



St Dominic's Catholic Primary School

We Learn and Love in Faith

This term we celebrate...Compassion

Whole School Attendance: 97.1

Let us remember...



Dear Parents

Last Friday's Remembrance Mass and visit to the Wayside Cross was a lovely celebration of community, prayer and reflection as Class 4 led us with Father Bill in this special service. The hard work and preparation by children and staff was evident throughout the service. I would especially like to thank Father Bill, who regularly comes into school to visit classes and meet with me to help for our school masses. It is moments like these that make our school truly distinctive and provides lasting memories for the children, families, staff and our wider community partners. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause by allowing your child to purchase the many items on sale on behalf of the Royal British Legion. They will inform us shortly of how much our school raised.



I hope that you found the parent consultation meetings this week informative and gave you an opportunity to discuss your child's learning with the class teachers. If you were unable to attend, please contact the school office and arrange another suitable time to meet your child's teacher. They very much welcome the opportunity to catch up with you and discuss how school and home can work in partnership to ensure academic progress and grow happy, confident children within our school.

Today children came together to celebrate their talents for the worthy cause of **Children in Need**. Thank you for supporting your child in this fund raising event by organising their spotty clothing, sending in donations of money and cakes for purchase. When listening to the many worthy causes that benefit from this annual event, we can only give thanks for the gifts and blessings that we have.

This week has also been national **Anti-bullying Week**. It is an important opportunity to raise awareness of help and support that is available to any child who feels vulnerable and communicate to all that there is zero tolerance of any form bullying in our school community. During this term we celebrate the value of compassion and reflect on how we can demonstrate this through our words and actions. As a distinctively Catholic School community this also includes demonstrating the value of forgiveness when needed. I would like to stress the importance of early action if you have any concerns so that we can work together to ensure that our school is a healthy and supportive environment for all.

Golden Book Assemblies: A reminder that we have changed our Golden Book assembly to Friday afternoon before the end of the school day and so far this has been very positive. I hope that more parents will find it easier to attend and celebrate children's learning with us. This change has also meant that we end the week on a very positive note and enables parents and me to attend class Masses on Friday mornings as well as this celebration. Previously, I found myself at times with a conflict of interest and I am sure this maybe the case for some parents too. We will endeavour to ensure that children are out on time; however there may be some delay especially in younger year groups as teachers ensure that the children have key items before leaving for the weekend.

After school clubs: Currently, our very low numbers attending the dance club on a Wednesday after school has made it virtually impossible to teach the elements of Dance that was intended. Unfortunately, this may also mean that we may be unable to be represented in the Country Dancing festival this academic year. Last year, this activity was built into Class 2's Curriculum but it was very obvious that we sent our youngest children to the event where the large majority of schools sent children from Key Stage 2. Miss Mansell has already attended the school information session on this event.

Newsletter

It was hoped that those children who really want to take part from different year groups would attend but it appears that the interest in this is very limited. With the additional PE activities that we are currently building in each week for classes, (including swimming, games activities on Tuesdays and Thursdays and mountain biking skills) it will pose difficulty incorporating this into the curriculum going forward unless we can offer it as an after school activity. Please contact the school office if your child would like to attend.

Next term we will change the clubs on offer by staff. You will be pleased to know that cooking will return as I know this was very popular! However there will be a limit on numbers so early booking for all sessions will be advisable. Please use the Out of School Club booking form for January; we will let you know when this is available and it will show all clubs available for that term. The current booking system is changing, and some parents have already let the office know that they wish to have a continuous booking for their child rather than book each term, if you are looking for permanent cover rather than specific clubs. There will be a place to notify the office of this on future booking forms.

There is a separate letter coming out to all parents in Y1 – Y6 regarding a gymnastics club after school next term. Please note this is on a Friday afternoon from 3:15pm – 4:15pm, and is independent of the school's out of school club. This means that you will need to book directly with them, as per their letter.

Nailsworth Noel: As part of this evening, held on Friday 24th November, the organisers would like to hold a parade through Nailsworth and create a river of light. They would like as many children as possible to take part in the parade and to bring a light source (no naked flames please). To participate please be at Nailsworth Fire Station for 4:45pm, for a 5pm start. The organisers are suggesting that the choirs be part of this procession, and then 'peel' off where they will be singing, which for us is at Cossack Square. More details to follow for the choir, but please come along and see our children singing from 5:30pm to 6pm.

Christmas Lunch: This is on Wednesday 13th December, and will be followed by a visit from you-know-who! You will need to let the school office know if you wish your child/ren to have a hot lunch on this day.

Christmas Nativity and Christingle: I am delighted to be able to confirm that this event will take place on **Wednesday 13th December at 6.30 pm**. All are welcome to this special service and we hope it will bring the warmth and true spirit of Christmas to all. The teachers will be notifying you very soon of the role your child will have and any costumes or specific items that they will need. We will be holding a voluntary collection at the end of this service for a charity of the children's choosing.

Swimming: Please can you ensure that if your child has their ears pierced and go swimming each week that they have their ear rings removed before coming to school or please train your child to remove them and put them back in. Alternatively, they can be covered with a plaster or swimming cap. Unfortunately, staff are not allowed to do this for them due to health and safety reasons although they will assist by giving guidance where necessary.

Late Attendance: On your child's mini report it will have included information on their attendance which I hope you found useful. I can only stress the importance arriving in school promptly in the morning. Teachers are using this valuable time to enable children to respond to their marking and catch up on learning activities from the day before or practise key skills. As head teacher, I have to monitor every child's attendance including any lateness and challenge this where there is a regular pattern and report this to governors. I am currently delighted that we are exceeding our attendance target but there is always room for improvement! 😊

best wishes

Jacqui Sollars

A time to reflect... **Compassion**

A Prayer from Mother Theresa

Lord, open our eyes
that we may see you in our brothers and sisters.
Lord, open our ears
that we may hear the cries of the hungry,
the cold, the frightened, the oppressed.
Lord, open our hearts
that we may love each other as you love us.
Renew in us your spirit.
Lord, free us and make us one.
Amen

Dates for your diary...

Fri 24th November: C2 mass, 9:15am, all welcome
Fri 24th November: choir singing at Nailsworth Noel
Mon 4th Dec: whole school trip to 'We the Curious'
Saturday 9th December (12 noon until 3 pm) School and Church
Christmas Fayre
Wed 13th Dec Christmas Dinner
Wed 13th Dec 6.30 pm Christmas Service in The Priory Church.
Mon 18th Dec: whole school trip to Theatre Royal Bath
Tue 19th Dec: last day of term, close 1:30pm
Thurs 4th Jan 2018: start of term 3
Wed 10th Jan: Young Voices