

St John's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter 4

14 February 2019

Kent
Catholic
Schools
Partnership

Prayer

Lord, in the morning I start each day,
by taking a moment to bow and pray.
Beginning with thanks, I then give praise
for all your kind and loving ways.
Today if sunshine turns to rain,
if a dark cloud brings some pain,
I won't doubt or hide in fear
for you, my God, are always near.
I will travel where you lead,
I will help my friends in need.
Where you send me, I will go,
with your help, I'll learn and grow.
Hold my family in your hands,
as we follow your commands.
And I will keep you close in sight,
until I crawl in bed tonight.
Amen

Dear All,

What a quick but very busy half term we have had. Colds, colds and more colds seems to have been the main theme. Fortunately, the building works have continued at a good pace. The weather has been kind to us and them. On behalf of all staff and governors, I hope you all have a good and safe half term break.

Kind regards,
Jonathan Shields

Gymnastic Celebrations

Huge congratulations to Mr Fryer and his numerous gymnastic teams on their recent success at two regional competitions. See details overleaf.

I would like to thank Mr & Mrs Weller at St John's Comprehensive School for their continued support with our gymnasts.

Dates for the Diary

February

- 14 Nursery - Stay & Play - 9 to 10am
Nursery - Stay & Play - 2 to 3pm
- 14 Year 5 Mass
- 25 Back to School
- 26 Year R1 & R2 - Stay & Play - 9 to 9.30am
Year R3 & R4 - Stay & Play - 2 to 2.30pm
- 26 Y5 Residential trip - (26th to 28th incl.)
- 28 Year 4 - Mass

March

Year 6 Parent Consultations - 8am to 6pm

Class 6a - Thursday 7th March
Class 6b - Wednesday 6th March
Class 6c - Tuesday 5th March

- 5 Shrove Tuesday
- 6 Ash Wednesday
- 6&7 Years 1 to 5 - Parent Consultations
- 7 Year 3 Mass
- 14 Years 5 & 6 - Netball at Cobham Hall
- 15 PTA Meeting - 1.30pm @ The Harvester
- 18-22 Book Week
- 19 School Nurse
- 21 Year 6 Mass
- 28 Year 5 Mass

April

- 5 Term ends
- 19 **Good Friday**
- 22 Easter Monday
- 23 Back to school

Sports news

Some fantastic sports news this term!

Basketball

- Basketball team finished 6th in the Kent finals.

Sports-hall Athletics

- Sports-hall Athletics team won the District tournament.
- Sports-hall Athletics team finished 4th at the Kent finals.

This is the school's second highest ever finish!

Gymnastics (South East Trio's)

- Mixed trio under 11 national team won and qualify for the national finals.
- Boys trio under 11 national team won and qualify for the national finals.
- Girls trio under 11 regional team placed 1st
- Girls trio under 11 regional team placed 2nd
- Girls trio under 11 regional team placed 3rd
- Boys trio under 11 regional team placed 1st
- Boys trio under 11 regional team placed 2nd

Gymnastics (South East floor and vault)

Mixed under 11 national team won and qualify for the national finals.

- Boys under 11 national team won (qualify for the national finals).
- Mixed under 11 Regional team (Blue) placed 1st
- Mixed under 11 Regional team (Red) placed 2nd.

This is our best ever result at the BSGA South East Gymnastics competitions. Our National teams qualify for the BSGA National Milano Trio Competition in Stoke-on-Trent in March and the National Floor and Vault Competition in May

Building Works

Over the next few, weeks and months we will be handed over various rooms and playgrounds from the contractor. This will inevitably involve changes and initial confusion, but we will endeavour to keep you informed as and when they occur.

Over half-term, we will send you a letter outlining the new drop off and collection area for each year group as the front playground is likely to be out of action.

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.

SCHOOL NURSE

The school nurse will be at school on Tuesday 19th March 2019. To book an appointment, please contact the school office.

Half Term

Just a reminder that we finish school at 3.15pm today, Thursday 14th February. Friday, is a teacher training day and we return on Monday 25th February at 8.35am.

PTA - The PTA team continue to work extremely hard to fundraise and give our children and us some fun events. On Saturday, they held a successful comedy night and they hosted a film night for the children.

School Uniform

We have been staggering the introduction of our new navy PE t-shirt with school logo. Parents have until Easter 2019 to ensure that their child has the new t-shirt.

*Please note that t-shirts **without** a school logo **do not** form part of our uniform.*

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.



BOOK WEEK

Book week is ** 18th - 22nd March **

Various exciting reading related events will be taking place during 'Book Week' which will include;

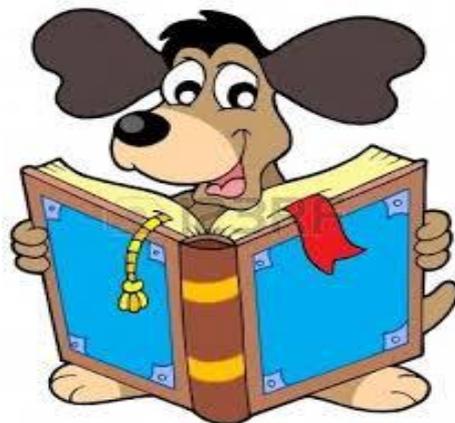
A bedtime story themed day

A book fair

A visit from a performance poet

Competitions and much more

Further information will follow with a programme of events.



SAFEGUARDING



Dear Parents / Carers,

What is WhatsApp?

WhatsApp is a mobile messaging app, which allows users to exchange messages using existing phone contacts without having to pay text message fees. WhatsApp Messenger is available on most mobile devices including iPhone, BlackBerry, Android, Windows Phone and Nokia. WhatsApp users can create groups and send each other unlimited images, video and audio messages.

How much does it cost? For all phone types, WhatsApp is free to download.

Does WhatsApp have any age restrictions?

As of May 2018, WhatsApp's **minimum age of use is 16 years old** if you live in the European Union, or a country that has adopted the [GDPR](#), as the UK has. It was previously 13 and WhatsApp has not yet said what will happen to users between 13 and 16 who already held accounts under the old terms and conditions. By using WhatsApp, a user agrees to provide certain personal information such as their mobile phone number, billing and mobile device information.

If WhatsApp learns that identifiable information of a child under 16 has been collected on the WhatsApp Site or WhatsApp Service, then WhatsApp may deactivate the account.

Should I be concerned about WhatsApp as a parent/carer?

WhatsApp is a great way for young people to socialise with their friends.

Children can only talk to existing contacts on their phone. Although this may feel safer, it is still important to remember that some content shared may not be appropriate for children, or they have contacts (strangers) in their phone who they have never met face to face.

Likewise, as with all social media, caution is advised over your [child's digital footprint](#), particularly the content (photos, videos and messages) they choose to share via WhatsApp. Once shared, it can be copied; re shared and posted anywhere online.

Group chats on WhatsApp

WhatsApp also contains a group chat function. The feature lets users chat with up to 100 people in one conversation stream. Each group is set up by one contact who becomes the group admin – they are the only user who can add or remove participants and change/add new group admins.

Group conversations usually take place between friends, but sometimes, users can be added to a group where they do not know everyone else. Even if fellow users in the group are not contacts, they will still be able to see messages your child posts in the group, and your child will be able to see theirs. Likewise, if they are added to a group with someone they have blocked, the blocked person will be able to contact them there.

Therefore, it is possible they could see or be contacted by someone they do not know and could be vulnerable to content posted by this person.

Although a user cannot control who adds them to a group chat, **they can always control their own participation within it** – they can leave whenever they want to.

It is a good idea to advise your child that if they are in a group chat with someone they do not know and are uncomfortable with, they should exit the group and speak to you about it.

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

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.