

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



# NEWSLETTER

## September 2017



### Message from the Head Teacher

Whilst the summer holiday increasingly seems like a dim and distant memory, I hope you had a joyful and refreshing break. If, like me you were in this country I hope you were able to enjoy the sunshine and avoid the occasional downpours.

I reflected, with the children at our first assembly, on one or two noteworthy moments over the summer. Whilst on holiday, I attended Mass at the local parish church in Clacton (I like to take my family to exotic holiday destinations!).

That Sunday, we celebrated the Transfiguration of the Lord. We had also had the news of the record transfer of the Brazilian footballer, Neymar, from Barcelona to Paris St. Germain for a fee of £200 million. Jesus took his closest friends up the mountain where they saw a glimpse of God's power and glory. Peter wanted to stay there forever offering to build tents for Jesus, Moses and Elijah. He would soon realise that whilst he had witnessed the true beauty and salvation of our Lord, months later, Jesus' journey would see him go from that vision of glory and beauty to one of suffering and death on the cross.

The priest reminded us that each and every one of us, created by Him, is worth far more than £200 million. Why? Two reasons:

- (1) Despite Peter's requests to stay where they were, Jesus climbed down from that mountain to be amongst us. Such is our worth to Him that He was prepared to die for us.
- (2) Jesus' presence in each of us means that we all have an inner beauty; it is the same beauty that was revealed in the Transfiguration. Our outer "beauty" is just layers. We will age, we might lose our looks, but that inner beauty far exceeds £200 million and it will never diminish.

As we return and focus on our value of Faith for this term, we all, as a community, have pledged to let our inner beauty shine and to celebrate the inner beauty in others.

In our Masses and liturgies, pupils presented stars at the offertory processions on which they had written their pledges for the year ahead. Last Friday, we also welcomed our new Early Years pupils who placed their stars, with their names, on our window in the hall as a symbol of welcome. Please keep all of our new pupils in your prayers and we all pray for a successful and happy academic year.

Adam Palmer

## Website and communications

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

## Nut allergies (no Nutella)

We have a number of pupils in the school with a severe nut allergy. Signs such as this one on the right are used in and around school. We are grateful to all parents who ensure that packed lunches are nut free. We would like to point out, however, that the sandwich spread known as **Nutella** does trigger allergic reactions. Please avoid using this in packed lunches and snacks. Thank you for your understanding.



## Early Years Mud

Early Years are 're-vamping' their mud kitchen area and are in desperate need of mud! They would be extremely grateful if you could bring in a bag of mud and leave it in the 'mud' area so that they can build up a lovely muddy surface.

## Cancer Marathon

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 13 members of St John Rigby staff will be taking part in the Shine Night Walk – Full London Marathon in order to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

This is a cause that is very close to the heart of our school, its staff and community and so far, as a team, we have raised over £4500.

By the time you read this newsletter, we will be about to have or will have had our "Wear Something Bright" Day. Many thanks for all or your donations.

Every single pound donated makes a difference to Cancer Research UK's groundbreaking work in specifically combatting cancers that affect children, so we hope lots of pupils will be able to help us in raising money for this worthwhile cause.

Should you wish to make a private donation, you can access our fundraising page at <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/st-john-rigby-team>. Donating through this page is simple, fast and totally secure.

We will keep you posted of our success via the school's Facebook page.

## Uniform/Earrings.

Thank you to all of those parents who followed our suggestions in the last newsletter and ensured that ears were pierced at the start of the summer holiday so that they could be removed ready for the start of term. Where earrings have been worn, we have quietly reminded children, without drawing attention to the issue, that the earrings need to come out in order to ensure that there is fairness and consistency.

## Key term Dates for first half term

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September: National Poetry Day

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October: PTA AGM in School House (7.30pm)

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October: CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October: Early Years Phonics talk for Parents. (4.30)

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October: Diocesan Schools' Mass in Dunstable (Y4)

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October\*: Parents Evening 1

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October: Parents Evening 2

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October: PTA Fun Run. Pupils finish for HALF TERM

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October: Pupils return (please note that this is not a training day).

\*Please note that Parents Evenings are earlier than usual this year.



## **PTA Volunteers**

If you would like to get involved with the PTA, there is a facebook page or email [pta@stjohnrigby.org](mailto: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!

## **Term Dates and Absences**

I would also like to draw your attention to the last day of the Autumn term which is **Friday December 15<sup>th</sup>**. Many schools in Bedford are not breaking up until the Borough-specified date of Tuesday December 18<sup>th</sup>. In discussion with our partner schools we made the decision to go with the Friday so that there is an extra weekend available particularly for those families that travel and need to book flights etc. This is also designed to discourage term time holidays.

With this in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents that term-time holidays can't be authorised and will lead to a penalty notice. All schools are expected to take action when children are in danger of becoming persistent absentees. A persistent absentee is an individual whose attendance is 90% or less. Schools in Bedford work closely with an EWO (Educational Welfare Officer) to monitor patterns of attendance and punctuality over time and to alert parents if these need to improve.

To put 90% into context, this means less than 20 days or 120 hours. Recent statistics suggest that 17 days missed means that on average, a child drops a grade or level. For example, this could be the difference between achieving the expected year group standard or "working towards".

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## PTA Information

### **EVENTS 2017/2018**

**Christmas Fayre Mufti –  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**Discos (Year 1 – 6) – Friday  
25<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**Christmas Fayre – Saturday  
2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017**

**Easter Raffle Mufti – Friday  
23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018**

**Easter Raffle – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>  
March 2018**

**Quiz – Date to be confirmed**

**Summer Fayre Mufti – Friday  
6<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

**Discos – (EY'S – Year 5)  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

**Summer Fayre – Friday 13<sup>th</sup>  
July 2018**

**Leavers Family Disco –  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

### Online shoppers

The PTA has registered with an online fundraising website:

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://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](mailto:pta@stjohnrigby.org)