



"Created by God to love and learn"

NEWSLETTER 11 2018-2019

08.02.19

School's
Attendance
Target: 96%
Actual: 95.6%

I hope you all had an enjoyable 'snow day' last week. It was for safety reasons that we had to close the school as the conditions were too dangerous. Undoubtedly, this was the correct decision.

To further improve safeguarding at the school, once the door at the top of the corridor has been closed at 8:50 am, one member of staff will walk around to the front of the school collecting any pupils that did not arrive in time. This means that no pupils will be unaccompanied on the playground and they will be escorted safely around to the office. One concern that I and the office have is when pupils arrive late (after 8:50am) they are not always accompanied by an adult. It is vital that any late children have a parent or guardian to sign them into school who can provide a reason for the lateness. This is then added to the register and is part of the safeguarding procedure of the school.

Next week is going to be a busy end to the term with a Valentine's Disco on the Tuesday night and parents' evening on the Wednesday and Thursday nights. We then break up for half-term on the Friday.

Just a reminder, we have an INSET day on Monday 25th February so pupils will return to school on Tuesday 26th February.

Mr Isaacs

Here are the results from question 11 from the pupils' survey.

| 11. How do you get on with your school work? | | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| I can do everything well | I can do most things well | I can do some things well | I can't do anything well |
| 16% | 58% | 22% | 4% |

This is always an interesting question to ask children about their learning. In class, teachers can use self-assessment to ascertain how well pupils feel they did with their work. In my experience, a question like this can be taken with a pinch of salt. Some pupils have a very negative opinion of themselves and will always give a conservative response, whilst others will give an inflated opinion of how well they did even though they may have made several mistakes. This is highly dependent on the mindset of the individual child.

As a school, we do try to support pupils with understanding how well they do. Through clear marking and feedback, pupils get an accurate indication of how well they work. We do, of course, ensure we provide positive feedback to children as we want them to be confident and enthusiastic learners and people.

Here are the results from question 12 from the pupils' survey.

| 12. What does your teacher think? | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| My teachers thinks my work is good | My teachers thinks my work is ok | My teachers thinks my work is poor | My teachers thinks my work is terrible |
| 45% | 45% | 6% | 4% |

Marking and feedback in schools has changed since I was taught as a young boy. The use of different colour highlighters and marking to the learning objectives (LOs or WALTs) provides clear feedback to the children. We use a green highlighter to show all the 'good' aspects of work (usually directly linked to the learning objective) as well as other aspects. This means children can clearly identify any successes they had – something which is vitally important for all children. We also use a pink highlighter to indicate work that children could improve. The pink highlighter stands for 'pink think' and is used to support pupils with thinking about an aspect the teacher feels they could improve.

The use of these highlighters (as well as comments and annotations made in red) means children receive clear feedback about what was good and something they could improve. The use of grades or scores is meaningless when providing feedback as they do not indicate how the child needs to improve. Unfortunately, some pupils focus on the pink highlighting and see it as negative rather than support about how they could improve which would move their learning on.

Authorised Absence



The Education (Pupils' Attendance Records) Regulations 1991 require schools to determine whether an absence can be deemed to be authorised or whether the child should be regarded as being absent without permission i.e. truanting. In the terms of the legislation it is only the school who can approve the absence, not the parent. Here at St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School, absence may be authorised for the following reasons:

- 1) Pupil illness.
- 2) Pupil is absent on a day set aside for religious observance.
- 3) Pupil is participating in an approved public performance (a licence needs to be obtained from the Local Authority and copy provided to the school).
- 4) Permission has been granted by the Headteacher through the Absence Request Procedure.
- 5) Pupil is absent following the death of a close family member.
- 6) Pupil has a medical or dental appointment, confirmed with an appointment card/ letter. The child is expected to attend school prior to the appointment or return to school after the appointment - medical or dental appointments should be booked outside of school hours wherever possible.
- 7) If a student is excluded from school.



Mobile Phone reminder

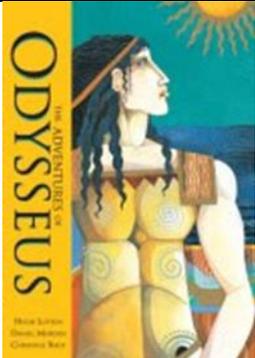
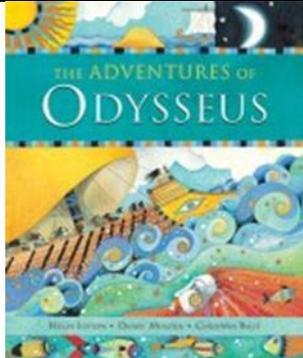
Just a reminder to parents that if pupils bring mobile phones to school (for safety purposes if walking home alone) they must be handed into the office for safeguarding. As you know mobiles are not permitted in school and if phones are left in bags, there is an increased chance they could be taken. Please be aware that the school takes no responsibility for any phones brought onto site.

Class assembly – due to the ‘snow day’, we have decided to re-arrange the Class 5/6 assembly to Friday 1st March – same time at 3:00pm.

Poet Visit

Professional poet and story teller, Daniel Morden, will be working with each class in Key Stage 2 on Tuesday 26th February (first day after half term). Daniel will facilitate an exciting and inspiring lesson on a Greek myth (‘Midas and His Wish’ for classes 3 and 4/5 and ‘The Beauty Contest’ for classes 5/6 and 6). We hope the children will have a great day and produce a Homeric style poem to perform to the school at our Eisteddfod. If you would like to buy any of Daniel’s books, they will be available on the day for cash. Please see below for details.



| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| The Adventures of Odysseus £7.99 Paperback Chapter Book | Adventures of Odysseus £10.99 Hardback | Greek Myths £8.99 Paperback Chapter Book |

Don't forget
Parents'
Evening!

Just to remind parents if you have not yet booked a appointment yet, appointments can be booked through the school office.

This is another opportunity to come into school, look at your child's books and speak to the teachers about your child's progress and work. At the meeting, you will also be given your child's targets that they are working on in class, so you can support them at home as well.

Please remember each appointment is only 10 minutes – if you need longer, please arrange another meeting (at a later date) so the meeting doesn't inadvertently overrun.

Dates for your diary

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------|----------|---|
| Monday | 25 th | February | INSET Day 4 – School Closed |
| Monday | 3 rd | June | INSET Day 5 – School Closed |
| Tuesday | 21 st | May | Sports day |
| Thursday | 23 rd | May | Sports day reserve |
| Tuesday | 12 th | February | PTFA – Valentine's Disco – letter already sent |
| Wednesday | 13 th | February | Parents' Evening 1 (4:00pm to 7:00pm) |
| Thursday | 14 th | February | Parents' Evening 2 (3:50pm to 6:30pm) CAMINO mass |
| Thursday | 14 th | February | Play In a Day postponed |
| Friday | 15 th | February | Year 4/5 class assembly (3:00pm) |
| Monday | 18 th | February | Half Term |
| Monday | 25 th | February | INSET Day 4 – School Closed |
| Tuesday | 26 th | February | Term 4 starts School book fair in school for the week Daniel Morden visit (poet working with Key stage 2 classes) |
| Friday | 1 st | March | Year 5/6 class assembly (3:00pm) |
| Wednesday | 6 th | March | School Liturgy – Holy day of obligation – Ash Wednesday |
| Thursday | 7 th | March | Year 1 Liturgy (3:00pm) PTFA – Mothers' Day Flowers – letter to follow soon |
| Friday | 8 th | March | Year 3 class assembly (3:00pm) |
| Monday | 11 th | March | School's anti-bullying week |
| Friday | 15 th | March | PTFA Film Club – letter to follow soon |
| Thursday | 21 st | March | Play In A Day |
| Thursday | 28 th | March | Key Stage 2 Easter Performance (2:00pm in the church) |
| Friday | 29 th | March | Year 2 class assembly (3:00pm) |
| Monday | 1 st | April | PTFA - Easter Bonnet parade (in assembly) PTFA - Easter Bake Off competition and cake sale |
| Wednesday | 3 rd | April | Year 4 leave for Kilve Court residential |
| Friday | 5 th | April | Year 4 return from Kilve Court residential |
| Monday | 8 th | April | Easter Holidays |
| Tuesday | 23 rd | April | Term 5 starts |
| Thursday | 25 th | April | School Mass - St Augustine's Church (9:30am) |
| Friday | 26 th | April | Year 4 Cake Sale (3:30pm) |
| Thursday | 9 th | May | Reception Liturgy (3:00pm) |
| Friday | 10 th | May | Year 1 class assembly (3:00pm) |
| Monday | 13 th | May | Year 6 SATs week |
| Monday | 20 th | May | Sports Week |
| Tuesday | 21 st | May | Sports Day |
| Thursday | 23 rd | May | Sports Day reserve (in case of poor weather on Tuesday 21 st May) |