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## PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

**Pentecost Term  
May 2010**

Dear Parents,

As we move through the Pentecost Term there are many exciting things planned for your children as well as much to celebrate.



Please keep this newsletter to hand as there are many important dates in it.

### Dates for the Diary:

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

#### Key Stage 2 SSTs

Please ensure your child attends school each day on time.

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May**

2.15pm School Council Meeting

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

1.30-2.30 St Andrew's Celebration Party on the field

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

First Holy Communion at St Gregory's Church and St Aidan's Church



**Wk. beginning May 18<sup>th</sup>**



Part 2 of the 'All That I Am' Programme takes place this week with our Yr. 6 children. As before, Mrs. Walker will lead this Programme.

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Woodwind Recital for the Whole school by The Northamptonshire Music School



**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

### School Summer Fete .

Please help us by donating unwanted gifts and prizes – see list of stalls on posters around school.

In addition to our usual stalls there will be a plant sale with plants at very competitive prices, there will be Stocks for you to throw a sponge at whoever chooses to sit in them, Beat



the Goalie will also take place on the field. There will of course be our popular Bottle Stall, donations of full bottles will be much appreciated. Please put this date in your diary. There are lots of exciting events taking place. Please keep this date free. Food will be available all day.

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May**

Main Governors Meeting

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May**

### School Photographs

- Individual photographs
- Reception and Year 6 Group photos
- Family photos



Please make sure that all children attend school in clean uniforms – as usual – Thank you!

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May**  
10.00am Year 5 Assembly

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May**  
*School closes for Half Term*

**Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup>**  
First Holy Communion at The Cathedral of Our Lady and St. Thomas – 10.30 a.m.

**Monday June 7<sup>th</sup>**  
School reopens for pupils

**Tuesday June 8<sup>th</sup>**  
1.15 Golf Coaching for Classes 9 and 11



**Thursday June 10<sup>th</sup>**

## **GLADIATOR CHALLENGE**

**More information from Mr Coowar and Mr McClarty**



**Friday June 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Rev. Fr. Simon Penhalagan celebrates a First Holy Communicants Celebration Mass at 10 am in school. Parents of children who have received the Sacraments this year are welcome.**



**Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**St. Aidan's Garden Party – 12 – 3 p.m.**  
This lovely event will be held in our beautiful grounds. Do come along and support the Parish of St. Aidan's.

**Tuesday June 15<sup>th</sup>**  
1.15 Golf Coaching for Classes 10 and 12

**Tuesday June 15<sup>th</sup> 7pm**

Meeting for Parents whose children are joining the school in September 2010  
7 p.m. in the Main Hall.

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

**Walsingham - Visit by Year 3**

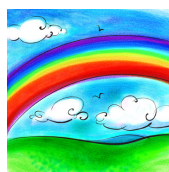
More details to come from Miss Radomilovic and Miss Bird



**Reception Classes Assembly**  
**10.00 (Classes 1 and 2)**

Parents of Classes 1 and 2 are welcome to attend

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June**



Rainbows for all God's children  
'Celebrate me Day'

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

Year 5 are visited by St John's Ambulance for First Aid Training in the afternoon

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June**

**Mass for St Peter and St Paul**

Rev. Monsignor Tony McDermott will celebrate at 10.00 a.m.

Year 6 are visited by St John's Ambulance for First Aid Training in the afternoon

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June**

Thomas of Canterbury School Council Mass at St Gregory's Church

**10.00am Year 3 Assembly – Parents of Yr. 3 children are welcome to attend**

**Thursday July 1<sup>st</sup>**

**7pm Family Mass and Buffet**

More information from our Parents Association later



**Tuesday July 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Sports day**

**Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 Sports Day**



10.30 a.m.  
**Key Stage 2 Sports Day**  
1.30p.m.  
**Reserve date if the weather is wet!**  
**Thursday July 13th**

**Wednesday July 7th**  
**End of Year Reports go out to Parents today**



**Thursday July 8th**  
M and M Productions (Theatre Group) perform 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.' This performance is for the whole school.  
More details to follow.

**Wednesday July 7<sup>th</sup> 2pm and Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July 7pm**

### **The Good Shepherd Arts Festival**

Children in KS2 will perform various items for your entertainment

### **Monday July 12th**

Transfer Day across the town. On this day all children move to their next class to meet their teacher for September. Children joining our Nursery or transferring to our Reception Year are invited to attend a session or spend the day with us. Children in Yr. 6 visit their next Secondary School for the day.

### **Tuesday July 13<sup>th</sup>**

Parents' Evening to discuss end of year reports 4 – 5 p.m.  
Please ring to book an appointment at the school office if you wish to discuss your child's report **once you have received it.**

### **Thursday July 15<sup>th</sup>**

9.00 Mr Williams and Mr Morley lead Assembly for the school

**Yr. 6 Leavers Disco: 6 – 9 p.m.**

### **Friday July 16<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Teddy Bears Picnic: - 2 p.m.**

For children joining our Reception Yr. in September 2010. This event is dependent on fine weather as the event will be held in our lovely school grounds.

Further information from our Parents' Association



### **Tuesday July 20<sup>th</sup>**

10am - Year 6 Leavers Mass  
**All Yr. 6 Parents are invited to attend.**

### **Wednesday July 21st**

**Yr. 6 Leavers' Assembly: – 10. 00 a. m.**  
**All Yr. 6 Parents are invited to attend.**

### **Thursday July 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**School closes for the Summer Holidays at 3.15 p.m.**

### **Charity Campaign**

May I express **my thanks to you all for your support during our Charity Campaign.**  
The children and staff worked very hard to raise a good amount of money. A final figure is not yet available; as usual, I will let you know in due course. Some of this money has already been allocated to Charities; the rest will go towards other worthwhile causes which are decided by the children and staff.

### **School Building Fund:**

**How do you go about helping, by way of a regular voluntary contribution to the 'School Buildings Fund'?**

**Read the leaflet that was sent out to all parents called 'Building Their Future'.  
Decide if and how you would like to contribute?**

1. Standing order + Gift Aid?  
(Each term or yearly?)
2. Cheque donation
3. Cash donation

**Standing Orders – should be signed by the same person who has signed the GAD (Gift Aid Donation) as a taxpayer even if it comes from a joint account.**

- If you agree to do this the value of your donation will increase by 30%
- The Diocese are asking you to donate the equivalent of £10.00 per child per term up to a maximum of £15.00 per term per family towards the 'School Buildings Fund'. That is the

equivalent of 79p a week per child over a 38 week school year.

- All monies collected will be put in a separate bank account to be used only for building work at The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School.

Thank you to those parents who support the school in this way. Over three hundred letters and leaflets from Bishop Peter were sent out as well as a presentation by myself and Dr. Philip Reynolds (Chair of Governors). Monies we have raised so far by organised and planned events:  
If you have any other fund raising suggestions, Please let me know!

Please don't forget the Governors 'School Building Fund' 100 Club. By joining the SBF you could win and help the school as well.

#### Uniform Orders

These can be taken on Wednesdays in the School Office. Payment with all orders please. We ask all parents to measure their own children. We cannot be held responsible for mistakes due to wrong measurements being taken by parents.

There will be an opportunity to buy second hand uniform at our **School Summer Fayre on May 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

#### PE Kit

Please can you ensure that your child / children have the correct, named P.E. kit for both indoor and outdoor P.E. We ask that either a track suit or track suit bottoms and a warm jumper. During the summer months we ask that children wear a plain tee shirt and shorts. No jewellery may be worn. All children must be kitted out for P.E. for Health and Safety

#### Parents of Yr. 6

On **Thursday July 22nd** it will be your child's last day at school. On this day I allow your children to wear their own clothes. If you have any school uniform in good condition that you cannot pass onto younger members of your family we would be happy to receive it. The proceeds from all second hand uniform sales is put into our 'Golden Fund' and is used to buy new uniform for needy families. Thank you!

#### Yr. 6 children only Walking Home Alone!



As you know I ask that all children of Primary age are collected by an adult known to both the child and the school.

However, in preparation for their move to Secondary School, as long as a Yr. 6 child has another Yr. 6 child to walk home with (**not younger children**) they may do so as long as I receive a letter in writing from the parents of both children concerned.

**Should any reports of unsuitable or dangerous behaviour be reported, this privilege will be withdrawn.**

**Please make sure that someone is at home to be responsible for your child when they return.**

If you request that your child can walk home with another Yr.6 child, the school cannot take any responsibility for their safe arrival home. This will be your responsibility entirely.

**Our children continue to have healthy snacks at morning break.**

**Water is available for all children.** In Nursery and Reception the children are offered milk or fruit drinks on occasions too.

#### In Key Stage 2 :

**The children are asked to bring in a bottle filled with water, which can be kept on their class trolley outside the classroom for them to access during the day.**

Please make sure it is **water** that is sent in and NOT fruity or fizzy drinks. Please ensure that all bottles are clearly named.

**Drinking fountains are available in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 for the children to use.**

#### **School Meals**

'Our new school meals are delicious'. This is the view of the children that are enjoying meals every week

The quality of the food is very good and the children and staff are really enjoying the meals served to them.

If your child has not tried them I would recommend them to you.

You are asked to book **two weeks in advance** for meals.

This new method of booking meals **means that you can discuss the menu with your child and be assured that your child will be given what you have ordered for them.**

The meals cost £2.00 a day.

Some children continue to bring packed lunches that contain **mainly chocolate bars and crisps**. It is important that your child has a healthy lunch each day. Statistics prove that a healthy diet and exercise helps a child concentrate and therefore improves their learning. Our 'Healthy Schools' award means that we encourage our children to eat healthily. Sometimes having a school dinner encourages the children to try new foods that they may not have tried in the past!

### **Free School Meals**

If you are entitled to free school meals please call into the School Office or you can telephone the County Council on 01604 236656 or email [freeschoolmeals@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@northamptonshire.gov.uk) for more information.

Ofsted look carefully at our Free School Meals figures and make a judgement on the school on the figures that receive Free School Meals. If you are entitled to them please do apply for them.

There is also the added incentive of a free computer for children in Y3-6 as well. (See previous letter.)

### **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.**

However, some parents are dropping off children before the specified time of **8.35 a.m.** We are not insured to look after children until this time **unless they attend 'Breakfast Club'.**

**Please do not leave your children unattended on the school site until you see a teacher on duty at 8.35 a.m.**

**Any Parents who leave their children without supervision before 8.35 a.m. will be contacted. This rule is for your child's own safety**

**Please collect your child on time each day.**

**If your child is attending an after school club, please be sure to collect them on time from the collection point.**

Late arrival of children and unauthorised absence is continually monitored by our **Educational Welfare Officer (Mrs. Em Moore)**

Our attendance module identifies absences and late arrivals. These figures are monitored by OfSTED! If your child arrives late the school is penalised.

Thank you for your continued help and friendship.

Best wishes,

Anne Walker (Mrs)  
Headteacher

