



St Dominic's Catholic Primary School

*Called to be
A People of Hope*

We Learn and Love in Faith

This term we celebrate...Courage

Whole School Attendance: 96.1

Welcome 2018!

Dear Parents

I hope you all have had a good start to 2018. The children are now settled back into school life after the Christmas Break and despite the cold weather we have the hint that Spring is on its way as the mornings get gradually lighter. Today we have celebrated the start of the new term and St Wulstan's Day with a whole school and parish Mass.

St Wulstan born in 1008. He was known for his generosity, he stopped the Slave Trade in Bristol and also he started a centre for the study of Literature near here at Worcester.

This week we have also reflected with the children how we can work co-operatively together to ensure that Peace reigns in our school. The children have been given the opportunity to reflect on how we can promote Peace and friendship in our classrooms and playground, whilst recognising our individual responsibility for this. I want to say a well done to those children who speak out and work actively to promote Peace between their peers.

Young Voices 2018: Once again this was a real success and the children in KS2 who attended for the first time very much enjoyed this opportunity. I would like to thank Mrs Urquhart Dixon who prepared the children so well and worked with Miss Mansell and Miss Rose. I would also like to thank Mrs Greenhalgh, who is our school governor responsible for overseeing Music, for accompanying the children. This event was well supported by parents but if you didn't have the opportunity to go, or would like to hear the songs again there is a number of our children who are performing Young Voices songs with children from other local schools at St George's Church tonight.

Swimming in the Spring term: Swimming began this week, with year 1, Year 3 and Year 4 taking part. Miss Sollars said that the Year 1 children were very excited and that we had some very good swimmers amongst them. To be able to swim is an essential skill to save life and is a great way to keep fit and have fun. I hope they all enjoy this opportunity this term.

Enrichment time: We have asked the children what activities they would like to have on Friday afternoons as part of their enrichment time. Each teacher will take a different focus and children will sign up for one of the activities for a number of weeks. However, if you are a parent who has a particular skill and would like to come to work with a small group of children to share this, please contact me or the school office. All parents working with children are required to have a DBS certificate, and Mrs Gill or Mrs De Young can provide the relevant forms.

Admissions: I would like to warmly welcome the children and families who have joined our school this term. I am sure that our Christian school values of friendship, compassion and generosity will be clearly visible from all our existing parents and children. I am so proud of our children who always welcome newcomers into our school family which ensures that new pupils settle very quickly. Our admissions policy is on our website and is reviewed annually by governors and sent to the diocese. If you know of any families who are looking for a place for their child in September, please direct them to the website or ask them to contact the school. We also continue to have vacancies in Year reception, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6.

Complaints Policy: I wanted to also remind parents of the school's complaints policy which is held on our school website or can be obtained from the office. Any specific issues related to your child academic or social and emotional well-being should be first raised with the class teacher and then brought to my attention if it is not resolved to your satisfaction. If I am unable to resolve the complaint, then your complaint should be referred to the Chair of Governors in writing.

Inappropriate Language: We have had a couple of cases of inappropriate language in school and this has been dealt with by staff very swiftly. If such an event occurs, the children are moved straight to red, they miss their playtime and parents are spoken to at the end of the school day so that they are made aware.

Film Club: Mrs Szynwelska and Mrs Fell are very kindly offering a Film Club this term on Friday 26th January and is just £1 which includes a drink and a snack. The film will be "The Secret Life of Pets" (U) and the collection time is 5:15pm. Please be prompt for picking up, which will be directly from the foyer as it will be run in class 2. The club is open to all children and you will need to sign your child up for this event on the sheet in the foyer.

PTA meeting: The next meeting is on Wednesday 31st January at 7:30pm in The Brit, Nailsworth. All are welcome - please come along to support this committee. The next main event to organise will be the Duck Race on Nailsworth Festival Saturday, 19th May. The PTA are also in need of a new chair and secretary, so if you are able to take up one of these posts that would be much appreciated. Previous post-holders are happy to show the ropes, and the roles could also be shared. I look forward to seeing you there.

Christmas Bazaar: You may like to know that the profit after expenses was £969.27. The bazaar was a wonderful occasion and this is a great amount to raise for the school and parish and I was very disappointed that I could not be there. Thank you to everyone who was able to take part – from preparing behind the scenes to helping on the day and enjoying the various stalls and activities on offer.

2018 calendars: There are a number of PTA calendars still available if you would like to purchase one. Please come to the office.

K'Nex Challenge: Class 4 children will be taking part in this annual County wide challenge. A member of Gloucestershire's STEMworks team will come and work with the children in the afternoon of Wednesday 24th January. The children work in pairs to solve challenges. Their final design is judged by STEMworks and the winning pair get to go to the K'Nex final, normally held in April.

After School Clubs: We have a great range of clubs on offer again this term, including the popular cooking club! If you would like your child to attend please contact the school office to see if we have available places. The booking form for this term is in the foyer. Next term's booking form will be available shortly.

Drop Off/Collection: Please can I remind you of the one-way system when dropping off or collecting. Come up St. Mary's Hill to park in the car park and drop your children off. On exiting, please turn right out of the car park, and either turn left at the top into Cow Lane and re-join the A46 at the bottom, or turn right for Woodchester. As the roads are very narrow around the school, this system helps to ease congestion. Please do not pause on the zig zag lines to drop your children off as it is dangerous for other children crossing the road, and also prevents others from entering the car park. Please also do not stop before the zig zags as other cars find it difficult to pass, so if you must stop on the hill, please do so after the zig zags. You will notice the sign on the hill reminding people to drive slowly past the school. Thank you for your co-operation.

Parking in the Parish and School Car Park: You will notice that the car park can become very busy. Please can I ask for your consideration and park neatly, and not to park in the entrance driveway. Can I remind you that this is the Parish's private car park which school members are allowed to use. You may find it useful to car share with another family in order to ease the congestion.

Reception Photos: Our children's photo will be taken this Monday, to feature in Stroud News and Journal shortly.

best wishes

Jacqui Sollars

A time to reflect... **Courage**

"...be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might"

Eph 6:10

Dear Lord

Give me courage and strength to face the future with You, and to trust You to walk with me every step of the way– for I know that the Bible tells me that You are with me every moment of the day.
Amen

Dates for your diary...

Wed 24th Jan: K'Nex Challenge for C4

Fri 2nd Feb: Class 4 Mass, 9:15am, all welcome

Fri 9th Feb: Last day of term

Mon 19th Feb: INSET – no school

Tue 20th Feb: Back to school, start of term 4