



Headteacher Newsletter 5

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a restful half term and enjoyed some long lie ins. I am delighted to share some wonderful updates from our school over recent weeks and give you a few reminders about upcoming events.

November

The Catholic Church designates November as a special month; to pray for and remember those who have died. The month began with the feast of All Saints (Nov 1), and the feast of the Holy Souls (Nov 2).

We invite our children and families throughout November to pray for those who have died and nurture faith and hope of new life with God in heaven.

“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen”

Barn Dance

Our Barn Dance was an incredible success, raising an impressive £690 for our school. A massive thank you to all the staff and volunteers who made the evening possible - and I must mention Fr Howard's line dancing, which was undoubtedly the highlight of the night! These events don't just happen and take a lot of organising and hard work behind the scenes. If you would like to get involved for our next event, our Christmas Fair on Thursday 11th December, please email the office to get the details of our next PTA meeting.

Young Shakespeare

On Monday 20th October, our Year 3-6 pupils enjoyed a Young Shakespeare performance of Macbeth, which was a fantastic cultural experience for all.

Soanes Centre

On Thursday Year 1 went on a science trip to our local Soanes Centre to study materials. The children took part in several activities in the workshop and then went outside to see how many different materials they could find in the surrounding area.

Coffee Mornings

Our weekly coffee mornings continue in the new hall every Thursday - do come along and join us if you can. These provide an informal setting to discuss/clarify any issues you may have. All are welcome!

Year 4 Assembly

Congratulations to our very talented Year 4 children who lead an amazing assembly on the theological virtues of hope, love and faith. They also showcased their musical talents. It really was lovely to see how confident the children are reading, acting and performing.



British Library Event

Family Festival: Imaginary Worlds

Take part in this exciting day inspired by wondrous worlds, both real and imaginary. This event is fully accessible for families with D/ deaf children, parents and carers.

Saturday 22 November 12.00 – 16.00

Location

British Library, London

Age

All ages welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Price

Free, drop-in – no booking required.

Additional Information

British Sign Language; step-free access



Sense will be running inclusive sensory activities in the Sensory Room at the Library during the sessions.

You are welcome to join us! No booking is required, just drop in and come and find us!

[Family Festival: Imaginary Worlds | British Library](#)

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance and punctuality letters were once again sent out at the end of October. Thank you to those parents who have made a concerted effort to get their children to school and on time in the first half term. If attendance and punctuality have fallen short of expectations, please try to make improvements this half term. 48% of children have 100% attendance this school Year so far. This is a great achievement and I would love this still being the case in July!

Classes ranked according to attendance are:

Year 1 97.3%

Year 3 96.7%

Reception 96.5%

Year 2 96.4%

Year 4 96%

Year 6 95.7%

Year 5 92.2%

Altar Servers

If any child in Years 5 or 6 are interested in becoming an altar server please contact Fr Howard. Altar serving is an important part of parish life because it helps ensure a reverent and smooth Mass by assisting the priest, enhancing the quality of worship, and allowing individuals to draw closer to their faith and community. It provides a unique spiritual opportunity for personal growth through responsibility and teamwork, while



also contributing to the overall atmosphere and flow of the service. Give back to the parish if you can.

Nursery Admissions

We are currently encouraging Nursery Admissions for the upcoming academic year. Spread the word if you know someone who has a child of Nursery age. Tour dates are available on our school website.

Donations for Jamaica

You may have seen on the news the devastation caused in Jamaica by Hurricane Melissa. Many families have been severely affected, and as a school, we would like to come together to support those in need by collecting essential supplies.

Each year group has been asked to contribute specific items:

- Nursery and Reception: Tinned food (e.g. beans, soup, vegetables, fruit, sardines, tuna)
- Year 1 and Year 2: Toiletries (e.g. soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, sanitary products)
- Year 3 and Year 4: School supplies (e.g. pencils, pens, exercise books, rubbers, sharpeners, colouring pencils)
- Year 5 and Year 6: First aid items (e.g. plasters, antiseptic wipes, bandages, small dressings, gloves)

Please bring your donations to school by Wednesday 19th November.

Every donation, no matter how small, will make a real difference to those affected.

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity.



Monday 10th November – Individual school photographs for Nursery to Year 5, sibling photos for whole school. (Yr6 will have individual photos at a later date).

Thursday 13th November – Flu Vaccine team in for anyone who missed the first visit.

Monday 17th November – Year 2 trip to St Paul's Cathedral. Letter to be sent home next week.

Tuesday 18th November – Dental team in for Nursery, Reception and Year 1



Tuesday 18th November – Book Look for whole school in each class 3.30-4.00pm.

Friday 21st November – Year 2 Assembly

Christmas Dates:

Monday 24th November – Year 5 Ice Skating at Canary Wharf

Tuesday 25th November – Year 2 Ice Skating at Canary Wharf

Tuesday 9th December – 1.30pm Year 2-6 pupils will be attending the Cinderella pantomime at Hackney Empire, which is always a wonderful festive experience. Tickets cost £10 per child and must be paid for via Parentmail. Cash payments cannot be accepted. Please note, if you do not pay for your child's ticket, unfortunately they will be unable to attend as the school cannot cover the cost. Information regarding arrangements for the day will follow.

Tuesday 9th December – Nursery, Reception and Year 1 Christmas Cinema Experience in school.

Wednesday 10th December – Whole School Christmas Dinner, children are allowed to wear a Christmas jumper or a sprinkle of Christmas (headband/socks) with their school uniform.

Thursday 11th December – Christmas Fair. Details to follow.

Friday 12th December – After school club will be closed. All children to finish at 3.30pm

Tuesday 16th December – 9.30am Nursery and Reception Nativity

Tuesday 16th December – 4pm Year 3 - 6 Carol Concert at St Catherine of Siena Church

Wednesday 17th December – 2.30pm Year 1 and 2 Nativity

Thursday 18th December – Class Christmas Parties – children to wear party clothes to school. No football kits.

Friday 19th December – 2pm finish, last day of term. All children (with the exception of part-time Nursery children) are to be collected at 2pm, there will be no After School Club on this date.

Warmest regards,

Mrs Manning