

St. Martin's Catholic Primary School

November 2018 Newsletter

I hope you have all had a good half term break and are ready for the hectic run up to Christmas. I know this is a very busy time both in school and at home so please do try to get as involved as you can in everything that is going on. I hope to see all of you at some point.

Breakfast Bagels

As from the start of next month we are going to be giving out free Breakfast bagels to everyone as they arrive at school. These free bagels are funded as part of the National School Breakfast Programme. However we will need help to be able to get these ready to distribute.



If you feel that you could be available any single morning each week to put the bagels in the ovens and to place them in baskets and help to distribute them, could you please let me know by handing your name into the School Office with your preferred morning?



The intention is to give them out from outside the Church door as people arrive to go through the Infant gate. We hope to have the bagels available from 8.45am. Everyone, not just school children, will be able to help themselves, subject to availability!

Please note that all the children who go to the Breakfast Club will also be entitled to get these and that Tuck will still be available for all Y2 and upwards as well.

Karen's Path

Thank you so much for all the money that has been donated through our Sponsored Dance-a-thon, up to date you have raised £2,285. As I have previously informed you, this money is going towards making Karen's Path. We are hoping that the work will begin in the next few weeks and it will be available for the children to use in the very near future. Thank you so much once again and I am sure that this will be a very special memorial for Karen. Look out for further details when they are available.



The Danny Project

The children from Year 6 have been taking part in 'The Danny Project'. The Daniel Adamson 'Danny' is a remarkable survivor from the steam age and a most unusual vessel. A small but incredibly powerful canal tug, she was built to tow long strings of barges laden with goods from the inland towns of Cheshire and the Potteries to the great seaport of Liverpool. As part of this they have written their own Shanty song and have completed art work and written work. Our children are going to be involved in a presentation at



The Brindley on Monday 12th November at 2pm. Parents are very

welcome to come and see the children perform. All children need to be collected from the Brindley and not from school on that Monday afternoon. Tickets are free direct from the Brindley.

Mass for Peace and Reconciliation

This Wednesday we will be welcoming children from Our Lady Mother of the Saviour and St Augustine's to a Mass for Peace and Reconciliation. Mass will begin at 10.00am Wednesday 7th November and parents are welcome to come and attend. This is a great chance during the week celebrating the 100th Year since the end of World War one to pray for peace throughout the world.



Years 5 and 6 trip to Edinburgh

We have arranged a trip for our Years 5 and 6 pupils to Edinburgh next February. The children will be going straight after February half term, 18th to 21st February 2019. The total cost will be £200 per pupil and this includes a subsidy of £50 per pupil. Whilst we are there we will go to Edinburgh Zoo to see the pandas, Edinburgh Castle and even see £1,000,000 note! There are 50 places available and are filling up fast so please get your child's name down as soon as possible.



Breakfast Club and After School Club

Our Breakfast Club continues its great work. It is open from 7.30am - 8.45am and only costs £2.50 per child which is great value including their breakfast. Please note the children are not allowed into the school or onto the playground before 8.45am as there is no supervision. If your child arrives at school earlier than this, then they need to go to the Breakfast Club.



Our After School Club continues to go from strength to strength. If you wish to use the facility you need to contact Laura on 07757840673. Infant children will be collected from Class and Juniors can make their own way there. The cost per session is £2 and children must be collected before 4.30pm. They have a great time there.

The children all look fantastic in their new uniform and I am very grateful for your support in this. Please do take note however that all children should have shoes or sandals, **not trainers**. Junior children may play out in trainers but cannot wear them in school. A change of shoes for indoor wear would be advisable when the weather is wet - pumps from the PE kit can be used. Infant children need velcro fasteners and not laces unless they can tie them themselves.



Easyfundraising well done everyone

Well done everyone as we have now raised over £1050 for school at no cost to yourselves through buying things online through Easyfundraising App. If you could encourage others to take part, especially as we run up to Christmas, we could raise a great deal more.

Attendance and Holidays during term time

As you will be aware, the rules around holidays in term time have now changed and we are no longer allowed to authorise any holiday requests except in exceptional circumstances. Families, who take holidays in term time, will be contacted by Halton's EWO service, which **may** result in the issuing of a fixed penalty fine. If your child is off with illness for any length of time, then you must send in medical evidence for their absence. Thanks for your help in this matter. You understand that the best way for children to achieve well at school is for them to have a good attendance and that means 95% +.



Children in Need - Brighten Up! Fancy Socks Day

Friday 16th November is BBC Children in Need day. This year our theme is 'Brighten up' and we are asking all the children to wear Crazy Socks for the day. I am trying to sort out the brightest socks that I can find to be able to wear for the day. Hopefully sourcing fancy socks will not be too difficult for anybody. The children are to bring in £1 donation towards Children in Need if they get dressed up.



Friends of St Martin's Christmas Fair

This year our Friends of St Martin's Christmas Fair will be held on Friday 7th December at 1.00pm. We have decided to change it to the afternoon to give us more time and so that we are not having to rush to set up for dinners straight afterwards. In order to generate items for the play we are asking for the following:



Week beginning 12th November

Bring in a **gift/s** (for the gift stall)

Week beginning 17th November

Bring in a **selection box** (chocolate tombola)

Week beginning 26th November

Bring in **toys** (Toy stall)

Thursday 6th December

Non uniform day for **cakes** (cake stall)

Thanks for all your help and support with this and we look forward to seeing you on the day at the Christmas Fair

Helping your child to be fit and ready to learn in school



Many parents ask us how they can help their child to be best ready to learn. We would advise making sure they get a good night's sleep. Infants in bed by 7.00/7.30pm and older Juniors by 8.00/8.30pm. Make sure they calm down, talking to them or reading a story once they are in bed for five to ten minutes. Limit the amount of time they access the internet on phones, tablet computers or PCs and know what they are accessing as it could well be very inappropriate. Have everything ready for school the night before to avoid forgetting book bags/lunch boxes/equipment/kits in the morning.

Dealing with Bereavement

Child Bereavement UK is offering a talk for parents on Wednesday 21st November at 1.45pm on coping with bereavement. This is open to everybody whether you have had to cope with bereavement or just wish to be better informed for the day you will need it. Clare Bullen who will be leading the session is excellent and has already worked with the staff. I can highly recommend the session and would suggest you attend if at all possible.



Christmas Events

As you can see from the Diary Dates below, there are now dates for Christmas Fair, 1.00pm Friday 7th December; Infants' Advent Service 10.00am Wednesday 5th December and Juniors' Nativity Wednesday 12th December at 2.00pm and 6.00pm. We are also celebrating our Advent Mass on Wednesday 19th December 9.15am.



Diary Dates

Wednesday 7 th November	Mass for Peace and Reconciliation	10.00am
Friday 9 th November	Infants' Cinema trip - Sherlock Gnomes	
Monday 12 th November	Y6 'The Danny' performance at The Brindley	2.00pm
Friday 16 th November	Crazy Socks Day	
Tuesday 20 th November	Juniors' Cinema trip - The Greatest Showman	
Wednesday 21 st November	Child Bereavement UK meeting	1.45pm
Friday 23 rd November	<u>Inset Day - School closed</u>	

Please note this is a change from the original holiday dates

Wednesday 5 th December	Infants' Advent Service	10.00am
Thursday 6 th December	Non uniform day for cakes	
Friday 7 th December	Christmas Fair	1.00pm
Wednesday 12 th December	Juniors' Nativity	2.00pm and 6.00pm
Wednesday 19 th December	Advent Mass	9.15am
Friday 21 st December	Early closing Christmas holidays	2.30pm
Monday 7 th January	Children return	9.00am

I have tried to give you as many dates as possible for the rest of the term, some could be subject to change but I will try to keep you as informed as possible.

Many thanks for your continued help and support. Please do not forget that if you have any problems, worries or ideas to contact me.

May God bless us all,
Yours sincerely,

Mr P D Hallman
Headteacher

If your child's contact details have changed please complete and return the slip below

Name of child: _____ Class: _____

New details: Phone: _____

Address: _____

