



**Diocese of Northampton
The Good Shepherd Catholic
Primary School**

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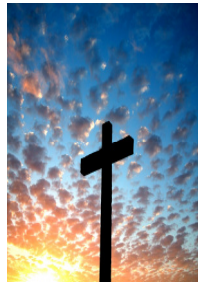
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PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

February 2010
Lenten Term



Dear Parents,

As we travel our Lenten journey, it is a time of prayer, of self – denial and of almsgiving or supporting charitable work. Jesus is the centre of our prayer. In his death on the cross he shows us the true meaning of love. Share this special time of renewal with your children and other members of your family. Remember that this year, Ash Wednesday falls during Half Term on **Wednesday February 17th**.



Our Charity Campaign began at Christmas. After we covered the cost of the licences / costumes / props etc. for the Christmas Concerts, any money that was raised from the sale of tickets, started off our Charity fund raise.

£764.49

During our 'Charity Campaign' with your help your children will be having fun and will be supporting many good causes through fund raising and charitable work. I would like to thank you for your support in advance.



The cake sale that was held by Reception staff and (Classes 1 and 2) last week raised **£ 196. 75**. Thank you for your donations of cakes and for allowing the children to buy them. Well done everyone!

Please see the list attached prepared by Mrs. Swallow, at the back of my Newsletter for more information about future events.

Dates for the Diary:

Tuesday 2nd February:



Rainbows – Wk.4

Thursday February 4th:

School Mission Planning Meeting – further details to follow.

Friday 5th February:

St. Andrews House celebrates their success in the main Hall (refreshments) with Mr. Donald and Miss Bird. Well done!





Tuesday February 9th:
Rainbows Wk. 5

Wednesday February 10th:
Yr. 3 visits Kingsthorpe Village as part of their studies on comparing different types of locations in History / Geography with Miss Radomilovic and Miss Bird.

Thursday February 11th:
Mr. Williams and Mr. Morley visit from the Bible School, Northampton



Thursday February 11th:
School closes to children today – 3.15 p.m.

HALF TERM

Friday February 12th:
Staff Training Day

Monday February 22nd:
School re-opens to pupils today

Tuesday February 23rd:



Rainbows Wk. 6

Wednesday February 24th:
Miss Howe and our JRSO's (Junior Road Safety Officers) lead on Assembly on Road Safety.

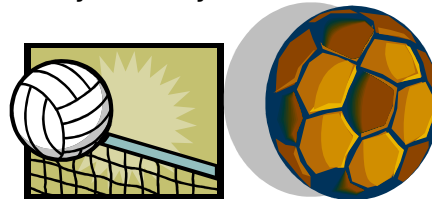


Wednesday February 24th:
Parents' Evening: 6 – 9 p.m.
'Little Lambs' Nursery +
Classes 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13, and 14
Please contact the main office to book an appointment.

N. B. It is vital that all parents book an appointment to see their child's Class teacher on this evening. My staff all work very hard to provide a high quality education for all the children. Please have the courtesy to make time to find out how your child is progressing on this occasion. It is not fair to expect staff to give up several other evenings for parents who do not make the effort to come on the designated evening.

Thank you for your help.

Friday February 26th:



Yr. 4 Multi Sport Event to be held at The Good Shepherd – 1.45 – 3.30 p.m. Organised as part of the **Thomas of Canterbury Partnership of schools in Northampton.**



Wednesday March 4th:



Rainbows '**Celebrate Me Day**' further details to follow from Ms. Bogan our Rainbows Co-ordinator. 3.15 – 6.30 p.m.

Thursday March 4th:

'World Book Day' – More information from Mrs. Swallow



Thursday March 4th:

SST's Evening for Parents and Yr. 6 children
7 – 8 p.m. in the Main Hall.

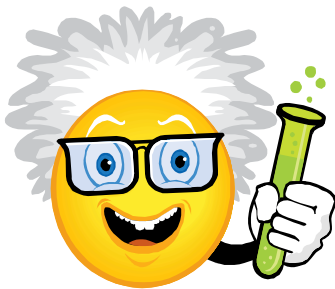
This is an important evening for all parents and children in Yr.6. Please do your best to attend.

Tuesday March 9th:

Come along to the main Hall to enjoy another Maths Evening for Parents led by Mrs. Williams. This time the focus is on how we teach measurement. 6.30 – 7.30 p.m.

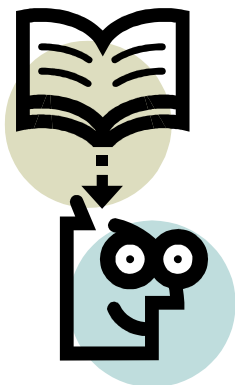
Monday March 15th:

National Science Day: Further information from Miss Radomilovic our Science Co-ordinator.



Book Fair 'Travelling Books'
March 16th, 17th, 3.15 – 3.45 p.m.

This is a great opportunity to buy books for your children. These will be on display in the KS2 central area. All monies raised is used to purchase additional books for school.



Thursday March 18th:

Mr. Williams and Mr. Morley visit from the Bible School, Northampton.



Thursday March 18th:

The School Nurse carries out screening of children in Reception.



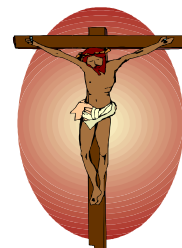
Monday March 22nd:

Our School Mission begins today. This special time of prayer and reflection will be planned by **the Sion Community**, in partnership with our Chaplaincy Team led by **Rev. Fr. Simon Penhalagan**. Our Mission will last the whole week and there will be opportunities to work together as a school community. More information will follow soon. Watch this space!



Tuesday March 30th - 10.00 a.m.

Stations of the Cross – All Parents and friends are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the main Hall.

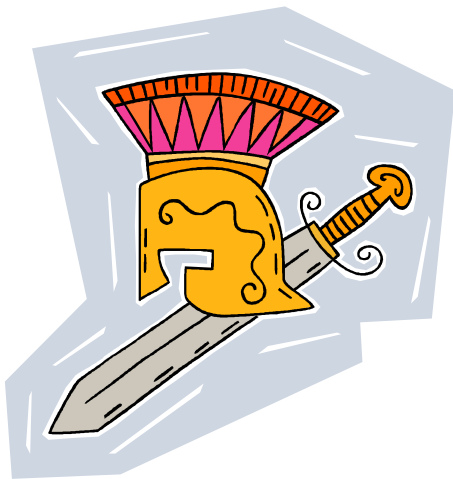




Thursday April 1st:
Easter Egg Raffle – 10.00 a.m.
All eggs are very kindly donated by the staff

Thursday April 1st:
School Closes for Easter

Sponsored Gladiator Sports Challenge:



Date to be arranged after Easter!

More information from **Mr. Coowar and Mr. McClarty**
This event will include **a variety of rewards for children that take part**. Please ask family, friends and work colleagues to sponsor your child. Forms will go out before Easter.



World Book Day

All children will receive a 'World Book Day' token valued at **£1**. These tokens can be spent at our Book Fair on **16th and 17th March in Key Stage 2 central area 3.15p.m. – 3.45 p.m.**

Uniform Order Week

Wk. beginning March 1st

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.

School Uniform:

May I remind you that neither trainers nor jelly shoes are acceptable footwear for school. All children must wear sensible flat school shoes.

Please place orders for uniform on Wednesdays.

8.45 a.m. – 9.15 a.m.

3.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.

Please try to avoid asking for uniform at other times unless it is an emergency – Thank you!

N. B. We now have a supplier for our blue and white **striped summer dresses**. These can be ordered now. Please place your order in the usual way. **Kindly note that blue and white checked dresses may not be worn. These are not part of the uniform agreed by the Governors.**

Can you sew?



We have had some lovely fabrics donated by one of our grandmas – Mrs. Christine Boylan. We would love some new costumes for our performance of The Stations of the Cross and I wondered if we had any parents or grandparents that would be prepared to come in and sew for us. **Please call in at the main office if you can help. We have two sewing machines in school that can be used and 'free' lunch and gallons of coffee and biscuits!**

After consultation with the class teacher and having successfully received CRB clearance we now have many parents helping in school. **Thank you, your help is much needed and appreciated. Please do come forward and talk to Mrs. Butler if you would like to help.**



Police

We have formed a really good relationship with our **Community Beat Officers**. They take Assemblies, spend time in school with the children and help teach them about keeping safe. They also pop in and have their lunch with the children from time to time.

In recent weeks we have had problems with cars backing up in Kingsland Gardens, making it impossible for people to deliver their children. This has been caused by a few inconsiderate people parking on the roundabout or in front of the gates. **I would like to thank the vast majority of you who are diligent in parking safely. By doing so there is a harmonious atmosphere at the gates when the children arrive and when they leave.**

Police Request:

Please do not park your car on the roundabout or park causing an obstruction. REMEMBER if we needed a Fire Engine or an Ambulance in an emergency, selfish parking would place your children at RISK.

Thank you for your co-operation

Small World Figures

We are looking for items that some of your older children may have grown out of to make some 'Small World' displays as a **stimulus to encourage writing**. The following items would be very useful:

- Plastic dinosaurs
- Plastic insects / bugs
- Cars, boats, cement mixers etc.
- Small figures i.e. workmen, spacemen, farmers, doctors / nurses, policemen, pirates, small dolls etc. multi cultural figures, figures with different disabilities
- Farm animals, Zoo animals, birds, pets,
- In addition we are looking for pieces of unusual fabric, including fur fabric, shiny materials, velvet, silk, net etc.
- Shiny beads, pebbles, sea shells, artificial greenery, flowers etc.

If you would like to off load any of the items above to a good cause, please hand them in to the Main Office.

Please ask the children to have a sort out in their toy cupboards. Any toys will gain **House Points** from Mrs. Walker.

Thank you!

Diocesan Schools Mass at Dunstable

On Friday 29th January I had the pleasure of taking ten members of our School Council to a very special Mass in Dunstable. I was accompanied by Mr. Liam Connolly (Governor) and Mrs. Angela Macadam (Clerk to the Governors). Our children were a credit to you. I always have a great sense of pride whenever I take them anywhere on a visit.



Punctuality / Holidays

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. Please remember to ensure that all absences are authorised by writing a letter when your child returns to school after an illness. Schools have to set targets for **authorised and unauthorised absence**. For the first time since I have been Headteacher (14 Yrs) we have not met our targets for attendance and have exceeded the target set by the L.A. OfSTED will want to know why and will want to know what we have been doing about it? This is beyond my control. I rely on you as our parents to help us by:

- Making sure your children arrive on time and are collected on time
- Making sure you inform the school on their first day of absence, then follow this up with a written letter stating why they have been absent from school
- Making sure that **all holidays** are taken during school holidays

We have now been allocated an **Education Welfare Officer** (Em. Moore) that is closely monitoring the school. She visits every two weeks and in the near future will be carrying out '**Late Gates**' where she checks on any children that arrive late for school. She is also monitoring any children that go on **holiday during term time**.

Please do everything you can to improve this situation for your school.

Thanks to the majority of parents for your continued understanding and support.

Many thanks for working in partnership with me,
my Staff and Governors

and
for your continued friendship.

Have a Happy and Holy Easter!

Best wishes,

Anne Walker (Mrs)

(Headteacher)

Our Mission Statement



Jesus is our

Shepherd and our friend.

With his help we will

show **respect** as we

learn,

love,

play and

pray

together.

Lenten Blessing

Lord,

*Bless our Lenten journey.
Refresh within us a keen
sense of justice for all in
our lives
and for all around the
world.*

*Lift our sights beyond
indignation
so that our efforts for
justice
may be the fruit of love
Which you alone provide
in all its fullness.
Walk with us closely
on our journey to you.*

Amen

