



*Called to be A  
People of Hope*



Dear Parents

This week you will receive information on your child's learning related to our new Topic of Bright Sparks. I am sure that they will enjoy the creative elements associated to this topic as well as the Science and technology aspects. If your child does not bring home the topic web that they will be supplied with, please see their class teacher or look on the school website for the information.

Thank you to those parents who attended the Governor, staff and Parent Meeting on 21st January. The meeting was minuted by our Clerk to governors and should anyone wish to see a copy they will be held in the school office. I would also like to especially thank the teaching staff, Father Bill and Governors who gave up their time to attend. I am sorry if anyone who sent questions in before the meeting did not have all their questions answered but I am happy to meet with any parent directly to respond to any questions that they still have.

This week the PTA will be holding a meeting on Wednesday 30th January at 7.00 pm. It is important that the committee receive as much support as possible to ensure that annual fund-raising events take place, so please try and come along.

#### Inside this issue

Bright Sparks .....	1
Teacher Reminders .....	2
What's On .....	3
Looking ahead .....	4

#### News Extra! .

Please don't forget to contact the school office if your child is due to start school in September 2019 and you would like a place at St Dominic's.

# 'Learn and Love in Faith'

## Teacher News and

### Reminders

#### Staff Absence:

Unfortunately, I am still unable to give parents a date when Mrs Mason will be returning to school. I will update you as soon as I know more. Currently, Mrs Mason is signed off sick for one week at a time due to her back problem. I will update you as soon as I know more. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning or well-being please speak to Mrs Lowson who is overseeing both classes, ably supported by supply staff.

**PE, Swimming and outdoor learning:** We are still having a number of children who are not bringing in their swimming or PE kits for lessons. The teachers and I would be very grateful if you

could ensure that they have this in school each week. Both lessons are part of the National Curriculum and thus children are unable to opt out of PE or sports sessions.

It is also important that children who want to take part in Forest School as part of enrichment has the correct clothing and footwear. Without wellington boots, water proof, coat, over trousers and gloves children will be unable to take part. It is also good to have a hat to help keep warm. Through the term we will plan specific Forest School days for individual classes which will not be optional. More information will follow on when these will be.

#### Welcome:

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Tracy Eagles who has recently joined our staff team. She will be in school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to support my role as SENCO and provide pastoral and learning support to pupils in school.

**Reminder: At the start of the School day...** Dear parents,

Please ensure that your child is in school by 9.00 am From 8.40 am, teachers use this valuable time to welcome and settle children, whilst providing opportunities to respond to marking and practise key skills.



### Children's Pen Licence

It is great to see how motivated many children are in trying to achieve their pen licence. I want to say a big **well done** to all children who achieved one of the

licences we awarded last Friday.

I wanted to clarify to parents how the staff arrive at decisions for awarding these. We use information from the National Curriculum on what the expectations are for each year group and in addition we have agreed what would be expected for the bronze, silver, gold and platinum level.

To achieve bronze children need to be correctly forming letters, appropriately joined and sitting letters on the line with correct spacing. There may still be some inconsistency in sizing of letters. To achieve silver, this inconsistency would be greatly improved and writing will be neat and well formed. For the Gold Pen Licence, there will be a high level of fluency and consistency, with all of the above elements present and an individual handwriting style becoming evident. The platinum level, is awarded when a pupil sustains the Gold elements over time and in all areas of their writing.

When awarding Pen Licences, teachers come together with me to moderate the standard to ensure fairness and consistency. If a child's handwriting deteriorates significantly after a pen licence has been awarded, teachers may take the decision to take a pen licence away, however this would be the last resort and before this would happen the child is given ample opportunity to improve their writing and get back to the expected standard. This is to ensure that high expectations are maintained for children's learning and that all children realise that the award of a Pen Licence has great significance and they should be proud of their achievements.

## What's On: Extra Curricular Events

**Isingpop:** We will begin our 'Singing' performance week on **5th February** when we will have Isingpop in to help prepare the children for special concerts which will be held in the church on **Thursday 14th February at 2 pm and again at 6 pm** for the school and parish communities. Children will need to come back to school for the evening concert by 5.40 pm. Tickets will be on sale for these concerts from **Friday 8th February**. Children will also be able to purchase a T shirt, a CD of the recording and other items. More information on the items and costs will be sent out nearer the time.



**Girls' Football Tournament:** This will be held on **13th February 2019**. This will be held at Brimscombe Port indoor facilities. A letter with information may follow.

**Celebrating Difference:** Over the next two weeks in school our PSHCE lessons will focus on celebrating difference. **Sunday 27th January** marks the **Holocaust Memorial Day**, when we remember the six million Jews and millions of other minority groups who were killed by the Nazis fuelled by prejudice, cruelty and the fear of difference. In every community it is important that inequality, prejudice and persecution is challenged. In our school, we have a zero tolerance to those that think in some way they are better than others.

We reinforce each day our core values of **justice, respect, compassion and forgiveness**. These are the values on which all our policies and practices are founded. Our Mission statement and the vision for the school, captures these and the staff live these values each day with the children. At St Dominic's we do not victimise those who are different. In the Sunday Gospel this week, we heard that Jesus was brought to 'bring good news to the poor'. As Christians, we are asked to follow in his footsteps. This means that we show Jesus in our world today by the way we treat others, through our compassion and way we support those around us who need our help. Today, the 'Poor' does not solely mean those who do not have material wealth but relates to anyone who is vulnerable or faces personal challenges - those who need the support and understanding of those around them.

This will be the messages that we will be sharing with all children. We will also celebrate differences with our school community including racial, religious, gender, personality, personal skills, family structures etc. Children begin to notice differences at a very young age and will begin to ask questions without apprehension or shame. We've all had that embarrassing moment when our child pointed at someone, shouting for all to hear, asking why that individual looked or sounded different! Two and three year olds become aware of gender differences and also start noticing and developing a curiosity about skin colour, hair colour and texture and even more visible physical disabilities. It is important that we recognise and talk about difference so that children know that it is ok to be different and that this is something to embrace and celebrate. **On Friday, 8th February**, we will have a non-school uniform day, when children will be encouraged to visually celebrate difference by wearing odd items of colourful clothing e.g. odd socks, contrasting colours /patterns and any other creative way they can think of!

### Reminders

#### **After School Clubs :**

This term:

**Monday**— Stay and Play: 3.15—5.30

**Tuesday**— Stay and Play: 3.15—5.30

**Wednesday**— Drama Club, 3.30 pm—4.30 pm, followed by **Stay and Play** if required until 5.30 pm

**Thursday**— Art club 3.30 pm—4.30 pm, followed by **Stay and Play** if required until 5.30 pm

**Friday**— Gymnastics: 3.30 pm—4.30 pm

Information about how to book your child a place has been sent out from the school office.

#### Our Mission statement

##### Learn and Love in Faith'

At St Dominic's Catholic Primary, we are a **'People of Hope'** serving the community and enriching the lives of our children by: **Striving** for the highest quality and standards in all that we do so that every child is given the opportunity to succeed and the courage to persevere to achieve their full potential.

**Developing** a sense of wonder and awe through creating an engaging and bespoke curriculum through which every child grows in understanding and broadens their horizons.

**Modelling** the gospel values through our service to others; showing respect, offering compassion and forgiveness to all.

**Deepening** an understanding of 'faith' through reflection and prayer; whilst growing in knowledge and understanding of different faiths and beliefs.



Headteacher:  
Jacqui Sollars,  
St Dominic's Catholic  
Primary School  
St. Mary's Hill, Inchbrook, Stroud,  
Gloucestershire, GL5 5HP

Contact: Tel: 01453 832682  
admin@st-dominics.goucs.sch.uk

5HPTel: 01453 832682  
email: admin@st-dominics.goucs.sch.uk

## Key dates...



### School Masses: All welcome.

**1st February at 9.15 am: Whole school Mass for the Presentation of the Lord in church.**

**15th February at 9.15am: EYFS and KS1 Mass**

**8th March at 9.15am: Whole school Mass for Ash Wednesday.**

**22nd March at 9.15am: Class 3 Mass**

**5th April at 9.15am: Whole School Easter Mass**

**Celebrating Differences Non-uniform Day for all - Friday  
8th February 2019**

**Girls' Football Tournament:** This will be held on **13th February 2019**. This will be held at Brimscombe Port indoor facilities. A letter with information may follow.

Best wishes,

Mrs Jacqui Sollars

### A Prayer for Perseverance - The Value in Focus This Term

Dear God, when I am feeling weak, tired or discouraged, please help me to remember to depend on You. Amen.

