



St Dominic's Catholic Primary School

*We Learn and Love in Faith
This term we celebrate...Generosity*

Autumn Days

Dear Parents & Carers

We have had a very positive start to the new school year and it has been great to see how calm and settled the children seem in their classes. I would like to thank the staff for the way they have worked as a team to ensure that the year has begun smoothly. This week you have received information on your child's learning for the Autumn term and I hope you found the information useful. Please do not hesitate to talk to your children's teacher if you have any questions about their learning.

Reading and Writing Development: This year we will be working with a group of other primary schools, both large and small, to develop 'Talk for Reading' and 'Talk for Writing' so that we can continue to look for ways to enhance learning in these key areas and build links between them and across the wider curriculum. The staff are very appreciative of the support you give to your child in developing their reading skills and helping to develop a love for reading. Ten to twenty minutes a day not only builds their fluency but increases their understanding. It is important that children have the opportunity to talk about the books that they read and have the opportunity to grow their vocabulary through stories, poems and non-fiction. It is also important to re-read familiar texts as this helps develop their confidence and familiarity with language, which also improves spelling. In this way they can use their knowledge of how writers use language and different structures to help them construct texts of their own.

Key Stage 2 results. We are delighted with our end of Key stage two results. We achieved results above the national average in Reading, Writing and Mathematics this year. The school performance tables for the 2017 results will be published later in the Autumn term and we will make this information available to you through the school website.

Harvest Mass: On **Friday 6th October** we will be having a whole school and Parish thanksgiving mass in our school hall to celebrate harvest and reflect on generosity, which is the value in focus. The Mass will be held at 1.45pm. It would be lovely to see you there to share this special mass with us. We would also be really grateful if you could send in items of food in readiness for this service. They will then be donated to the Stroud Food Bank as they are in much need of supplies after supporting families through the school holidays when there is an increased demand.

Currently the Food Bank really need the following items:

Tinned spaghetti, tinned tomatoes, tinned vegetables, children's toothbrushes, sponge puddings, and tinned fruit. We will place a box for your donations in the school hall and thank you in advance for your generous gifts.

Following this service, there will be tea, coffee and cakes on sale in support of the Macmillan Charity. This is kindly being organised by the PTA committee, and would be grateful for donations of cake, thank you! Cake donations can be left with the office in the morning.

Film Club: Thank you very much to Mrs Compton, who organised the helpers magnificently and enabled the children to watch a variety of films over the past year. We are grateful to Mrs Szynwelska, who has taken over the role this year, and we would encourage more helpers to come forward to enable the club to continue.

Values and Vision: In November, Bishop Declan will be re-launching the 'People of Hope' programme through the diocese. In response to this and the school's new beginnings, we will be reflecting on our school's Mission statement, values and ethos. We will be seeking the thoughts and views of children, staff, governors and the local parish as part of

this process and reflecting on how we can respond to this call and show that we are a people of hope.

Nits and Headlice: Please can I recommend a weekly check for these creatures by combing your children's hair with a nit comb such as 'Nitty Gritty'. This will really help in keeping them at bay. There are various preparations available from the chemist for any 'outbreaks'.

PE Kits: Please could you ensure that your child has their PE kits in school each week, as we have had had a number of children in KS2 who have forgotten them. It is important that your child has the correct clothes and footwear for sport for their own comfort and safety, many thanks.

Photos: If you would like to place an order, please bring back the completed form to the office by Friday 29th September. You will still be able to order them after this date, only you would need to send your order direct to Tempest, and include Post & Packing.

Flu Vaccine: This year, nurses will be coming into the school to give the flu vaccine to all children in classes 1 to 3 (reception to year 4). This will be undertaken on 15th November 2017 and will be in the form of a nasal spray. Further information to follow.

Admissions to Primary School Sept 2018: If you have a child due to start school next September, the County will be posting out information by mid November. If you have not received a pack by December, please contact the admissions office.

Secondary School Transfer: All our Y6s will have received a letter from County regarding the process for registering their interest in Secondary schools. Please note that the deadline for application is 31st October. Y5 parents may also wish to visit secondary schools during their Open Days in readiness for next year.

Jacqui Sollars

A time to reflect... *Generosity*

The Romero Prayer

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

It is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but we are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

Dates for your diary...

Photo deadline: 29th September
Friday 6th October – Harvest Whole School Mass in the School hall at 1.45 pm followed by Macmillan Coffee afternoon..