



# 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*

## A People of Hope

### Dear Parents

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Parent Governor Information Evening on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January. I was pleased to be able to share all the progress that has been made to improve the outcomes of pupils at our school and thank the staff for all their hard work and dedication. It was a great opportunity also for parents to ask questions and be reassured that everyone is determined to ensure that the school goes from strength to strength.

As a school community we are very saddened that we have lost some families recently due to issues beyond our control. We all recognise the unsettling impact this has had on the community as a whole and it was thus reassuring at the meeting to see the solidarity and support from the parents as we go forward. The staff, governors and I stand by the values that makes us an inclusive school for all. To ensure this school goes from strength to strength, we need the parent community to work together in friendship.

To facilitate this, we would welcome parents on a Friday morning into the school hall for a Coffee Morning. It would also be a great opportunity for little ones to socialise and play. I would like to thank Mrs Figueiredo and the PTA committee for organising this. Unfortunately, I am unable to join you this Friday as I have a Head Teachers' Briefing Meeting but I hope to be able to join you all on a regular basis.

**PTA:** On Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, there was a very successful meeting of the new PTA committee. They have some lovely ideas for social events going forward as well as the usual fundraising events that are very popular. I would like to say thank you for the financial support that has been approved to upgrade our library so that children can begin using it and selecting books for reading for pleasure as well as to support their learning. The PTA has also promised to support our plans for developing our very own forest school area and for improving the play facilities. Miss Sollars will train as a Forest School Lead in the Summer term and she will work in partnership with Miss Mansell. Together they will lead outdoor learning and PE going forward.

**Class 4 Residential:** This year we have booked the Viney Hill Christian Retreat Centre in the Forest of Dean for the Year 5 and Year 6 residential experience. The children will enjoy a range of activities over five days. This is a change to where the school has taken the children over the past few years, which has been a weekend trip with PGL. Last year the cost was £260, and this year it is £300. The cost of the coach is approximately £10 per child. However, to reduce the impact on parents, the PTA have kindly committed £500 to support this event. This will bring the cost down to £270 if all the children go. In addition, Pupil Premium can be used to subsidise this for some families, and the school also has access to a local educational trust which has been generous in the past.

It was also felt that a yearly residential trip puts a significant financial burden on families, and this is heightened for families who have children in both Year 5 and Year 6. We thus propose that this should be a biannual event in future, and the cost can be extended over a longer period. For Year 6 children, in the year that we do not go on a residential, we will organise a special adventure day locally. If you have any thoughts on this change, please don't hesitate to contact us as we always welcome parent views.

**Topic Webs:** Your child should be bringing home a Topic Web this week giving information on the focus for their class. This information will also be posted on the school website.

## Newsletter

**Parent Consultation Evenings:** On **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February** from 3.30 until 5.30pm and **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March** from 5.30pm until 7.30pm you will be able to book your slot after the half term holiday, when the timetables will be available in the school foyer. To ensure that the appointment system runs smoothly, if you feel you may need longer than the 10 minutes allowed, please speak to your child's class teacher to arrange another suitable time.

**Class Photographs:** These are normally taken early in the summer term. Your views would be welcome on whether to have the classic class photograph, or to have a 'vista' photograph which the school has had in the past few years where the children are in more informal groups. Please complete the slip below if you have a view on this, thank you!

**Class 4 Science Show at St Peter's High School:** Class 4 have been invited to attend this science show on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February on 'Superhero Science – fact or fiction?' Our children greatly enjoyed this last year and gained a lot from it. They will explore levitation, telekinesis fire control, super speed, weather control, flying and even walking on water. Students will find out what they do (or don't) have to do with Science. The show has a strong emphasis on modern materials and Science technology, and closely matches the science children will be covering in KS3 science at secondary school. Thank you for the voluntary contributions/permission received so far from class 4 parents; please send in any remaining as soon as possible, thank you.

**Half Price tickets for FGR home league matches:** We have a limited number of vouchers - please come to the office to collect if you are interested.

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

**Best wishes**

Jacqui Sollars

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

**Deuteronomy 31:6** *"Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you."*

Dear God

I know that You will help me to be strong and courageous, even when I am scared. Please help me to remember that You are great and awesome and that You will fight for me. Thank you that You promise to go before me and always be with me and that You will never leave me or forsake me.

Amen.

**Dates for your diary...**

Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Feb: Last day of term

Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Feb: Ash Wednesday

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Feb: INSET – no school

Tue 20<sup>th</sup> Feb: Back to school, start of term 4

Thur 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb: C4 trip to St Peter's High

Tue 27<sup>th</sup> Feb: Parents eve 3:30pm – 5:30pm

Thur 1<sup>st</sup> Mar: Parents eve 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Name: -----

I would like to share my views on...