

18th October 2024

Dear Parents



This week started off in an interesting way, with an Ofsted inspector telephoning to say he would be visiting us on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thank you to so many of you who completed a parental questionnaire. The inspector, Karim Ismail, spent a lot of time in lessons, particularly Reception, Years 1, 2, 5 and 6 and playtime talking with children. In addition, he looked at children's work and spoke to children, some parents, staff and governors. This was an ungraded inspection which means Karim could not change the rating of the school, he could only confirm if it was still good (or not). Tuesday started off in another interesting way with no gas in the kitchen to cook food, a broken photocopier with a part that needed ordering and a broken SMART board in Class 2Y. Despite the various challenges, we made it through the week and look forward to reading the inspector's report (likely to be after the half term holiday).

Show Racism the red card – Today in assembly, I explained to the children they should “love the skin they're in”. We are all part of one race, the human race and we must celebrate our uniqueness. I showed a video to the children which explained the power of words. If you say something unkind you can't take it back – it's like squeezing toothpaste out of the tube – it won't go back in. We must spread love and kindness. You can watch the video [here](#).

Other Assemblies this week – On Tuesday, Miss Allen led her first Infant Assembly (watched by the inspector!) She shared how she had felt starting as a new teacher not knowing anyone and how she has now made some friends. She read a lovely story to the children which you can hear [here](#) and challenged all the children to try and make one new friend that day.

On Wednesday, Mrs Tottle-Nugent read “[Into the Forest](#)” to the Juniors, by one of her favourite authors, Anthony Browne. Children were encouraged to use other authors' ideas and put a twist in of their own to be successful authors themselves!

A spelling conundrum – For those parents who attended the literacy meeting last week, [here is the video](#) that demonstrated how difficult spelling in English can be! Worth all parents watching it to see how complicated spelling in English can be!

Last week's Quiz night – An incredible £2,139.83 was raised at last week's Quiz night. Thanks to our Quiz Masters Helen and Jim Tottle-Nugent who provided a great night that got the grey matter thinking. Massive thanks to [The Yard](#) who provided a delicious chilli meal for all the quizzers!

Cross Country Competition – You can view some of the action from cross country [here](#).

Diary Dates

Monday 21st October – see the rota for which class leads the Rosary prayer

Monday 21st – Any child (from Yrs 1-6) who wants to be considered for the School Council needs to have written their manifesto by Monday – bring them in that day as classes will be voting on different days all next week.

Wednesday 23rd October 9.15am – Year 6 instrumentalists performing for children and Parents of Year 6

Friday 25th October – last day of this half term.

Monday 28th – Friday 1st November – school closed for the half term holiday

Month of the Holy Rosary

Monday – 21st – Class 1G

Tuesday – 22nd – Class 1Y

Wednesday – 23rd – Class RG

Thursday – 24th – Class RY

Friday 25th – everyone welcome

School Council – On Monday the School Council, led by Mrs Weston, talked about their successful year and invited new applications for the role of School Councillor. Children from Years 1-6 who would like to be considered need to write a 'manifesto' to explain why their class mates should vote for them. Voting will take place next week. Each class will vote for one boy and one girl.

Building Fund – You may recall the letter sent in July regarding the Building Fund. As a Voluntary Aided school, we are required to pay 10% of any building works costing over £2,000. To meet this cost, we request a voluntary donation from parents of £100 per family, per academic year. This can be paid in full or in smaller amounts throughout the year. The payment can be found on ParentPay. Last year we were able to upgrade all our fuse boxes and install air conditioning in the main hall and several classrooms. Thank you for contributions made so far.

Introducing St Monica's Dance Stables lunchtime club! –

There will be a new lunchtime club starting after half term. The children will be learning a dance routine to showcase at the Christmas Fête! For all information regarding times and prices please click the link below or scan the QR code on the flyers that your child has been given. <https://www.dancestables.co.uk/school-clubs>



Budding Authors:

Niamh, Erin, Elizabeth and Aoife were taken to Our Lady of Muswell on Tuesday for a workshop with author Neal Zetter.

The Children wrote poetry and learnt how to edit it by thinking of even more creative vocabulary. A big thank you to Mrs Howard who took the children (as our staff were otherwise engaged with the inspection!)

I am delighted we have a **new Mental Health Leader**, Miss Bowling. She will be working to think of innovative ways to support our children. Thank you to her for offering herself to this role.

Have a lovely weekend. Kate Baptiste, Headteacher