



# Newsletter 2

9 October 2018



## Prayer:

Harvest festivals are common the world over and are not necessarily Christian celebrations. However, the Christian church has adopted this festival time as a way of giving thanks to God for His goodness in providing us with food and sustenance from the land.

'God of the heavens and earth we thank you for the richness of harvest time and for our food. May the fruitfulness of this time make us thankful for your constant love and care for us.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen'

## Dear All,

Autumn is upon us and so we traditionally celebrate Harvest Festival and thank God for our good luck. There are others less fortunate than ourselves, with more and more 'food banks' opening up to help those in need.

Your contribution to this years Harvest Festival will be distributed after Mass so that others may benefit from your generosity.

Kind regards,  
Jonathan Shields

## Dates for the Diary

### October

- 11 - Year 3 - Mass at St Mary's at 9am
- 12 - PTA Quiz Night - 6.30pm for 7pm start.
- 14 - Harvest Festival Mass - 10.30am at St John's Church
- 16 - School photographs - Individual and family
- 17 - Year 1 - Astrodome - Junior Hall
- 19 - Break up for half term - 3.15pm

### November

- 5 - Back to school
- 6 - PTA meeting at 7pm (in the Studio)
- 7 - Diwali
- 7 - Parent consultations - Times tba
- 8 - Year 6 Mass at St Mary's at 9am
- 8 - Parent consultations - Times tba
- 12 - Children in Need Appeal Week
- 15 - Year 5 Mass at St Mary's at 9am
- 15 - Year 3 - Visit to Kent Life
- 21 - First Holy Communion parents meeting in the Junior Hall - 5pm to 6pm
- 22 - Year 4 Mass at St Mary's at 9am
- 29 - Year 3 - Advent Mass at St Mary's at 9am
- 30 - Wreath making at 7pm - Venue tba

### December

- 4 - Year 6 - Visit to Kent Life - Victorians
- 6 - Infant Advent Mass in the Infant Hall at 9am
- 10 - Year R to Year 5 - Flu Immunisation
- 12 - December
  - o Own clothes day "Just because it's Christmas"
  - o DISCO -
    - Nursery and Year R - 3.30pm to 4.30pm
    - Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 - 5pm to 6pm
    - Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 - 6.30pm to 7.30pm.
- 13 - Year 6 - Advent Mass - Time tba
- 19 - Break up for Christmas - 2pm

## PTA

The PTA have set an ambitious agenda this year:

- Friday 12 October - Quiz night – Doors open at 6.30pm for 7pm start. Always great fun, so please make up a team and join us.
- Tuesday 6 November - PTA meeting at 7pm (in the Studio)
- Friday 30 November - Wreath making at 7pm - Venue tbc
- Wednesday 12 December
  - Own clothes day “Just because it’s Christmas”

DISCO - Nursery and Year R - 3.30pm to 4.30pm  
Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 - 5pm to 6pm  
Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 - 6.30pm to 7.30pm

- Tuesday 18 December - Christmas Magic Experience - 9am to 3pm in the Year 4/5 playground. All classes will have an allocated time slot to visit Father Christmas, receive a gift and see the reindeer - Yes real ones!

Any child, reported absent due to sickness or upset stomach, **MUST** be kept off school for 48 hours following the last bout of sickness. Should your child return to school within this period, we will contact you to collect them.

### **We extend a warm St John’s welcome to...**

Alfie Fisher, our new IT Apprentice who joined us last week. Alfie has already settled in well and is working hard.

### **School Uniform**

All children should now be in their **Winter Uniform**. Please see our School Uniform Dress Code on our website.

**Please ensure your child has a water bottle with them each day, clearly marked with their name and also a plain navy blue or black coat. They should also have a plain navy blue or black tracksuit in their PE bag for when PE is held outside and the weather is a bit colder.**

***Please also ensure that all items of clothing, school bags, PE bags, drinks bottles and lunch boxes are clearly marked with your child’s name.***

## SAFEGUARDING

Kind regards

Mrs Cooneyhan  
**Deputy Headteacher**

# NEW PARENTS OPEN DAY

This year, our open days for prospective parents will be on;

Thursday 15 November at 10am

and

Tuesday 20 November at 2pm

in the Infant Hall

All new parents and carers are welcome

oooOooo

The Harvest Festival Mass will be at St John's Church at  
10.30am on Sunday 14 October - All are welcome!

We are asking for donations of dried and canned food which  
can be sent into the school with your child on or before Friday  
12 October.

All donated food will be given to the Gravesham Food Bank  
after the Harvest Mass on Sunday.

Thank you in advance for your kind generosity.



## Admission to Primary School September 2019

A good place to start finding out about getting your child into primary school is to read the Kent Admission to Primary School booklet which you can view online. Please read through it carefully, as it will tell you everything you need to know about the admissions process. If you need advice, call 030000412121 or email [primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk](mailto:primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk)

**Applications to primary school for September 2019 will open on Monday 5 November 2018 and close at midnight on Tuesday 15 January 2019.**

You should fill in **ONE** RCAF form for each child, either online with KCC or in paper form, also available from KCC, naming 3 schools, ie. putting them in order of preference, with the one you **MOST** want first. Naming only one school does not guarantee your child a place at that school or give your child priority for a place over another child, neither does naming a school more than once.

If you apply online, ensure you tick the Terms and Conditions box and press the submit button to ensure the application is processed.

In addition, St John's Catholic Primary School requires you to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) which you can obtain direct from the school office. Once completed, this SIF will need to be countersigned by your Parish Priest / Pastor and return it to the school office with evidence of your child's Baptism and their original full Birth Certificate.

We will also require evidence of the address you provided in your application, dated within three months of your date of application and evidence that the child that you are applying for, lives with you. **It is vital that the SIF is completed if you wish your child's application to be ranked correctly against the oversubscription criteria.**

'Registering an interest' at a school i.e. by completing a Supplementary Information Form **does not** give your child priority for a place just because their name has been registered longer than any other child. The only form that will ensure your child is considered for a primary school place, is the KCC form mentioned above.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION



The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the most unique and beautiful aspects of Catholicism. Jesus Christ, in His abundant love and mercy, established the Sacrament of Confession, so that we as sinners can obtain forgiveness for our sins and reconcile with God and the Church. The sacrament “washes us clean,” and renews us in Christ.

*“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.’ And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained’” (John 20:21-23).*

**Our Year 3 children will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, also referred to as “First Confession” on 25 April 2019.**



## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The sacrament of **First Communion** is an important tradition for **Catholic** families and individuals. For **Catholics**, **Holy Communion** is the third of seven sacraments received. It occurs only after receiving Baptism, and once the person has reached the age of reason.

**Our Year 3 children will be receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion, on the following dates;**

**27 April - Class 3b**

**11 May - Class 3c**

**18 May - Class 3a**

**There will be a meeting for the parents and carers of children who are preparing to make their First Confession and First Holy Communion on Wednesday 21 November in the Junior Hall at 5pm.**

### Lateness

It has been noted with some concern that a number of children are regularly arriving at school late.

Whilst we appreciate that traffic and parking can be difficult, it is vital that children are in class on time, ready for a prompt 8.45am start. Children who arrive late, not only disrupt their own learning, but also that of others.

**As a reminder, classroom doors open at 8.35am and close at 8.45am.**

# Golden Awards

The School Nurse Clinic will be held on Tuesday 13 November between 9.30am and 11.30am. Please contact the school office to book an appointment.

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