



St Dominic's Catholic Primary School

Called to be A People of Hope

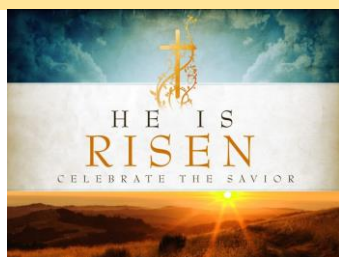
We Learn and Love in Faith

This term we celebrate...Service and Humility

Whole School Attendance:

96.1

Happy Eastertide



Dear Parents

Welcome back after the Easter holidays. We had a great end to last term with our open afternoon celebrations and our very own Museum. I would like to thank everyone who sent in some wonderful items for the display. It was really fascinating to see the variety of items from different eras. I would especially like to say a big thank you to Mrs Thurbon and Mrs Greenhalgh, our governors who organised the event and worked so hard to make it a success. We are very lucky to have such supportive Governors. Our Easter Service was also a very special event with the Polish Easter Baskets that the children constructed with the help of Mrs Figueiredo and Mrs Szynewska. They were a wonderful colourful addition to our celebrations and gave the children the opportunity to learn about other customs.

I hope you all had an enjoyable break with family and friends. Our whole school topic this term is **Vive La France**. I hope that your child enjoyed dressing up in red, white and blue and enjoyed the French Banquet and fun activities that the teachers planned as part of our Wow week. It is great that the sun has begun to shine and children can begin to enjoy more opportunities for outdoor learning.

I would like to warmly welcome Miss Sarah Mason who will be Class 1's teacher for the Summer term. She has settled in well this week and will be a real asset for our current topic as she is a linguist and speaks fluent French!

Over the holidays there has been lots of activity in school. We have had the PE shed adapted to provide a solid structure to house a further play zone for the children. This will most likely be a mud kitchen but I have also had requests from them for a writing area so we will have to see which is considered the most popular!

In addition, the new library in the sunny room has been finished. We are almost ready to begin moving books into it. We are planning a special launch day, and will be having an author in to open the library and carry out workshops of



reading and writing with the children. If you have some time to assist in moving the books that we have into the new library, I would be grateful if you could let the school office know as many hands make light work! The children will be instructed on how to use our electronic system to check books out so that they will be able to take books home for their enjoyment. Mrs De Young has been working hard to finish tagging books so that this is possible, and if anyone is able to come and assist with this, we would be very grateful. Please come to the office if you are able to do so. I would like to especially thank the PTA committee in funding this, and Mr Mike Weaver who completed the work to such a high standard.

We will have our **whole school Mass this Friday**, to mark the start of the new term. The theme of the mass is our values of service and humility. We will also remember the Feast of St Mark which was on Wednesday this week.

The Life Bus visited again last week and once more gave the children important messages and information on health and well-being. This is an important annual visit that we invest in at St Dominic's so that we help keep your child informed of key issues and how they can keep themselves safe and healthy.

Reception for September 2018: we will be welcoming our new reception to school, and the first event they will be attending is a parent and child lunch early in next term. Y5 children will also be assigned to a child, ready to be a Y6 'buddy' in September. We look forward to this new chapter.



K'Nex Challenge Final Congratulations to Dominik Witkowski and Jakub Przybyla who took part in this County final on Wednesday (pictured working hard on their design!)

Maths Challenge: some of our children in class 4 took part in a Maths challenge yesterday. This is the UK's most popular maths competition, and the highest scoring top 40% of participants are awarded bronze, silver and gold certificates. We have sent off our completed challenges for marking and I will let you know of any outcome.

Swimming: Years 1, 3 and 4 are continuing to develop their water skills through swimming at Stratford Park on a Wednesday. We would be grateful if you would make the voluntary contribution if you have not already done so. Learning to swim is a critical life skill that will provide opportunities for improved fitness, personal well-being and key safety skills. Thank you for supporting our school commitment towards this.

Cheltenham Monster trail. I am delighted to inform you that we have been successful in being selected as one of a small number of schools to take part in this event. This is part of the Cheltenham Literature Festival which takes place later in the year. Our children will be able to work together to create a collaborative Monster story focused on Frankenstein. We will also have to design a front cover for the story and this can either be a collaborative effort or we can choose the best single design. The covers will be made up into posters and displayed around Cheltenham during the Festival. I am waiting to receive further information next week, along with some special monster resources for us to enjoy and give us inspiration. Hopefully it will inspire our young writers and designers to be part of this exciting event. We are also hoping to take different year groups over to the Festival this year so I will keep you posted.

The Buzz Club: Mr Peter Lead will be coming into our school this term to share the history of the Buzz Club and how it began at our School. I hope this will be particularly interesting for our new families. The bees are a part of our school history; I hope that we can build on this wonderful tradition and further develop our links with the Buzz club that is now run in Stratford Park. We sell the wonderful honey that is produced by the bees at the School and Parish Christmas Bazaar.

School website and Parent App: This term our school site will have a face lift to update it. In addition to this we have purchased a school App for parents to have on their mobile phones so that you get instant updates when we post something new. It is a great way to improve home and school communication going forward. I have attached a letter to give you more information on it. The teaching staff will also receive training on using it so that they can help keep you informed.

Teachers2Parents: Please find attached a letter from our text messaging service on how this has been updated.

May Celebrations: During the month of May we will be reflecting on Mary, Jesus' mother. We will be saying the Rosary and using rosary beads as a meditative form of prayer. We have also planned a special **May thanksgiving festival Mass on Friday 11th May at 9.15 am in the school hall**, followed by a celebratory procession and fun afternoon on the school field, where refreshments will be served. All are welcome to join our school and parish community in this, and any ideas you have to make this a success would be greatly appreciated. We will speak to the children about dressing up in their finest attire for this if they would like to. We would also be grateful if parents could bring in cut flowers from your gardens for us to decorate the hall with.

In addition to this Father Bill has invited all families and their furry and non-furry friends to a **Rogation Mass at Barton End Farm** (courtesy of Roland Blackwell). People bring "**Farm friendly**" pets - mostly dogs, but they have had other interesting creatures, including a horse! This will be held on **Monday 21st May at 6.00pm**. There is a bring and share picnic afterwards. All welcome.

Well-being Week: (21st -25th May) During this week we will be teaching the children how they can help take responsibility for ensuring their own physical and mental well-being. We will also be teaching the children, in an age-appropriate way, about building healthy relationships and sex education. More information will be shared with you very soon on the content of the week as teachers and I plan the activities. There will be an increased focus on keeping ourselves active, eating a balanced diet and explaining to the children how this helps our bodies and minds stay healthy and happy. If there are any parents who feel that they could contribute some time or skills to this week to share with the children we would love to hear from you.

Attendance: we will be monitoring attendance below 96%, which is the target for the school. For those below this or for persistent latecomers, we will be sending out letters to give a reminder of the importance of coming to school on time and on a regular basis. We understand that at times, absence is unavoidable, but we do request that routine appointments such as dental check-ups are made outside of school hours where possible.

SATs week: this is 14th – 17th May for our Y6s, and we would like to offer them breakfast on those days. More information to follow. Y2s will be undertaking their tests in the week commencing 8th May. We are keeping this as low key as possible as this is not something for them to be worried about. They will have reading and maths tests to support teacher judgements, however the writing will already be shown within their Big Writes.

Message from the Gym leader: Gymnastics club: Every Friday ‘Super star Gymnastics’ runs an after-school Gymnastics club at St. Dominic’s 3.15-4.15pm. The club focuses on developing balance, power and co-ordination and follows the British Gymnastics proficiency awards. Prices are £28 per half term, and pupil premium funding is available for eligible children. Message ssgym1@gmail.com or ring/text 07941 682863 for more information.

best wishes

Jacqui Sollars

A time to reflect... **forgiveness**

God made you and God made me,
He made the world for us to see.
God loves you and long ago,
He sent his Son to tell us so.

Jesus showed us many things,
To love and share and dance and sing.
To learn and pray, to help and care,
He promised he'd always be there.

He died but then came back to life,
Let's celebrate for he's alive!

Amen.

Dates for your diary...

Friday 27th April – whole school Mass at 9.15 am in the Church.
Fri 4th May – Copsegrove Farm visit for class 1 & 2
Fri 4th May – ‘In the Net’ interactive play at Nailsworth Primary for class 3
Mon 7th May – Bank holiday, no school!
Fri 11th May – May celebration day
Fri 11th May – whole school Mass 9:15am
Mon 14 – Thur 17 May – SATs week
Sat 19th May–Nailsworth Festival & Duck Race
Monday 21st May- Rogation Mass at Barton End Farm at 6pm. All welcome.
21st -25th May – wellbeing week
Fri 25th May – last day of term
Tue 5th June – back to school

Name: -----

I would like to share my views or make a suggestion on...