



Dear Parents

10 February 2017

We wish you all a very happy half term, but first we have the news from the last two weeks to share.

Thought for the week

Saturday 11th February is the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes. We ask Our Lady to pray with us and we especially remember those who are sick within our school and Parish communities.



Hail, holy queen, mother of mercy!
Our life, our sweetness, and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve,
to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley, of tears.

Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb Jesus;

O clement, O loving, O sweet virgin Mary.
Pray for us, O holy Mother of God
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.
Amen.

Dates for your diaries !

February

- 20 **Children return**
- 22 Assembly - 9.00am - 5Y
- 23 Mass - 9.15am - Year 4
Educational visit - Yr 3 - British Library
- 24 Assembly - 9.00am - 1Y

March

- 1 **Ash Wednesday Mass - 9.00am - Convent**
- 2 Mass 9.15am - Yr 3
- 3 Assembly - 9.00am - RY
Deadline for Nursery 17 applications

Highlights

Our theme for Citizenship 2017 - A better world, continued into February. We held a debate considering "Plastic should be banned". The children wrote argument for and against the motion and spoke eloquently on the subject.



Year 5 attended Young Citizens, sponsored by Tate & Lyle. They learnt about keeping themselves safe on public transport and near water.



At Saturday School the children have also been learning about A better world. The children have had the opportunity to volunteer and help at the Beckton Park Run.



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In order to develop tolerance, understand and prevent racism children were able to visit places of worship.

Year 3 visited a mosque.



Year 4 visited the Sikh Gurdwara



Year 5 visited the Hindu temple.



The children are now able to understand that the main world religions all have a place of worship, a holy book and special symbols. In understanding others we are able to break down barriers and to create a better world.



Year 5 watched Romeo and Juliet at the theatre.



A group of children from Years 5 and 6 have worked with the Brilliant Club to write an essay and they enjoyed their graduation visit to Oxford.



School Improvements

As you will have read in our last newsletter, raising standards in reading is a major priority for the school. Many parents have asked at this week's parents appointments how they can help:

There is a wonderful opportunity to buy book through the Wordery website www.wordery.com/sthelens



During half term there are several library activities available and the details are attached to the newsletter



Please do continue to read to your young children, this really helps them to love books

Please do chat to older children about books, the bookmarks that we gave out to Years 2-6 have some excellent questions to help with book conversations.



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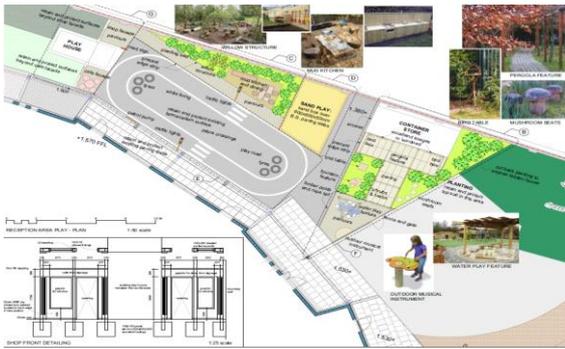
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Premises News

We are delighted to announce that work will begin after half term to develop a new outdoor learning space for reception and nursery children.



While the new play space is being built there will be a restricted space at the front of the school by nursery.

Goodbye

We say goodbye and thank you to Mr Sharp and Mrs Sparrow who have helped and supported the children for many years. We wish them luck in the future.



Reminders

Mobile phones and games

We have a clear **NO MOBILE PHONES OR ELECTRONIC GAMES IN SCHOOL** policy.

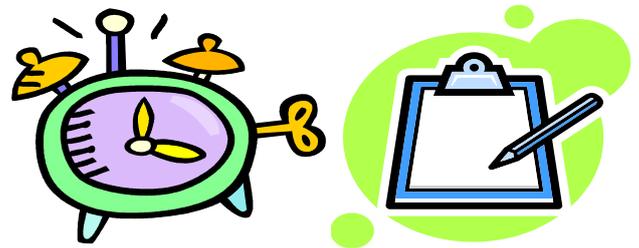


Playground supervision

The school gates open at 8.30am. We will supervise the playground from 8.40am until the bell rings at 8.55am.

Punctuality

Please remember school starts at 8.55am and finishes at 3.20pm every day, with clubs ending at 4.30pm.



School shoes

Please remember trainers and boots are not part of school uniform. Black school shoes should be worn.



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