

Headteacher Newsletter – February 2017

St Philip's Catholic Primary School, London Road, Arundel BN18 9BA

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In school, we have been talking with the children about different gifts we have been given by God and the many different values we each hold. With the very prominent and media focused attention on refugees at the moment it is essential that we equip children with skills of empathy and tolerance. In assembly, we explored what it means to be tolerant and then moved on a step further from this to talk about 'hospitality'.

To ensure, in today's society that we are all effective and caring members, it is not enough to simply tolerate those around us, in our classroom, in our neighbourhood or in our community, but we have a duty, as Christians, to be hospitable to all and go out of our way to make people feel welcomed and valued.

I often talk about 'high expectation' in academic aspects at school and, as a school, we expect children to work hard and have their own sense of ambition. However, this poem really sums up our school vision of high aspirations in academic terms but also about learning how to grow into kind, caring and loving members of society:

*Don't become preoccupied with your child's academic ability,
but instead teach them to sit with those sitting alone.
Teach them to be kind. Teach them to offer help.
Teach them to be a friend to the lonely.
Teach them to encourage others.
Teach them to think about other people.
Teach them to share. Teach them to look for the good.
This is how we will change the world.*

Dates for diary

13.2.17 Y4 trip Fishbourne Roman Palace

15.2.17 Y3 Butser trip

15.2.17 Forest School YR

16.2.17 Y5 Planetarium trip

16.2.17 Cinema Night

17.2.17 Camel trek sponsored walk

17.2.17 Break up for half term

27.2.17 Inset day

1.3.17 Ash Wednesday liturgy 10am Cathedral

1.3.17 Academy Consultation meeting 6.30pm

2.3.17 World Book Day

2.3.17 Maths Challenge for some KS2 children

8.3.17 Forest School Y2

9.3.17 Junior Youth Council meeting

16.3.17 Y5 Deanery Sports Day SPH

21.3.17 Y6 visit to Weald and Downland

24.3.17 Y5 Eco summit trip

General info:

Website: All information is regularly updated on the school website www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk

Camel trek: Please remember to send back your consent form and sponsorship form (KS2) before the event on 17th February. All adult support welcomed too. Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 children can come into school in home clothes that day and bring £1 towards the camel fund. They will make banners and flags and support the older children.

Red Nose Day: 24th March is Red Nose Day. We will have red noses on sale at school for a minimum £1 donation, so please don't buy them elsewhere. A text will be sent out to let you know when they arrive and are on sale. Home clothes may be worn on Fri 24th March in exchange for a donation towards the appeal.

Fairtrade Fortnight: This runs from 27th February to 13th March. As a Fairtrade school, each class will carry out an activity to support Fairtrade. We will also be holding a Fairtrade produce sale outside school during that fortnight.

Geography week: The school's geography week is taking place the first week after half term. Each class will research and learn about a different country. They will then share their learning in Friday's assembly. Remember to ask your child what they have been learning that week!

Arundel Youth Club:

There is a youth club running every Tuesday 4.30 – 6.30pm for all children who are in Years 3-6. It is held in the room above Arundel Library. There are lots of activities planned and there is a tuck shop. Why not take a look and see what is on offer? All leaders are DBS checked and youth worker trained. Please note that this is independently run and not linked to the school.

Reception Class:

We are finding that some children in Reception Class are putting small objects in their mouth at school i.e. marbles, pegs, small world figures. If these get swallowed, it could cause the child to choke. Mrs Tipping has, of course, been reminding the children of the dangers of putting things in their mouth but please could we ask parents to support us in this by also reiterating the dangers to your own child. Many thanks.

Reading Buddies:

Thank you to the parents who responded to our plea for Reading Buddy volunteers. We now have at least one or two per class and this helps hugely with hearing all children read individually at least once a week. We will always welcome any offers of help from grandparents, parents or community members who have a spare hour or two a week to come into school.

Y3 Gym:

After half term, Year 3 will be having six gymnastics lessons on consecutive Wednesday afternoons. The coach is free and will teach the children gymnastic routines and how to improve their body tension. The same coach will also run a lunch time multiskills club for Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 on those Wednesday lunchtimes. The children will have the opportunity to attend if they wish. The funding is from Premier Education and coach Ricky and has all the relevant safeguarding checks.

Houses:

We have 4 House teams. These names are taken from the school crest (which belongs to the Duke) which is split into 4 quadrants and are the families from the Duke of Norfolk's Coat of Arms.

House point scores for this week:

Houses	Weekly scores
Howard	241
Brotherton	323
Warenne	448
Fitzalan	248

Littlehampton Child Contact Centre:

A safe, friendly and neutral place for children of separated families to meet their non-resident parent. If we can help you or someone you know - do get in touch. If you would like to help at our contact sessions as a volunteer - visit our website www.littlehamptonchildcontactcentre.org
Email: Itonchildcontactcentre@gmail.com
 07467 195755

Academy consultation date:

Next Wednesday, a letter will be sent home, giving you some more detailed information about Academisation in our Diocese. There will be a link to an online survey and it will inform you of the date for our school's consultation meeting (1.3.17). Please take a few minutes to read the information but also know that this is not an imminent event. We are still, at this stage, weighing up our options for future academic years.

Sickness bugs:

If your child has diarrhoea and/or sickness then please follow the NHS guidance of keeping them at home for 48 hours. By sending them back to school too early it can enhance the chances of other children becoming infected too. Please encourage children to wash their hand regularly at home and we will do the same at school. Please see the following link for more advice.
<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Norovirus/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

School Angel:

Click on the link, type in school name and then click on the logo and this will take you to the website as usual and you can shop as normal. We will receive a percentage of your spend at no cost to you. It is easy to do but it is a case of remembering to do it!
<http://www.schoolangel.org.uk/st-philips-catholic-primary-school.html>
 Flights and holidays can be booked via this too!

Facebook:

Please go onto our school website www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk and click on the Facebook icon. Click the 'like' button on the page to ensure you receive updates.

Allotment and Growing Club:

Our rescheduled allotment tidy up will be on Saturday 8th April at 9.30am. Please put the date in your diary and encourage family members to come along. Growing Club starts again after half term for one class per week. This takes place on Wednesday afternoons and Year 6 teacher Mrs Fairlie has put together a gardening rota and an action plan. Our volunteers Geoff and Bob will be on hand to help the children each week.