

6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a half term we have had! Well done to everyone for keeping healthy, I think we are one of the few schools left that haven't had to close a bubble (yet!) Thank you so much for all your cooperation with the changes being made at a minutes notice. The children now feel like they have never been away, so let's keep it up and keep washing those hands!

### End of the Day

To help promote social distancing, we are trying to spread out the KS1 and KS2 families a little further; we will maintain pick up timings to be the same. A gentle reminder for one adult to pick up and to wear masks if possible to protect each other further.

As a reminder, if you are dropping **more than one child at school in the morning** please can you drop off at **8:30am**. All Year 5/6 pupils can be dropped off at **8.30am**. Mrs Chibbaro and Miss Daykin's classes are also dropped off at **8.30am**. If you are dropping off a child in Y1/2 and Y3/4 please drop off at **8.40am**.

At the end of the day, if you are picking up more than one child, picking up from Y1/2 or Y3/4 could you please pick up at **3.10pm**. Mrs Chibbaro and Miss Daykin's classes and Y5/6 to be picked up **3.00pm**.

If you are picking up a child in the juniors please can you wait in the far playground (KS2 playground), again this is to try and spread out people. Thank you again for all your help and support during this time.

### Parents Evening

This will take place on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020** via Microsoft Teams. A separate letter with the details of how to book your appointment is attached to this Newsletter.

### School Christmas Dinner Thursday 17th December 2020

**ALL Years 3, 4, 5 & 6** children who would like a Christmas Dinner will need to pre-order it by **9.00am Friday 13th November 2020 at the very latest, this includes any KS2 children entitled to Free School Meals**. Please note this is the absolute deadline. Meals cost £2.20 and can be paid online through your normal ParentPay school meal account. If you have prepaid for the term or your child's account is in credit, then you do not need to make a separate payment, just return the order form, which is being sent home in paper form and will be available on our website. The payment will be deducted from your child's account on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020, providing funds are available.

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.

**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 **9.00am Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020**.

**W/C Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December** we are inviting children to come to school in their Christmas Jumper all week to celebrate the festive season, don't worry if you don't have a jumper you could wear festive headwear instead.

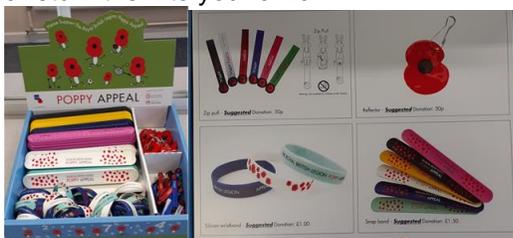
## ADVENT FUNDRAISING

### CHILDREN IN NEED – PUDSEY'S 40<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY

On **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020**, Children are invited to come into school dressed in spotty or red clothing in celebration of the charity's 40th Anniversary. They are also welcome to wear any Children in Need accessories, if they have them, ie Pudsey ears, T-Shirts etc. We are asking for a minimum £1 donation and this year, to avoid handling cash, you will be able to pay through ParentPay. If anyone needs a login for ParentPay, then please email the school office on [office@eng.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:office@eng.srscmat.co.uk)

### POPPY APPEAL

We are once again supporting the British Legion with their annual Poppy appeal, however due to current restrictions we will be unable to sell them on the playground. Therefore we would ask that if your child wishes to make a donation for a poppy or any of the associated merchandise, that you put the exact money in an envelope, annotating the front with your child's name, class, details of what they wish to buy and the amount enclosed. Once this is received in the School Office, we will put the required items in an envelope and return them to your child.



Please can we ask that your donation at least covers the suggested donation as detailed in the above picture.

### BRIARS RETREAT CENTRE

Two of our English Martyrs pupils, Abigail Newman and Florence Agius, completed a 10km walk at the start of half term, to raise money for the Briars retreat centre. The generosity of many has taken them well over their initial target of £500; thank you to everyone who has already donated. We would love to get the total over £800, knowing that this money will be a wonderful support to the Briars and the team there, who support our school and their students so well. If you are able to donate, please click on the link <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/briars>

Thank you so much.

### Collection of dinner money

School dinners must be paid for in advance and each child has an account for their dinner money. If your child is staying for a school meal their account must be in credit by a minimum of £2.20 (the current price of a dinner as from Sept 2020). The easiest way to credit a child's account is by using our on-line ParentPay account (Please contact the office if you have not yet registered). This is a secure system which provides parents/carers with a record of payments and purchases. Alternatively by **cheque payable to English Martyrs' Academy**. All payments should be in a sealed envelope clearly marked with your child's name, class and the amount enclosed and brought into school on a Monday morning.

### Procedure for following up dinner money debt

If an account goes into debit school will follow this up to ensure that accounts are cleared of debt and placed into credit. We will take the following steps:

Level of Debt	Action
£0 - £11.00 (1 week)	Reminder text sent
£11.01 - £22.00 (1 -2 wks)	Formal letter asking that debt is cleared immediately. The child should bring a packed lunch until the account is in credit. A cooked meal will be provided in the absence of a packed lunch from home – still chargeable at normal dinner rate.
£22.00 - £33.00 (2 -3 wks)	Formal letter informing that school will no longer provide a cooked meal for their child until the account is in credit. A basic sandwich will be provided in the absence of a packed lunch from home.
£33.00 +	Letter from head teacher/chair of governors inviting parents in to discuss dinner arrears and advising that we may take legal action to recover the debt. A packed lunch must be provided from home.

### Support for those in difficulty with payments

At every step school will be considerate of difficulties faced by parents/carers in making payments. We will:

- advise parents/carers how to apply for free school meals if appropriate
- offer a range of ways to make payment
- offer support in registering and using our online payment system
- negotiate a weekly/monthly payment plan to clear significant debt
- treat issues of debt in the strictest confidence and welcome parent/carers to speak to the finance manager at their convenience If you have any questions regarding this letter please contact the school office.

### Christmas Season

There will be two separate KS1 School Christmas productions, which we will record and stream to all parents in Reception, Year 1 & 2. Mrs Chibbaro and Miss Daykin's classes will perform "*Lights, Camel, Action!*" and Mrs Ellis and Miss Coxhead's classes will be performing "*The Amazing Advent Calendar*". We will let you know what part your child is playing and the costume they will require via the Home School diary at the beginning of December. We will also let you know when the performances will be available to view.

### Book Donations

As you are aware, St Mary's Catholic School in Derby was destroyed by a fire recently. They have asked that If anyone has any good quality fiction or non-fiction books suitable for Reception up to Year 6 that they are clearing out before Christmas, would they consider donating them to us, so that we can pass them onto St Mary's.

### Reception 2021/2022 Intake

If you know any families who have children born between 01/09/2016 - 31/08/2017 and who would be interested in a place at our school please ask them to contact the school office as soon as possible.

### Winter Weather

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.

Yours sincerely



Emma Jones  
Acting Headteacher



As they will be unable to hold their usual Christmas Fayre this year, the FEM have been looking at alternative fundraising ideas.

They have arranged for your child to complete a Christmas inspired picture in school, which you will be able to use on personalised gifts and keepsakes for Christmas through the website [mychildsart.co.uk](http://mychildsart.co.uk)

Details of how to order will be sent out once the artwork has been uploaded.

**Please avoid contacting the school office with FEM related queries. Thank you**