



"Created by God to love and learn"

NEWSLETTER 13 2018-2019

15.03.19

School's
 Attendance
 Target: 96%
 Actual: 95.4%

This week has been anti-bullying week in school. The purpose of this is to raise awareness of the bullying of children and young people, in schools and elsewhere, and to highlight ways of preventing and responding to it. The children explored what bullying is and discussed possible ways about how to deal with it.

Earlier this week, on Tuesday, Reception class visited Redwood Outdoor Learning Centre near Slimbridge. Although it was wet and windy, the children all enjoyed themselves as they took part in a treasure hunt where they needed to solve number based clues to identify a mystery book. Mrs O'Connor was happy to report that the children solved the clues and found a small fluffy pig from the story of The Three Little Pigs. Then in the afternoon, the children built a den for the pig that they found. Mrs O'Connor and Miss Tarbard said the children enjoyed themselves but it was a shame about the weather.

Last week the school's football team took part in a cup match against Olveston Primary School. Before the match we knew it would be tough and that certainly proved to be the case as it was finally decided on penalties. Fortunately, St Augustine's won 2:1 and we progressed through to the semi-final, which will be played at home on Friday 22nd March. Fingers crossed we can get a good result and make it through to the final!

Mr Isaacs

Here are the results from question 15 from the pupils' survey.

15. Which of the following is most like you?			
I never bully other children	I sometimes bully other children	I bully other children quite often	I bully other children all the time
95%	4%	0%	1%

Whenever we do work on anti-bullying, we always talk about what constitutes bullying and every year pupils always have a misconception. Most children think that one-off incidents mean that someone is being bullied however, we know this not to be true.

These results are mostly as expected – due to the Catholic ethos and caring nature of everyone associated with the school, we know that there are very few incidents of bullying. However, although very rare, we endeavour to deal with any incidents or allegations of bullying swiftly. We find that education is more powerful than sanctions alone and through education, we hope to stop any such incidents.

Many of you reading this will be alarmed by the fact that one child admitted to bullying people all the time, however, knowing who the child is, I can confidently confirm they do not bully anyone and that they misread the question.

Here are the results from question 16 from the pupils' survey.

16. How do the children behave in your class?			
They always behave well	Most of the time they behave well	Most of the time they behave badly	They always behave badly
14%	64%	16%	6%

With the data showing that, 78% of pupils believe that the children in their class behave well this is what we would expect to see. From learning walks and observations that I have taken part in, as well as the Local Authority visit and a head teacher visit earlier this year, we saw very few incidents of poor behaviour. In fact, the visiting head teacher made positive comments regarding the behaviour of our pupils, which is always comforting to hear from other professionals.

Unfortunately, there is, like in any class, some low level disruption, but the teaching staff deal with this swiftly. Every week we speak to the children in assembly and highlight how their attitudes contributes towards their learning and how they have a right to an education. By constantly reminding children of this, this becomes our expectation and all pupils are here to work so that if there is any disruption it will have a minimal effect of the rest of the class. I am still amazed even now, how adaptable children are. Even at times when some pupils, who find school difficult, are overwhelmed with the situation, the rest of the class are often unfazed and just ignore this disruption. These actions are testament to the ethos and work ethic of the school as well as the culture my predecessor created and instilled in the children.



Attendance Policy

Last week we sent out our school attendance policy to all parents as a way of communicating our expectation. Now that the winter months have passed and the children seem to be healthier, I'm looking forward to see our attendance figures rise. Already more classes are above our target of 96%, which is very encouraging. Every week in our Gospel assembly on a Monday, the pupils really want to win the certificate and it was great to see a class win it who had not won it previously. The attendance policy is also available on the website or from the office on request.

End of Financial Year

We are approaching the end of this financial year could you please ensure that any outstanding balances are paid by Thursday 21st to assist the office staff. Dinner money balances are available via the office.

PE kit and notes

I have been asked again by staff to remind you (and your children) that if for whatever reason your child is unable to physically participate in PE, can we please have a note explaining this. Without a note from a parent, pupils are required to take part in PE as it is part of their curriculum.

Remember, if a child does not have a PE kit, it does not mean they cannot take part. Pupils can always work as mentors and coaches by offering advice and watching for people using correct techniques.



Dates for your diary

Monday	3rd	June	INSET Day 5 – School Closed
Tuesday	21 st	May	Sports day
Thursday	23 rd	May	Sports day reserve
Tuesday	19th	March	Year 1 and Year 2 trip to Bristol Aerospace
Thursday	28th	March	Key Stage 2 Easter Performance (2:00pm in the church)
Friday	29th	March	Year 2 class assembly (3:00pm) PTFA – Mother’s Day Flowers
Monday	1st	April	PTFA – Easter Bonnet parade (in assembly) cancelled PTFA - Easter Bake Off competition and cake sale
Wednesday	3rd	April	Year 4 leave for Kilve Court residential
Friday	5th	April	Year 4 return from Kilve Court residential
Monday	8th	April	Easter Holidays
Tuesday	23rd	April	Term 5 starts
Thursday	25th	April	School Mass - St Augustine’s Church (9:30am)
Friday	26th	April	Year 4 Cake Sale (3:30pm)
Wednesday	1st	May	Parents’ Open Evening - Relationships and Sex Education (6:30pm)
Monday	6th	May	Bank Holiday
Thursday	9th	May	Reception Liturgy (3:00pm)
Friday	10th	May	Year 1 class assembly (3:00pm)
Monday	13th	May	Year 6 SATs week
Monday	20th	May	Sports Week
Tuesday	21st	May	Sports Day
Thursday	23rd	May	Sports Day reserve (in case of poor weather on Tuesday 21 st May)

Finally,

May I also congratulate Mr Mark Hilliam on his appointment as the school’s substantive Head Teacher. Following the retirement of Mr Clements, the school needed a substantive Catholic Head Teacher to help guide it through its next stage of its life.

Mr Hilliam will visit the school for a few days between now and when he takes charge on September 1st. During this time, he will be able to meet the children and staff again as well as speak to myself about where the school is currently. By working together, we aim for a smooth transition so that the children’s education is not compromised.