

Year 3 and Year 4 Autumn 1 Newsletter

Welcome back!

We hope you have enjoyed your summer break and are ready for the new year and the exciting challenges which lie ahead! Firstly, can we take this opportunity to thank all of you who very kindly gave us presents, we really appreciate the gesture and it does mean a lot to us, so thank you! We are very pleased to welcome our new starters to Year 3 and 4 - we are sure they will make many friends and be very happy to be part of the English Martyrs' family.

Mission Week

Our first week back is a celebration of our school Mission Statement. We want to take this opportunity to involve our friends, family and wider community in our mission to: love one another, inspire and respect, grow in friendship, have faith and trust in God. You will see a few missions coming home – we would love it if you can help us with this!

Who Stole All the Lost Happy Endings?

Our new term's topic begins in week 2. It has a science focus about states of matter; solid, liquid and gas. We will be investigating the different materials around us, as well as delving deep into the world of traditional tales. Our English focus will concentrate on the traditional tales and looking closely at Carol Duffy's *The Lost Happy Endings* book. We have a lot of interesting lessons planned and are sure the children will gain a lot of new skills.

Uniform

The children have all come to school very smart and are taking pride in their uniform – “Looking Smart, Thinking Smart!” Could you please make sure all names are written inside the uniform, also take note if your child may have taken another person's uniform home by accident. As a staff, we always remind the children to look after their belongings and are often carrying a jumper behind one or two pupils on the way out of school!

PE

Please ensure children have their PE kit in school every day. Also, a gentle reminder that earrings need to be removed for PE lessons, therefore ensure children come to school without their earrings or teach your child to take out and put them back in after the PE lesson.

Music

All children will take part in a music lesson on Fridays. Year 3 will be taught the recorder with expert tuition from The Beckett staff. This is a fantastic opportunity and we ask that you support this by providing your child with a recorder from home labelled with the child's name clearly visible.

Year 4 will be taught the trumpet, ukulele and recorder on a termly basis and on a rotation system with music teachers from The Beckett High School. Again, hopefully Year 4 should have their recorders from last year but the trumpet and ukulele will be loaned out to children. Private music lessons will continue to be available, any questions or concerns regarding the private lessons please contact the school office. The children will be informed of their lesson time and day in due course.

Reading

The children have been given a reading book and reading diary. Please try to hear your children read and make a note in their reading diary. We will endeavour to listen to your child read at least twice per week but the more practice they get reading aloud the better as reading is vital in all subjects across the curriculum.

Reading Diary

We will often use the blue reading diary to send messages home, please ensure you read the diary and sign it each week. If you would like to send us a message please use the diary as we will check it every day e.g. changes in how the child is getting home, appointments, changes to lunch times etc.

Homework is attached in the front of the diary – the children really enjoy celebrating their homework with their class and we appreciate the time it takes. The homework is produced in a project form which should take 3-4 weeks to complete – a few hours for research and planning, and then a further few hours for completing and finalising. There are also reading and maths challenges to do over the term that do not always need to be handed in but will be tested throughout the lessons.

Your child's targets for the term will also be attached to the front of the diary in the Outcomes booklet.

WOW Day

Look out for information in Reading Diary.

Dates for the Diary

5th Sept – Whole school Mass 1:45

18th Sept – School photos

20th September – School 'Open door'
9-10:00

29th September – Year 3 / 4 Good work
Liturgy

10th October – Miss Dickson Class Mass
9:00 am

18th 19th – Parents Evenings

WC 23rd October – Half Term

Parents Meetings

Parents Evening take place each term and is an opportunity to look at the children's work and have a short meeting with the class teachers. However, parents are welcome to come into school at other times to discuss their child's progress. Appointments can be made via the school office.

We hope your children are looking forward to this year as much as we are. Any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your support.

Kind Regards

Mrs Pettifer, Miss Dickson and Miss Coxhead.