

St John Rigby Catholic Primary School
'God's will be done through work and play, as we follow Jesus day by day'



NEWSLETTER

November 2017



Message from the Head Teacher

Welcome back, after what I hope was an enjoyable half term break.

We began this month with the feast of All Saints. This feast day follows the previous Sunday's gospel reading from Matthew where the Pharisees test Jesus out by asking which are the most important commandments. Jesus' reply is quite direct:

You must love the Lord your God with all your soul, your heart and with all your mind. You must love your neighbour as yourself.

Jesus is quite detailed about how we must love. With the soul, heart and mind. We discussed in assemblies and liturgies how we use the word "love". We can say that "I love ice cream" or "I love playing FIFA". The children said that this brings on good feelings of "happiness" and "warmth" (although perhaps not with ice cream specifically!) and that the prospect of these things gives them a sense of excitement. With the concept of "falling in love", the children also said that this could bring a sense of excitement every time they see that person, that they miss them when they are not around because they feel incomplete, and their connection with that person is very deep. We clearly have a richness of potential philosophers and relationship counsellors in our ranks!

In this gospel, Jesus also tells us about our priorities for love in rank order. Love God, love each other and then love yourself. This, together with the Beatitudes, provides the guidance that we need to strive for sainthood. All of our schools want the best for their children, of course. They want to ensure that children achieve excellence, and that they are nurtured so that they can become well-rounded adults and responsible citizens. But we can go a stage further, we can **aspire to sainthood**. As Pope Benedict reminded us when he spoke to schoolchildren from across the country back in 2010 by striving for sainthood, the love we show for God will be a deep spiritual love that we crave throughout our lives:

When I invite you to become saints, I am asking you not to be content with second best. I am asking you not to pursue one limited goal and ignore all the others.

We need to have the courage to place our deepest hopes in God alone, not in money, in a career, in worldly success, or in our relationships with others, but in God. Only he can satisfy the deepest needs of our hearts.

We see children aspiring for sainthood every day. As you will see from the charity work, the open evening and just the way children look out for each other in school, that depth of love for God and each other thrives here in school.

We may be tempted to say, "He/She is no saint" when our children are testing us out, but looking at many of the saints, their track record in the early part of their lives was far from perfect. Start with St. Peter and keep going! What is true, however, is that when difficult choices need to be made and values are tested, our children instinctively think about what Jesus would do.

Follow our Facebook page: "St John Rigby Catholic Primary School" and Twitter #SJR@StJohnRig

Website and communications

Please do check out our new website at www.stjohnrigby.org. "Latest news" articles are being added all of the time and these are linked to our social media feeds.

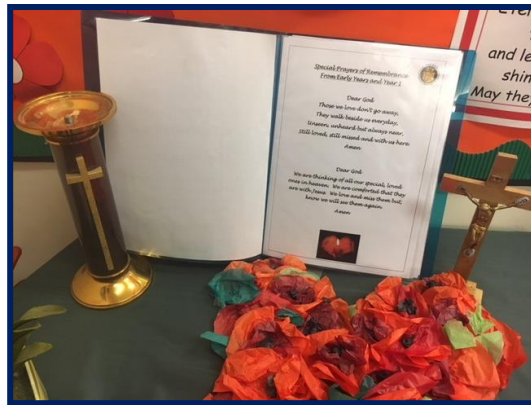
CHARITIES AND FUNDRAISING

The generosity of our school community over this term knows no bounds!

Thanks to all who donated food for the Food bank and homeless shelter in Prebend Street Homeless Shelter. The food bank reported that the school donated enough food for **380 meals** with a similarly sized consignment also being delivered to the Homeless Shelter.

Meanwhile, donations have continued to come in for the staff "Shine night walk" with the total raised now at **£6760**.

NOVEMBER: MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE AND HOLY SOULS



Our Book of Remembrance containing all of the names of our deceased loved ones will have been introduced in a special liturgy by the time this newsletter goes out. It will also be on display throughout November.

We pray for our deceased loved ones who remain so close to our hearts and who continue to shape who we are and what we do. The contents of this book will also be posted on the school's website.

Poppies in Tesco

Tesco, Riverfield Drive, is currently displaying the St John Rigby poppy display which was put together by Early Years and Year One. Thank you to all who organised this.



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Key term Dates for first half term (these are on the website calendar)

Monday 6th November: AM: Early Years Prospective Parents visits
Thursday 9th November: AM Early Years Prospective Parents visits
Monday 13th November – Friday 17th November: Anti-Bullying Week
Friday 17th November: Deadline for Operation Christmas Child (shoeboxes)
Friday 17th November – Children in Need
Wednesday 22nd November – 6pm – Y6 SATs information evening
Friday 24th November: PTA MUFTI Day (bring a bottle)
Pupil Learning Reviews go home
Wed 29th November: Book Fair arrives until 6th December
Saturday 2nd December: PTA Christmas Fair
Thursday 7th December: Year 6 trip to the Natural History Museum.
Friday 15th December: Last day of Autumn term.
Monday/Tuesday 18th/19th December: Staff Training Days

Wednesday 3rd January: Pupils return for the first day of the Spring Term.

Carol Service, Christmas Lunch and Nativity Dates

I can confirm the dates of the nativities as follows:

Wednesday December 6th at 10am: Year 1 followed by **Year 2 at 2.15pm.**

Thursday December 7th at 10am: Early Years followed by **Year 3 at 2.15pm.**

The Carol Service (Years 4,5,6) will take place on Tuesday 12th December at 6pm at Ss Philip and James parish church. All pupils are expected to attend.

All of these performances will be recorded. Information regarding the placing of DVD orders will be made available soon.

Parking and Drop-off/Pick-up

It is that time of year when days are shorter, and the weather is such that more of us take to our cars. I would like to thank parents who park responsibly even if this means that they have slightly further to walk to get children into school.

With this in mind, there is still a minority of parents who double park in the spaces closest to the school with no regard for those around them. The dangers to the safety of the children and to other road users don't need to be explained and, for this reason, wardens have been imposing penalties. It could be compared to a child trying to push in first in the dinner queue. They might say "I am hungriest or I am late and have other places to be" but if all children did it there would be chaos and accidents. Please do consider this and act responsibly.

PTA Volunteers

If you would like to get involved with the PTA, there is a facebook page or email pta@stjohnrigby.org. No long-term commitment is required. There are so many great events that are organised by the PTA from fun running to discos and fairs. Not only do they raise funds but they provide us with many of our most memorable moments!

Casual Staff

We are looking for casual staff to cover sickness and absence during the lunchtime in the school kitchen and lunch halls – The salary is £7.90 per hour. If you are interested or would like to obtain more information please contact the school office.

Mobile Phones: A Polite Request

Could I ask that parents/carers, family members put away mobile phones whilst on the premises for dropping off and picking up from school? As you will be aware, the rigour with which schools are held to account over child protection and safeguarding is increasing all of the time. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated. Notices are being displayed in public areas around the school.





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PTA Information

EVENTS 2017/2018

**Christmas Fayre Mufti –
Friday 25th November 2017**

**Discos (Year 1 – 6) – Friday
25th November 2017**

**Christmas Fayre – Saturday
2nd December 2017**

**Easter Raffle Mufti – Friday
23rd March 2018**

**Easter Raffle – Thursday 29th
March 2018**

Quiz – Date to be confirmed

**Summer Fayre Mufti – Friday
6th July 2018**

**Discos – (EY'S – Year 5)
Friday 6th July 2018**

**Summer Fayre – Friday 13th
July 2018**

**Leavers Family Disco –
Thursday 19th July 2018**

Online shoppers

The PTA has registered with an online fundraising website:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

On here you have links to Amazon, ebay, Tesco's, John Lewis, etc.

We would be grateful to all of you who shop online if you could register with this website, when you register it will ask you to enter the charity you wish to support – 'St John Rigby PTA – Bedford'.

Each time you shop through this website the PTA will receive a percentage of what you have spent. Last year we got approximately £122.

You can download an app to your smartphone/ipad/etc.

External Stalls

Do you or someone you know have a business that would like to have a stall at our Christmas or Summer Fayre?

We aim to offer a wide range stalls at our fayres to suit all age groups. Please contact the PTA for further information.

If you have any questions or if you can help at any of our events, please contact the PTA via email: pta@stjohnrigby.org