children from Reception to Year 6, as part of the National Flu programme. All consent forms are to be marked with a YES /NO and returned to the school for collection by the school nurse. The nasal flu spray will take place on 22nd November 2019.

Fire Bridge Fire Safety talk – Year 2 and Year 5 were visited by a member of the London Fire Brigade staff on 26th September to educate them more on fire safety, the usage of electrical items at home and ways they can keep themselves safe. Please see the link provided https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/book-a-home-fire-safety-visit/ this service is provided by the London Fire Brigade and parents/carers can book staff to visit their home. This service will be carried out either by Fire-fighters from the closest local fire station or by Community Safety Officers from London Fire Brigade. They will provide fire safety advice to the adults and children in the home and fit smoke alarms where needed. The visits and smoke alarms are **completely free of charge**, so please do visit the site. This is not means-tested and is open to everyone. We will be shortly organising a brief parent workshop to be held in the playground at 9.00am to offer advice for parents on fire safety. Dates and times will be announced soon.

Please find below dates planned for the school year so far, please look out for changes or additions to events.

30th September – 4th October	**Computing Week Celebrations**
4th October	**Year 6 visiting the Horniman Museum**
7th-11th October	**Library week**
7th October	**Year 2 visiting the Horniman Museum (animals and their habitats)**
14th – 18th October	**Black History Month Celebrations**
17th October	**Yr 3 visiting the Golden Hinde**
17th October	**Parent Gym – Taster Session 9.00-9.45am**
18th October	**Feast of St Luke – whole school mass – Year 5**
21st -25th October	**Half Term Holiday**
1st November	**Feast of All Saints – whole school mass – Year 4**
4th November	**Termly Learning Conference Parents evening**
6th November	**School Photos**
8th November	**Yr 4 visiting The Science Museum**
11th-15th November	**Anti-Bullying week**
12th November	**Yr 5 visiting The Tower of London**
22nd November	**Flu Immunisation – Rec – Year 6**
27th November	**West End in schools – Christmas Panto – Dick Wittington (in school)**
14th, 21st and 28th November 5th, 12th and 19th December	**Parent Gym – Building 1 – study room 9.00-11.00am**
1st – 18th December	**Advent – Food bank collection begins**
6th December	**Advent Mass – Year 3**
10th December	**Christmas Performance – 3M, 4J, 5T & 6M**
11th December	**Christmas Performance – 3C, 5G, 5E & 6T**
12th December	**Christmas Performance –Year 1 – 9.15am – Yr 2 2.15pm**
16th December	**Christmas Performance – PM Nursery & Reception -2.15pm**
17th December	**Christmas Performance – AM Nursery & Reception -9.15am**
18th December	**Christmas school dinner**
19th December	**Christmas class parties in the afternoon**
20th December	**Christmas whole school mass – Year 6 & Year 2** **Last day of term 2019 – Early closure- 1.15/1.30pm**

Please support your child's learning at home with listening to them read each evening and logging on to their MyMaths.

God Bless, Mrs Appah