

Newsletter

Friday 6th February 2018

St Thomas Becket Catholic Primary

Online Booking for Parents' Open Evening

For our next parents' open evenings on Thursday 8th March and Thursday 15th March 2018 we will be introducing an online system of booking appointments with class teachers. In advance of our March open evenings all parents will receive a text message with a link to an online booking system. This will allow parents to book slots, cancel or re-schedule times. The system will also send reminders and alerts for bookings. Please ensure that the mobile number the school holds for you is up to date.

We will send parents details of how to book appointments in the very near future.

Parents Questionnaires

Governors will once again be attending our spring parents' evening to handout parent questionnaires. Your cooperation is requested in completing this survey in order for the school to capture parental views .

Book Week

myths
& Legends

Book Week: Week beginning 26 February 2018—theme is **Storytellers**

During **Book Week** and we would like to invite parents who have an interest in storytelling to come into school during this week to tell some stories to classes. It would be nice to have stories or poems from a range of cultures as this would really enliven the book week experience for children.

If you are willing to be a storyteller during book week then please contact Mrs Lee or your child's class teacher.

On **Friday 2 March**, it is **Dressing Up Day** and we are looking forward to our school being full of a whole host of minotaurs, gorgons, leprechauns, dragons, knights, mermaids, ogres and whatever other fantastic characters inspire the children to read. So get going now on those creative costumes.

Olympic Effort

Forty of our children competed in the **Croydon Swimming Gala** at South Norwood Pool this week. In a hard fought battle against 10 other primary schools, St Thomas Becket were overall **tournament winners** for the 5th year in a row, also clinching the Best Boys team award. A massive well done to all our children whose stunning performances in the pool won them many plaudits.

A special thanks to Mrs Kennedy who helped the children prepare so well for the event and to Mrs Haywood-White, our PE, leader who continues to ensure sport has such a prominence in our school.



Gift Aid

Each year we ask parents to contribute £20 towards our school development fund. With school budgets now more stretched than ever this additional funding is ever more welcome.

Dates for diary

Inset Day— Friday 9th February 2018

Half Term

Mon 12—16 February 2018

Dangerous Driving

Unfortunately, further reminders are needed to some of our parents driving dangerously at dropping off/picking up time in Dickenson's Lane. This has involved cars again blocking our neighbours' driveways and, more seriously, reversing cars blindly in the vicinity of very young infant children who are not visible in their rear view mirrors.

Please stop this behaviour!!

As I have said previously, we will have no option but to close the Dickenson's Lane school entrance if we consider children's safety to be imperilled due to inconsiderate driving by parents at the start and end of the day and all parents will then need to use the Birchanger Road entrance.



School Improvement Fund Donation

Dear Parents/Carers

At St Thomas Becket Catholic Primary School we are committed to creating the best learning environment possible for our children.

Over the last few years we have updated and expanded many areas around the school mainly due to effective budgeting, our success in bidding for additional funding and the continued good work of the parents' association's fund raising events. However Gift Aid funding does also help to supply additional extras that enhance learning.

The school operates a Gift Aid scheme, which some of our parents have already contributed to, for which we are truly thankful.

How does the Gift Aid Scheme work?

For every pound donated to the school through the scheme, we are able to claim back from the Inland Revenue a further 28p.

You can pay through Parent Pay or paying directly to the office. Governors have suggested a contribution of £20 per family but any amount is helpful.

The Governors continue to review the financial situation to ensure that the maximum value for money is obtained in every area of budget expenditure.

Please do, however, let me emphasise a few important points:-

contributions remain voluntary - your child will not suffer any inequality of opportunity if you decide you are unable to support us in this way;

other forms of voluntary fund raising will continue - the STBSA in particular provides much more than an additional source of funds; it is a fundamental part of the wider school community picture which we value very highly.

The high standards that we strive for at St Thomas Becket will continue irrespective of any Gift Aid contribution. What Gift Aid will do for us however, is allow us to rollout enrichment initiatives a little more quickly than budgeted for (e.g. we are about to upgrade our ICT suite and install new PCs and printers)

Thank you in anticipation for your continued support.

Mr Campbell

Art Shirts

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Art is an important cross curriculum subject, with a growing range of techniques and materials being introduced to your children. In order to experience and practise these new skills, the children inevitably get a little 'messy'. To protect their uniforms, it will be very helpful if you can provide an old shirt for the children to wear. It will be kept at the school and returned at the end of term.

Please label the shirt with your child's name. The shirt should be a suitable size for your child to wear it over their uniform without it being too loose or too large. For the infants, maybe an older sibling's shirt will be ideal while an adult's shirt may be suitable for the older children.

Thank you,

Mrs Pitts
Art Co-Ordinator