

3rd November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, I hope you all managed to have a lovely, relaxing break. The children have come back, recharged and raring to go. As I'm sure you are aware, this half term is an extremely busy and exciting one as we lead into the Christmas season. The diary is packed full of events which the staff and children are very much looking forward to. Please keep checking the website, ParentHub and e-mails for dates and updates.

Parent Questionnaire/Parents evening

It was great to see so many of you at the recent parents' evening; I know many of you were as impressed as I am with the range of work in the children's books. Thank you to those that completed the survey. The information gained is most useful and will inform school improvement. As always, if there is anything you wish to discuss further or have any additional comments please do not hesitate to drop an e-mail into the school or catch a member of staff on the gate.

Parent View Questionnaire Results October 2017

286 children, 213 families, 206 respondents results as %	Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Don't know
My child is happy at this school	82.6%	17.4%	0%	0%	0
My child feels safe at this school	86%	13.6%	0%	0%	0.4%
My child makes good progress at this school	80.5%	19.4%	0%	0%	0%
My child is well looked after at this school	86.5%	15.5%	0%	0.4%	0.4%
My child is taught well at this school	86.5%	16.5%	0%	0%	0%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	69.4%	22.8%	0.8%	3.2%	2.4%
This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	78%	20.4%	0.8%	0.8%	0%
This school deals effectively with bullying	52%	14%	0%	2%	32%
This school is well led and managed	76%	21.6%	0%	0%	2.4%
This school responds well to any concerns I raise	74.2%	17.4%	0%	2%	4.8%
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	74.7%	23.7%	0	0.8%	0.4%
This school supports my child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development	80.5%	17.4%	0%	0%	1.6%
	Yes	No			
Would you recommend this school to another parent?	99.6%	0.4%			

NB: 0.4% is the equivalent to 1 response

Website

Please check the school website over the next week or so for your child's class newsletter, outcomes booklet, medium term planning and homework for this half term. This will also be emailed out to you.

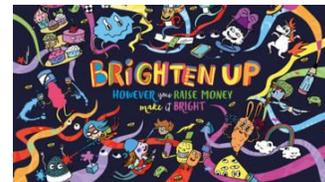
The British Legion Poppy Appeal



During week commencing 6th November the children will have opportunity at lunchtime to purchase either a poppy (for a donation) or special poppy themed merchandise at a recommended retail price of between 50p and £1. This will run in place of Tuck shop.

Open Door

On **Wednesday 8th November** we will be hosting a Coffee and Croissant for CAFOD breakfast. This will start at 8.20am. Parents welcome to stay until 9.30am, children will need to go into class at the usual time. Children are invited to wear brightly coloured clothing.



Friendship Week

Week beginning 13th November is National Anti-bullying week. In school we will be calling this Friendship week. This is a focussed week for the children to think about their relationships with each other and how friendships are formed and retained. As part of the week the children will be considering what negative behaviours harm friendships, including bullying. As well as this, during this week children will be learning about how to stay safe on the internet and be responsible users of digital technology. We will be reviewing the children and adults Acceptable Use Policy and ask that you and your child sign the SMART poster in the home/school diary.



Autumn Charities

Children in Need Spotacular Friday 17th November 2017

The children are invited to dress in spotty clothing – as much or as little as they like, donating £1. We will also be holding a ‘bake-off’ with a winner from each year group, entry will cost 50p. The cakes will be sold during the course of the day. Year 6 will be hosting a fund raising event, which all children are invited to participate in at lunchtime. Each activity will cost between 20p and 50p to participate in – so bring those extra pennies!! Please note there will be no Tuck Shop on this day.



Canaan Trust Food Hampers

As we enter into the Advent period we ask the children and our families to think about those people locally who are struggling financially and as a result emotionally. We will be inviting children to send in food parcels or items of food to create hampers for Canaan Trust. This collection will begin on the 28th November and end on the 13th December. Further details will be sent home regarding ‘food stuffs’ closer to the time.

Becket Christmas Market in support of Bunkpurugu

The Becket school, in West Bridgford, are holding their Christmas Fair on the 30th November. We will be supporting the Fair by making products to sell. Our 4 houses (Kemble, Lawrence, Higham and Rigby) will be in (friendly) competition to see who raises the most amount of money for the school that we are helping to build in Bunkpurugu, Ghana. The Fair will run from 5-8pm, please join us if you can!

We thank you in advance for any donations/support to the above causes.

ACTS 3:6 ‘But Peter said, “I don’t have any silver or gold for you. But I’ll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ”’.

Good Work Liturgies

You are invited to join us for Good Work Liturgies. Once every 6 weeks (or so), a small group of children will be recognised for their super class work/kind behaviour/excellent contribution etc to class and school life. All Liturgies will begin at 2.40pm (the KS1 playground will open for parking from 2.30pm).

- 24th November 2017 – Miss Coxhead, Miss Dickson and Mrs Pettifer
- 1st December 2017 – Mrs Ellis and Miss Sweeney
- 8th December 2017 – Miss Mannion, Miss Pugh and Miss Macdonald

Reception 2018/2019 Intake

If you know any families who have children born between 01/09/2013-31/08/2014 and who would be interested in a place at our school please ask them to contact the school office as soon as possible. There will be an open morning in school for new families on Wednesday 15th November 9.30 – 11.30am.

Admissions Policy 2018/19

Please be aware there is a new Admissions Policy for 2018-2019. It is published on our website with the proposed admission arrangements and the supplementary form.

School Holiday dates 2018/19

Holiday dates have not yet been finalised for 2018/19. If you are looking at booking a holiday, we would advise (and honour) the term dates for Derbyshire County Council, which can be found at: https://derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/term_dates_school_holidays/default.asp

Road Safety

Many thanks to those families who, despite the cooler weather, have continued to avoid travelling down Bracken Rd by car. The Walking Buses are well attended and the children always seem happier, brighter and invigorated from their walk (or maybe that's just me!).



School Christmas Dinner Thursday 21st December 2017

ALL Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 children who would like a Christmas Dinner will need to pre-order it using the slip below by **9.00am Thursday 16th November 2017 at the very latest, this includes any KS2 children entitled to Free School Meals**. Please note this is the absolute deadline. Meals cost £2 and can be paid online through your SCOPay school dinner account.

A meal will only be provided to children returning the reply slip, regardless of whether payment has been made online. Any child that has not pre-ordered a Christmas dinner will not be given a school dinner that day and will therefore need to bring sandwiches.

Important: Return slip for Christmas Dinner is at the end of this Newsletter

Reception, Years 1 & 2 children will automatically be provided with a Christmas Dinner under the Universal Free School Meals scheme, therefore if your child does not wish to have a Christmas Dinner, please let the School Office know by **9am Thursday 16th November 2017**.

Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA)

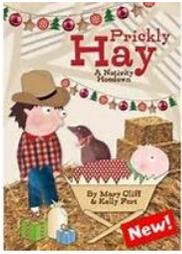
An ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) is a member of staff who is trained to support children in the development of emotional literacy. We are very fortunate to have an ELSA in school, Mrs McElhone. In her role as ELSA, Mrs McElhone works with a number of children across the school (both in individual sessions and as small groups), she supports the children in some of the following ways:

- Recognising emotions in themselves and others;
- Develop self-esteem;
- Develop social skills;
- Acquire and develop friendship skills;
- Acquire techniques for anger management ;
- Support for loss and bereavement.



If you feel your child may benefit from this support, please speak initially to their class teacher.

Christmas Season



There will be two separate school Christmas productions. Mrs Chibbaro and Mrs Oldershaw/Miss Radford's classes will perform "Prickly Hay" on Monday 18th December at 3.15pm and Tuesday 19th December at 2.15pm. Mrs Ellis and Miss Sweeney's classes will be performing a Christmas Extravaganza on Monday 18th December at 2.15pm and Tuesday 19th December at 3.15pm

Both productions will be a ticketed to enable us to ensure that we do not exceed capacity in the hall and to ease congestion/parking around the site. Full details of how to apply for tickets will be sent out in a separate letter later in the term.

After school clubs; All places have been allocated. Please note the start and finish dates for this term are:

LEGO club: start 30/10/2017 finish 27/11/2017
Origami: start 30/10/2017 finish 27/11/2017
Sketch Club: start 31/10/2017 finish 28/11/2017
Zumba: start 31/10/2017 finish 28/11/2017

Football (Yr 5 & 6): start 1/11/2017 finish 29/11/2017
Football (Yr 3 & 4): start 2/11/2017 finish 30/11/2017
Portrait drawing: start 2/11/2017 finish 30/11/2017
Choir: start 02/11/2017 finish 14/12/2017*
(*Note change of finish date due to Choir's Christmas commitments)

Winter Weather

The weather is changing!! May I remind you that the children play and do PE outside throughout the year and need the appropriate clothing in school at all times. A plain, dark coloured tracksuit may be sent in for the children to wear during PE, the school hoodie may also be worn.

May we remind you to label hats, scarves and both gloves so they can be easily returned to their rightful owner!

If for any reason we should need to close the school e.g. faulty heating system we will text out the decision as soon as it is taken.

Friends of English Martyrs' Autumn Term

Please find below information regarding forthcoming events; please try and support them

Christmas Fayre Non-uniform Day – Monday 4th December 2017

There will be a non-uniform day on Monday 4th December in exchange for donations for the Christmas Fayre. Donations of chocolate items, bottles, fancy goods, raffle prizes, lucky dip items and cuddly toys. All donations greatly received.

Christmas Fayre - Saturday 9th December 2017 2-4pm

The FEM are looking for helpers for our Fayre. As this is our biggest fundraising event, please consider giving an hour or two to help us make it a success.

If you think your workplace would be willing to contribute to our raffle by donating vouchers, please let us know.

Also If anyone is interested in renting a table, at a cost of £15, please email the FEM about this or offers of help at FEM-parents@outlook.com

Yours sincerely

Kate Mann
Headteacher

English Martyrs' Academy

Dates 2017/18

November 2017		December 2017	
1 st	KS1 Spag drop in 8.50-9.30am Whole school Mass 1.45pm	1 st	Mrs Ellis & Miss Sweeney Good work Liturgy 2.40pm
2 nd	KS1 Spag drop in 8.50-9.30am	4 th	Non Uniform day – Donations for Christmas Fayre
8 th	CAFOD Coffee & Croissant breakfast 8.20-9.30am	5 th	SVP party pm Advent Liturgy (pupils only)
w/c 13 th	Friendship Week	8 th	Y5/6 Good work Liturgy 2.40pm
14 th	Miss Macdonald class Mass 9.00am	9 th	FEM Christmas Fayre
15 th	Open Morning 9.30 - 11.30am	12 th	Advent Liturgy (pupils only) Choir SNCAT Christmas performance Albert Hall
17 th	Children in Need – SPOTTY!	15 th	Miss Radford/Mrs Oldershaw & Mrs Chibbaro Good work Liturgy 2.40pm
24 th	Y3/4 Good work Liturgy 2.40pm	18 th	Y1/Y2 Christmas Production 2.15pm R/Y1 Christmas Production 3.15pm
26 th	Youth Mass (Feast of Christ the King, Church of the Assumption, Beeston) 10.00am	19 th	Advent Liturgy (pupils only) R/Y1 Christmas Production 2.15pm Y1/Y2 Christmas Production 3.15pm
		20 th	KS2 panto am & KS1 panto pm Family Carol Celebration (Church of St John the Evangelist, Stapleford) 6.00pm
		21 st	Advent Liturgy (families invited) 9.00am Christmas Dinner
		22 nd	School closes for Christmas holidays 3.10pm Inset (school closed)



ENGLISH MARTYRS' CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY CHRISTMAS DINNER PRE ORDER

If your child is in year 3, 4, 5 or 6 and would like a Christmas dinner you must return this form by 9.00am on Thursday 16th November 2017

Name of pupil..... Class

I would like my child to have a Christmas Dinner on Thursday 21st December 2017

A payment of £2.00 has been paid online through SCOpay on(Date)

I enclose a payment of £2.00 (Cheques payable to English Martyrs' Academy)

No contribution enclosed as my child is entitled to Free School Meals

Special dietary requirements, including vegetarian requests.....

Signed..... Dated.....