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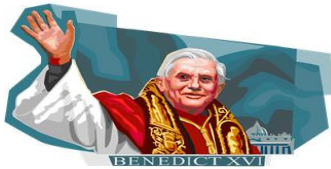
www.thegoodshepherdprimaryschool.co.uk

## PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

### Advent 2010

Dear Parents / Carers,

#### The Papal Visit: 'The Big Assembly'



On September 17<sup>th</sup> 2010, Sian - Elise Warr and Edward Taylan, both Yr. 6 pupils, accompanied me to see Pope Benedict XVI at St. Mary's College at Twickenham.

We had to get up at 3.a.m. in the morning and left school by coach at 4.50 a.m. It was dark and cold, but we were very excited.

When we arrived, security was very tight to gain access to see Pope Benedict. All adults were required to take their passports because of the tight security. There was a complete lock down at 9.a.m.

Then the excitement began to build. There were thousands of children with their Headteachers from Catholic schools all over the country that had travelled long distances to see the Pope Benedict.

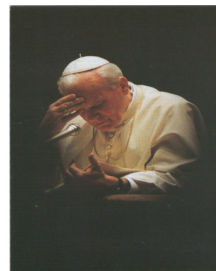
On our arrival we were all given 'Pilgrim' bags which contained the following (Prayer book /Order of Service, shoulder bag, flag, leather book mark, a banana, bottle of water and a foil insulation blanket). We were starving so we had our first shared meal together sat on our blankets.

Then the 'warm up' began. We rehearsed hymns, prayers and everything was projected on the big screens before us. At last we saw the arrival of Pope Benedict at St. Mary's Chapel as he took part in the Prayer Service for Priests and Religious. We were able to watch this on the big screens as it happened. We could hear the throb of helicopters overhead. First there was one, then two, then three. At last we heard the roar of the crowd as Pope Benedict

arrived in his Pope Mobile. Then the Big Assembly began!

We listened to the two beautiful Choirs that had been specially selected and we all prayed and sang together. Pope Benedict spoke to us; his speech was both inspirational and full of love. We all agreed that being in Pope Benedict's presence was something we would never forget.

I have been fortunate to have been in the presence of two Popes during my lifetime. I was in Rome at the time when Pope John Paul was seriously ill and we were in St. Peter's Square when he gave his final blessing on the big screen from the Gemelli Hospital.



Please remember both of them in your prayers.



#### The Headteacher's Challenge:

It is my intention to hold a 'Headteacher's Challenge' every year. Last year I held the 'Pumpkin Challenge' and this proved to be a successful way to encourage the children to be creative in their learning. I awarded prizes as well as writing cups.

When I first started teaching at the age of 27 years I taught in a school in Wallsend in Tyne and Wear. My Headteacher was called Miss Wynne Melville who became an inspiration to me. I left the area when I got married to my husband and even though I had moved on; we continued to keep in touch by letter and by visits when I went home to see my parents. She was always interested in hearing what I was doing in school and was proud that I had become a Headteacher too. We had a lot in common, we both loved teaching, and we both enjoyed painting, walking and nature.

Sadly in July Miss Melville died. I was very surprised to receive a letter informing me she had left me £1,000 in her will. Once I had come to terms with her death I had to decide what to do with my unexpected inheritance.

I have decided to purchase a shield which will be awarded each year to the child that produces the best work in the 'Headteacher's Challenge'. The child that produces the best piece of work will have their name engraved on it. The shield will be known as the '**Melville Shield**'. I will also purchase prizes for the runners up. I have already made donations to the following charities:

Northampton Eye Department £500  
Diabetic Children's Christmas Party £50  
'Animals in Need' £50

I hope that by purchasing the shield it will keep the memory of a very special lady alive in our school.

Thank you

### Summer Break

We have now been back at school for four weeks and the children are all now settled into their new classes with their new teachers. Much has happened during the summer holidays.

The **Hall floor** has been sanded and the surface has been renewed.

The **Secret Garden Lake** has been cleaned out, relined and has been filled with water thanks to Anglian Water who did this for us free of charge.

In the **Reception outdoor area** we now have a bright colourful safety surface as well as new climbing equipment.

Our **school kitchen** has been refurbished. All the equipment has been renewed and we now are able to **prepare hot meals for the whole school**. I would like to thank you for your understanding when we were late in being able to offer hot meals at the beginning of term. This was as you

know because of safety checks that needed to be carried out.

A very hectic holiday period both for myself, my staff and the contractors working on site!

### Dates for the Diary:

#### 28<sup>th</sup> September 7pm

Thomas of Canterbury Mass for Staff and Governors at St Gregory's Catholic Primary School.

#### 30<sup>th</sup> September

**Mrs. Walker** launched the 'Headteacher's Challenge'. This year the focus is on developing children's **creative writing skills**. **Please encourage your child to take part.**

#### September 30<sup>th</sup>

Year 5 Wind band lessons begin.



#### 1<sup>st</sup> October

Mr Gardiner (Head Teacher at Thomas Becket) visits Year 6

#### 4<sup>th</sup> October

'World Animal Day' Assembly – 9 a.m.



Led by Mrs Walker and Mr Tunn on this the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

As well as some specially invited pets, the children and staff will also be given a talk by a representative from 'Animals in Need' who will be presented with food donated by **Asda** and **Waitrose**. A collection of money will take place before and after school for this very good cause. I will let you know the final total we have collected later on.



#### 4<sup>th</sup> October

4pm-6pm Parents' Evening

Please contact the school office to make an appointment as advised in the letter earlier this term.



N. B. This year we have **allocated two nights** when staff are available to discuss your child's progress. Because of other staff commitments i.e. After School Clubs, One to One Tuition, Staff Meetings etc. we cannot allocate other evenings to individual parents as we have done in the past.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> October

Mrs Walker will attend a 'Celebrating Catholic Education' Conference at Westminster Cathedral in London

#### 7<sup>th</sup> October

The Fire and Rescue Services 'Red Watch' deliver an Assembly for the whole school.



#### 7<sup>th</sup> October

2.30pm

A Story afternoon *will take place* in school to celebrate '**Children's Book Week**'



#### 7<sup>th</sup> October

6pm – 8pm Parents' Evening

Please contact the school office to make an appointment as advised in the letter earlier this term.



#### 8<sup>th</sup> October

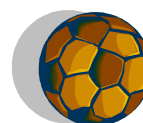
**2p.m. - Procession to Our Lady of the Rosary**

Please assemble on the slope at the top of the Key Stage 2 playground. All members of your family are welcome.



#### 13<sup>th</sup> October

KS2 House Football Tournament in the afternoon



#### 21<sup>st</sup> October

**School closes to children at 3.15 p.m.**

#### 22<sup>nd</sup> October

**Diocesan Training Day at Thomas Becket Secondary School – All staff involved**



**School re –opens on November 1<sup>st</sup>**

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> November

**Rainbows for All God's children week 1**



#### Week beginning 8<sup>th</sup>

**November**

**This week we find out more about Judaism.**

**8<sup>th</sup> November** Prospective parents looking for a place in Reception 2011 are welcomed to tour the School with Mrs. Walker - 11am

#### 9<sup>th</sup> November

Mrs. Jo Elijah will visit school to talk to the children in Years 1,2,3,4 about Judaism.



**9<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Rainbows for All God's children week 2**



**11<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Mrs Jo Elijah visits school once more to talk to the children in Years 5 and 6 about Judaism.**



**15<sup>th</sup> November**  
Prospective parents looking for a place in Reception 2011, are welcomed to tour the School with Mrs. Walker - 11am

**16<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Rainbows for All God's children week 3**



**17<sup>th</sup> November**  
Prospective parents looking for a place in Reception 2011 are welcomed to tour the School with Mrs. Walker – 1.30 p.m.

**Week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> November**  
**Road Safety Week**



**22<sup>nd</sup> November**  
'Browsing Day' The children will have the opportunity to look at the books for sale at the Book Fair.



**23<sup>rd</sup> November**  
KS2 House Cross Country Event  
All children in KS2 will take part in the cross country to gain House points for their team.

**BOOK FAIR 3.30 – 4.00**  
**You will be able to come along to KS2 to buy any of the books on offer. The commission from the sale of books, enables us to buy more books for the School Library. THANK YOU!**

**23<sup>rd</sup> November**  
**Rainbows for All God's children week 4**



**24<sup>th</sup> November**  
**'Friends of the Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School' AGM**

**To be held in the main Hall at 2.00 p.m.**

Please do try to come along and support this hard working group of mums. Refreshments will be served.

Please note dads, grannies, granddads are most welcome to join us too.

**BOOK FAIR 3.30 – 4.00**

**You will be able to come along to KS2 to buy any of the books on offer. Any sale gives the school a percentage to purchase books for the School Library**

**26<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Mufti Day in aid of the 'Hope Centre' in Northampton**

On this day the children may wear their own clothes to help raise money for the **Hope Centre** who do such good work for the homeless in Northampton.

May we request voluntary donations to be made towards this very good cause.

**30<sup>th</sup> November**

**Rainbows for All God's children week 5**



**3<sup>rd</sup> December**  
**Our **Second** Fund Raise for Pakistan Flood Victims**

Today there will be a Cake Stall at morning break when the children can buy cakes. that have been made and donated.



Please bake cakes in **advance** on a Christmas theme. (Christmas tree shape biscuits, Cakes decorated with silver balls, sparkly icing, mince pies, chocolate logs, snow cake, etc)

**N.B. Thank you so much to those parents, children and staff who baked cakes for our cake stall on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October. All monies raised will go to CAFOD for Pakistan.**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> December**



At **2.30p.m.** there will be the opportunity for parents to come in and buy a cake and a cup of tea. The **Choir** will be there to sing Christmas Carols and there will also be a **Christmas Raffle and a Bring and Buy Stall (toiletries / jewellery / unwanted gifts etc.**

Any donations of cakes, raffle prizes or items for the Bring and Buy **would be most appreciated. All proceeds will be sent to CAFOD to help support victims in Pakistan.**

### **December 6<sup>th</sup>**



#### **EYFS Christmas Nativity**

This will involve all the children in Nursery and all children in Classes 1 and 2 in Reception 'Little Lambs' Nursery and all Reception children will join together to share the Nativity story with you.

### **December 7<sup>th</sup> Key Stage 1 and Nursery Christmas Dinner**

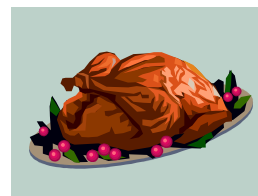
On this day all Key Stage 2 children will need to bring a packed lunch, **as no other hot food will be provided for them at school.** If your child is eligible for a free school meal, a packed lunch will be provided for them.



### **December 8<sup>th</sup> Key Stage 2 Christmas Dinner**

On this day all Key Stage 1 children will need to bring a packed lunch, **as no other hot food will be provided for them at school on this day.**

If your child is eligible for a free school meal, a packed lunch will be provided for them.



### **December 9<sup>th</sup> 3.15pm – 7pm Rainbows 'Celebrate Me' day**



This celebration is for the children that have been attending our 'Rainbows for All God's Children' Groups. More information will follow from Ms Bogan.

### **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am**

The theatre group M&M Productions will be performing 'Cinderella' **for the whole school.**



**More details from Mr Donald will follow soon.**

### **Friday 10th December Nursery, Key Stage 1 and 2 Children's Christmas Parties - in the afternoon.**

Smart clothes or party clothes may be worn. Our Parents' Association very kindly provide the food and drinks for our Christmas Party.



We would be very grateful for offers of help from parents for our Christmas parties. Please call in at the office if you can help put the food out on **December 10<sup>th</sup>.** We rely on your help on this occasion. Thank you!

## Merry Christmas Mr Scrooge

Key Stage 2 are presenting their  
Christmas Performance  
On

Monday 13th December

At

1.45pm

And on

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December

At

7 p.m.

Tickets cost £2 each.

These will be available from 30<sup>th</sup> November.

All monies raised from the ticket sales will help pay for the licence to perform as well as props, costumes etc. Monies left over will be part of our Charity Campaign for 2011.

We have a limited number of tickets available, due to Health and Safety concerns, therefore **only 2 tickets per family will** be issued until 8<sup>th</sup> December.

If there are any tickets left after that date these will be available to anyone on a first come, first served basis.



14<sup>th</sup> December

Key Stage 1 Advent Prayer  
Service – 2.30 p.m.

Key Stage 1 will reflect upon the Christmas Story with a spiritual reflection.

Once again admission will be by ticket only.

We have a limited number of tickets available, due to Health and Safety concerns, therefore **only 2 tickets per family will** be issued until 8<sup>th</sup> December.

If there are any tickets left after that date these will be available to anyone on a first come, first served basis.

Tickets will be £2.00 each



17<sup>th</sup> December

School closes for Christmas at 3.15 p.m.



## School Uniform

Items of school uniform are for sale every Wednesday at the School Office. There will be another opportunity to order school uniform Wk. **Beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>**

### Second Hand Uniform Sale

(If you have any uniform your child has grown out of and that is in good condition, please donate it to the school)

Please bring anything you wish to donate to the main office.

Thank you for your kindness in helping others.

### Punctuality

May I extend our thanks to those of you who are making an effort to ensure your children arrive and are collected on time each day. Please keep up the good work.

### Requests for Holidays during School term time

Please **do not book holidays** during term time. Our school has been identified by the **L A** as having attendance that is below the percentage agreed by the authority with OfSTED. We have been working hard to address this and I would like to say a big **thank you** to those parents who have not taken their child / children out of school during term time.

The authorisation of absence is at the discretion of the Headteacher. In future I cannot authorise any more holidays during term time.

The only absences I can authorise during term time are those requested on compassionate grounds.

### 'Nourish' Healthy hot school meals

Our delicious hot healthy meals are now being prepared in the new kitchen. Now that the weather is changing it is an ideal opportunity for your child to have a hot meal.

For further information about the 'Nourish' Menus, please see the information board by the tree.

- Can I remind you that you have to pre-book school meals
- Dinners must be paid for by the **Tuesday** of the week before the meals are required
- Please note we are unable to provide meals if you have forgotten your child's lunch. Should this happen, you will be asked to bring in a packed lunch for your child before 12.00. This is beyond the control of the school as all meals are provided by NCC.

**Letters to Parents**

The **Office have requested** that all parents check their child's book bag daily as some letters that are sent home are not reaching you on time.

**Music Tuition**

**Please can we ask for prompt payment for all Musical tuition – Thank you!**

**Parent Helpers**

Mrs. Swallow and I will once again provide training for any parents who would like to help in school on a regular basis. This will take place after half term now that the children have settled with their new class teachers. Please look out for a notice on the tree.

Many thanks for your friendship and continued co-operation. The staff and I look forward to preparing your children during Advent for the great celebration of Jesus' Birthday on Christmas Day.

Best wishes for a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Anne Walker (Mrs)

(Headteacher)

Yvonne Swallow (Mrs)  
Assistant Head Teacher