

Dear Parents/Carers

A Happy New Year to you all. During our first worship back I spoke to the children about Epiphany and the importance of looking ahead and making a fresh start. The feast of Epiphany is a traditional time for Christian families to bless their homes. Each classroom door has been blessed with the Christus Mansionem Benedicat (20 + C + M + B +19) sign and as a school we all came together in prayer and asked for God to bless our school.



This year we will be celebrating the diocesan "Year of Missio". This year is to help us to share the Gospel of Jesus and for us to act in solidarity with our brothers and sisters across the world. I will keep you updated with resources you can use at home as the year continues.

Holy Communions

We have the date of 18th May at 11am for the First Holy Communions at St Mary's Church. If your child is taking their first communion at another parish please do inform the school as we would very much like to attend and be part of this momentous occasion.

Curriculum Alive days

Our children really enjoyed the Diya Art and the artwork they produced was truly amazing. Due to this success we have planned some further curriculum alive days this term and next. The next special day will be to learn about and celebrate Chinese New Year on the 5th February. The children will be creating work on this theme in class and will enjoy a special themed lunch. The next curriculum alive days are listed below and on these days the children will also have a themed lunch

5th March – Shrove Tuesday
 7th March – World book day
 28th March – Mother's day
 4th April - Easter

Electronic Emails

Please make sure that the school office has your most up to date email address so that you receive all future correspondence.

Parking

Can I please request that when using the car park you do so carefully and respectfully. Ensuring the safety of our children is paramount. Please take care when parking and bear in mind the needs of local residents, and also the safety of the school children in the vicinity of the car park. Please do not park blocking the yellow marked emergency access zone.

Parent Questionnaire and Parent Forum

At the end of last term I sent out a parent questionnaire. Thank you for all of your responses. Thank you to all those who attended the parent forum meeting on 9th January it was a positive meeting and any issues raised have begun to be addressed. Below I have outlined some of the key points discussed.

1. **Menu for school dinners** – options on the menu are not always made available. For example one of the options (week 2 on a Monday) states sub rolls, these were tried previously and pupils' feedback was they did not like them so these have been substituted for hot dogs. On occasion the food offered may be switched with a different week day and this is out of the

kitchens control as it is the change in a delivery date/ order. When we are aware of these changes we notify you by text message.

2. **Communication** – To improve communication between school and home we are already looking to introduce an online system, such as 'Parent Pay'. This will allow parents to book and pay for school dinners, trips and potentially book parent evening appointments. We are just waiting approval from the Trust and will let you know in due course when we are going live.
We have also installed new noticeboards to communicate with both parents and pupils, so watch these spaces for up-coming information.
3. **Website** - As you are aware the school website is very out dated looking and I alone have tried my best to keep dates, policies and Year group newsletters as up to date on the site as possible. We have experienced a lot of technical issues last term with our internet and server and this means that the school server cannot cope with the amount of data needed to run the website effectively. We are in the process of transferring from our previous provider of Central Bedfordshire to a Trust network and this should improve the capacity. Once this transition is completed then we hope to look at starting a new website domain and make improvements as quickly as we can.
4. **PTA** – The current friends of St Vincent's are really keen to run more events and fundraising opportunities for the school. To do this they need recruits! You do not need to be involved in every event so if you have any time to offer please fill in the form and hand it in at the office. These forms will be coming home with your child shortly.
5. **Pupil Forum** – We are continuing to discuss with the school council the ideas raised by the pupils in the pupil forum. The main item on the agenda is the refurbishment of the playground and outside facilities and we are currently sourcing quotes.
6. **Early Birds and Late Owls** – After a successful opening many parents have reported how beneficial the wrap around care has been for them. The children really enjoy attending and are very enthusiastic about the many activities they access. We have also begun to refurbish this room, with new tables, chairs, equipment and seeking to make further changes in the future.
Some parents have begun to request the option of ad-hoc use. In response to this request we are going to trial an open booking system, which will allow families who are already registered with EBLOs to book additional times outside of their regular booked in sessions. More details about this will follow and we hope to have this up and running the week after the half term break.
7. **Medical** – we are reviewing how parents are informed when your child is unwell or had an accident at school. We have sourced an app which will move the school towards an online system and this will make the lines of communication more efficient.

The next Parent Forum will be on 13th March at 5pm, I look forward to seeing you there.

Homework

A couple of weeks ago I sent out letters detailing the homework which is given to each year group. Please do support your child at home with their homework but make sure the work completed is their own. If you have any queries please raise these with your child's class teacher.

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 5th February is Safer Internet Day; the children will be learning about this at school, to support this learning at home you could visit www.saferinternet.org.uk

Reading Books

Please continue to support your child and encourage them to read regularly to you. The Scholastic Book fair will be arriving on 26th February. The book fair is



a great opportunity for children to buy a new book and also the school receives commission, which we use to purchase more books for the school.

Photography by Bernie Feely

Thank you for all the orders placed through the school photographer. As a result this has generated £341.85 of funds for the school. This has allowed us to take professional photographs of the pupil ambassadors of the school and have these properly displayed and also funds the leavers photograph and candle for Year 6 pupils.

Dates this term

Dates for this term are on the website. I would like to advise you of the following important events that you might want to put in your diary:

Friday 25 th January, 7.30 – 9pm	Family YOUCAT event at NORES, Luton (booking is needed through NORES)
Wednesday 30 th January	Maths Parent Workshop
Friday 8 th February	Half term
Wednesday 6 th March	Ash Wednesday Service at 10am in the Church
Wednesday 13 th March	Year 6 to Caythorpe Court, Lincolnshire
Friday 15 th March	Year 6 to Caythorpe Court, Lincolnshire
Monday 18 th March, 4-6.30pm	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 20 th March, 4-6.30pm	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 26 th March, 2.30pm	Year 3&4 Easter Reflection
Wednesday 27 th March, 6.00pm	Year 3&4 Easter Reflection
Wednesday 3 rd April, 3.40pm	Year N new parent's meeting
Thursday 4 th April, 9.05am	Year R-2 Celebration Assembly
Thursday 4 th April, 10.00am	Year 3-6 Celebration Assembly
Friday 5 th April, 1.30pm	The Passion
Friday 5 th April, 2.15pm	End of Term

I look forward to seeing you at some of the events this term. Thank you for your continuing support.

Kind regards

Mrs K Armstrong
Head Teacher