

Headteacher Newsletter – March 2017

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On Wednesday, the Bishop celebrated Ash Wednesday Mass at the Cathedral. Bishop Richard reminded us that Lent is a time where we turn to God to ask for forgiveness and learn to live the lives that bring us closer to Christ. During Lent, each classroom will have a prayer focus with a purple cloth and over the course of the next forty days; they will add their Lenten promises to their prayer focus.

Every lunchtime during Lent, the children will be invited to attend 'Rosary club'. This will be held in the library and each day we will focus on one of the mysteries and pray a decade of the Rosary. The mysteries are: joyful, glorious and sorrowful. We will also hold a Penitential Liturgy during March where KS2 children will have the opportunity to take up the Sacrament of Reconciliation. For those children who have not made their First Reconciliation, they are still invited to talk with the priest during that time. This is optional for all children.

In the last week of this half term, we will hold our 'Holy Week' liturgies. Each day for the week, different classes will take it in turn to retell a part of the Easter story to the rest of the school. This will be through readings, acting, dance and song. The first one will be led by Reception Class and will be the welcoming of Jesus on a donkey coming into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday). We will finish on the final day of the week with Year 6 leading a liturgy on the Crucifixion. Each class will begin to prepare their part of the story over the next few weeks. These liturgies are for the school children only and not open to parents because of space and focus.

Dates for diary

3.3.17 Tri golf taster sessions (Y1-6)
6-8th March – Parent teacher consultations
8.3.17 Forest School Y2
8.3.17 Y5/6 Hockey finals
9.3.17 Junior Youth Council meeting
15.3.17 Y6 Football final at TLA
16.3.17 Y5 Deanery Sports Day SPH
17.3.17 Fire and rescue visit YR, Y2, Y5
21.3.17 Y6 visit to Weald and Downland
24.3.17 Y5 Eco summit trip
30.3.17 KS2 Lent Penitential service
31.3.17 In school retreat day for pupils
6.4.17 Cinema night
7.4.17 Y5 'Wonder' workshop at TLA
8.4.17 Allotment tidy up (9.30-12)

Academy meeting:

Thank you to those who attended the Academy consultation meeting this week. It was an opportunity to share openly how a Catholic Multi Academy works and to answer questions about the impact it would have on our school if we were to join the Bosco Catholic Education Trust (along with our Deanery schools). There was no definitive outcome to the meeting because at this stage we are still considering the benefits and the challenges. Please take time to put your views onto the survey:

<http://www.schooltools.org.uk/surveys/tsr7ybg98/>

General info:

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

Camel trek: Thank you to all those who came and supported on the day of the trek and of course for all the generous fundraising from families. It was a great success and to date we have raised £1145 for Cafod. Each camel costs £400 for a family in Ethiopia. Well done to all.

Red Nose Day: 24th March is Red Nose Day. Home clothes may be worn on this day in exchange for a donation towards the appeal. Red noses will be available to buy in school for a minimum donation of £1 from Monday 6th March.

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 further Fairtrade produce sale outside school on Thursday 9th March.

Tri Golf: Rustington Golf Centre is sending a coach into school today to give each class (Y1-6) a taster session of Tri golf. Each class will have a 30 minute slot. Unfortunately the coach had the wrong day in his diary & was late arriving. Y2 missed their slot but the coach will return at a later date.

Library books: A reminder that all library books taken home by the children from the school visit to Arundel library should now be returned.

PE kits: Please ensure all children have navy jogging bottoms and navy shorts in their PE bag daily.

Year 1:

A letter was sent out on Wednesday to let parents of Year 1 children know that Miss Loydell will be leaving St. Philip's on the last day of the Spring Term. For the Summer Term, Mrs Bridges will be the class teacher for Year 1.

Privacy notice:

As data controllers, St Philip's is obliged to inform you of how we might use your child's data. This information is published on our website under 'Documents' entitled 'Privacy notices: Data Protection Act 1998'.

Please take a look.

World Book Day:

Thank you to you all for the tremendous effort put into the World Book Day costumes. Every child came in as a character and were very proud of their costumes. We had a very lively but enjoyable assembly where the 'Shelfies' that had been emailed into the school office were shown on a slide show. These are now available on the school website.

The children were able to attend a book reading session at the end of the day in a different classroom so don't forget to ask your child which teacher they went to hear read and which title!

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	100
Brotherton	135
Warene	97
Fitzalan	124

Dance Time:

Well done to our Dance Club who represented our school at the Dance Festival this week. They were able to watch other schools perform their dance routines and bring a certificate home. The music they danced to was called 'I know I can'. There will be an opportunity for the rest of the school to see the dance during a Celebration Assembly later in the term.

Learning Tree:

As you may recall, the Learning Tree nursery lease at our school was initially for three years. We are now half way through this period and the Governors have agreed to extend the lease for a further three years, taking us up to 2021.

Books to Shout About:

Each year we sign up to the WSCC library's 'Books to Shout About' competition. This involves all classes reading the same four books and then voting for their favourite one. This year the school's winner was the book 'Gorilla Loves Vanilla' by Chae Strathie.

We submitted our choice to the library services and today the overall winner for West Sussex schools was announced.

The children at St. Philip's were delighted to learn that the winner of West Sussex Children's Picture Book competition was our school's choice of 'Gorilla Loves Vanilla'.

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.

Book Fair:

Thank you for supporting the Book Fair we held recently. We raised £831 which gives the school £439 to spend on books for our school library.

Sporting update:

Good luck to our Year 1/2 football team who will be representing the school on Monday at The Littlehampton Academy. Good luck also to our Year 5/6 hockey team who are through to the finals on Wednesday of next week. Thank you to Mr Merridue who has been in to school to work with the Year 6 football team who are preparing for the finals which take place later this month.