



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

NEWSLETTER

March 2018



Message from the Headteacher

As I write, we are once again leaving behind (hopefully!) freezing temperatures, slippery surfaces and icy winds. I often wonder what members of our community who originate from colder climates, think of our response to snow and extreme weather. On the one hand, it is wonderful that the children can enjoy the snow. You may have seen some of the pictures on our social network feeds of children being able to enjoy good old fashioned play. When snow is here, it is wonderful to see that it overtakes the electronic gadgets as the number one exciting play item! On the other hand, we do worry about members of our community who struggle in extreme weather, and what we can do to keep them safe. On this note, I would like to thank all members of staff, especially our site team and support staff, who went the extra mile in trudging round the building to make sure that the site was safe for all.

Speaking of extra miles, over the next few weeks, we are going to be launching the **"Golden Mile"**. As you may be aware, primary schools have received some additional funding from the government to promote sport and physical activity for all. The children have already met coaches from our partners at "Premier Sport" who introduced the children to this. The children will be encouraged to complete laps in our playgrounds and fields which they can record on an online tracker. There will be prizes for individuals and classes as well as a chance to see how we are performing compared to local schools. The aim of this project is obviously to promote sport and physical activity in its simplest form and to ensure that our children develop good habits for life in relation to their physical activity, health and wellbeing.

This term, the school has also had an RE Interim Monitoring visit which looked at the quality of RE, Chaplaincy Provision and Catholic life. Whilst the report is yet to be published, our reviewer, Mrs Pat O'Byrne was impressed by the way in which our Catholicity permeates throughout all that we do, from the way in which children express their faith through their work in class, through to the way in which the Year of Prayer and Vocation is at the forefront of our whole-school prayer and worship. Mrs O'Byrne also gave us some valuable recommendations in relation to the way we could use the outdoor areas as prayer spaces and how we could ensure that our Catholic life continues to thrive as we look forward to our leadership developments.

On the subject of leadership development, I would like to thank so many of you who have sent me good wishes following my recent news. If I needed reminding as to how tough the decision was to leave, you all reminded me! The good will and generosity of spirit that you contribute to our school is extremely humbling and is something I will hold onto.

Lent has been a vibrant time for our school, as ever. We have had a number of charitable enterprises ranging from origami to cakes, from donating football boots to book marks. The children have written their own Lenten promises which have been added to our Lenten trees, both in classes and in displays around the school. What is particularly special about these is that they don't simply focus on what they should give up, but the extra things that they want to do to show their love for family and friends. In assemblies, the singing has been very special this season with the words of St Richard of Chichester (a focal point for our Year of Prayer and Worship) really epitomising what Lent is all about:

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits thou hast given me,
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly, day by day.
Amen.

Have a happy and holy "Holy Week" and a joyous Easter!

Adam Palmer (Headteacher)



Please could we remind you that mobile phones should not be visible on any part of the school site. In addition to no smoking, there is also no vaping allowed within the grounds.

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.

Key term Dates for the Summer Term (updates are placed on the website calendar)

Monday 16th April: **Pupils return to school** (not an INSET day)
Thursday 19th April: Online safety workshop for parents in Years 5 and 6 (2.15pm start)
Monday 30th April: Y4 liturgy to parents (Time TBC)
Monday 7th May: *May Bank Holiday*
Monday 14th May: Year 6 SATs week begins
Wednesday 16th May: New Early Years welcome evening (6.30pm)
Monday 21st May: KS1 SATs begin/Y3 Liturgy to parents (Time TBC) Y6 Post-SATs trip to Kidsworld
Tuesday 22nd May: Y6 Multi-Faith tour (Queens Park)
Thursday 24th May (AM): Y6 attend the Trust Transition Mass at St Josephs and St Gregorys (Upper Primary site)
Friday 25th May: Half Term Begins

World Book Day

On March 1st we celebrated World Book Day with a variety of activities, including **DEAR** (Drop Everything and Read) and **Share a Story** (older children read to younger children at Storytime). We welcomed back **Michelle Robinson** who gave us a fascinating and entertaining insight into the writing process of a successful children's author. The children enjoyed particularly seeing her dressed up as a sausage!

We had lots of fantastic entries into our **Story in a Box competition** and it was almost impossible to choose the winners. Congratulations go to Daniel Major in Year 1, Joanna George in Year 2, Jack Smyth in Year 3, Aaron Gammon in Year 4, Amy Byfield in Year 5 and Chiara Facchiano in Year 6.

Thanks to all the many children who entered the **Handwriting Competition**. The winners in KS1 were Rafael in EY, Darcy in Year 1 and Lena in Year 2. The KS2 winners were Magda and Joanna in Year 3 and Jude in Year 5. The winning entries will be displayed in the entrance hall.



Our Story in a Box winners

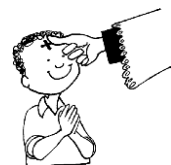
Car Parking

Please could you remind your child that if he/she is coming into school from 8.30am onwards, not to walk across the car park but to stick to the footpaths. Many thanks.

We also have a number of cars that are double parking in the bays outside of the school. We continue to seek advice from the local police who have suggested that we start to record registration plates of vehicles who have repeatedly parked in this way over time. We are not doing this to make things awkward but in response to many parents and members of the public who are extremely concerned that it is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident involving a child.

Year Five on Space

On Monday 12th March, we welcomed parents and families to the Year 5 liturgy. It was great to see so many people come along on a very damp afternoon. This year, with all year groups, rather than focusing on the RE Topic, the children have presented their topic work. The purpose of this is to show just how much our Catholic faith and identity permeates the entire curriculum. Year 5 clearly enjoyed sharing their work (written and pictorial), relaying fascinating facts about our solar system and performing raps and hymns. Congratulations to Hannah (5M), who rounded off the afternoon with her "Theme and Variations on Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho". Hannah recently performed this piece in the Bedford Festival of Music, Drama and Speech.



Ash Wednesday Service

This year Ash Wednesday fell on 14th February which was when we were on our half term holidays. When we got back to school, Mrs Ward, our school chaplain, arranged an Ash Wednesday Service. She came into Early Years so that we could receive our Ashes.

Before Mrs Ward came in, Mrs Woodward explained to us that Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, which is 40 days of giving up things we love (like chocolate!) or doing something extra (being kinder etc) prior to the celebration of Easter. During the forty days of Lent, to be like Jesus, we can all resist temptations and use this time to become closer to God

The dusting of the ashes is mentioned in the Bible as a sign of mourning and repentance. The cross drawn on the forehead symbolized the cross that Jesus died on to cleanse the world of our sins. During our service the children were very prayerful and calm and Mrs Ward commented on how beautifully they sat and listened.



Mother's Day Breakfast at SJR

What better way to show an appreciation of Mum on Mothers' Day than making her a hearty English breakfast! On Monday morning, over 150 pupils and parents took part in our first ever Mothers' Day breakfast in the School Hall. Many parents commented on what a wonderful way this was to start the week. Quite a few Dads also reminded us that it is Fathers' Day soon!

Many thanks to all who supported this event. Particular thanks goes out to our kitchen staff and our catering partners, *Relish*, as well as Mrs Maslen, school manager, and members of our support staff who served. Please watch out for our Easter Lunch Event coming up on Thursday 19th April.



Mathematics Enrichment Day Thursday 8th March 2018

Thank you so much again for supporting our Mathematic Enrichment day, it was another successful day. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the children in their mathematical costumes; they really embraced the mathematical theme. There were lots of problem solving activities happening throughout the day that involved children working together in teams, which was brilliant to see.

I am really looking forward to next year's maths day.

Kind Regards

Miss Guard

Numeracy Lead

