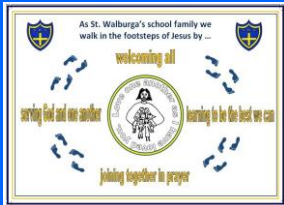


St Walburga's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Friday, 22nd September 2023

Number 3



Dear Parent and Carers,

Another busy week – it has been so lovely having our Reception children in full time this week and getting to know them, they have made a great start to their time at St Walburga's!

Parking

Week 3, and I am already having to write a moan about the parking around school. Some of the parking this week – particularly on the rainy days – was atrocious and potentially very dangerous. I cannot understand why some people think it is OK to park on yellow lines, up on the kerb, on the corner of the road, or over our neighbours' drives. You are putting our children's safety at risk. The majority of people make the effort to park safely and considerately, it is such a shame that some people still do not do this. As usual, I have been in touch with the parking enforcement team from BCP. Please stop and think about the message you are giving to your child by parking illegally and inconsiderately – particularly if you are one of those people who move the car when they see me walking towards them. Just a reminder: you must not park on Malvern Rd in front of any part of the school grounds; you must not park on the yellow lines anywhere around school – they are there for a reason which is to keep our children safe. Please do not park over our neighbour's drives – it is embarrassing and unfair for our office staff to have to deal with their totally justified complaints. I completely understand that parking is limited around school, and that it is difficult particularly when the weather is bad – but there is no justification for not following the rules and putting children at risk.

Chaplaincy Team

The KS2 children have chosen their Chaplaincy team representatives for this year – we are looking forward to working with them to enhance the liturgies in the school. Well done to them!

3BM	Mia and Nicholas	3NL	Max B and Olivia
4CY	Maty and Ella	4CR	Joao Luca and Malena
5RD	Elena and Zac	5RH	Tom and Sebastian
6PM	Jack and Natalia	6LY	Nell and Noah



Starting school in September 2024

If your child's date of birth is between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020, they are due to start in Reception in 2024! Please join us for a 'stay and play session' with your child from 3.30- 4.30 on either Thursday 5th October or Thursday 9th November. We are also booking places on our Open Information sessions for parents - please contact the School Office on 01202 528811. Please spread the word among your friends who may have children due to start school.

Current Reception

We also have some spaces in our current Reception classes – if you know of any one who is looking for a place for their child, please pass on our details and ask them to contact the office.

Macmillan Cake Sale

Please find attached a letter from the School Council about our fundraising event next Friday, 29th September to support Macmillan. If you are able to help plate up (from 1.30) and sell cakes – please let us know via this link <https://forms.office.com/e/PaHxng2Quf>, or on the gate. We have supported Macmillan for many years, and the children really enjoy bringing cakes in (and buying them back!) Please support us in any way that you can.

Year 6

Just a reminder for Year 6 parents that the closing date for applications for secondary schools is **Tuesday 31st October 2023**. We sent out an email from BCP before the summer with details of how to apply. There is an Open Evening at St Peter's Secondary school from 5.00pm to 8.30pm on 21st September. Also, just a reminder that you can pay for the residential trip, taking place in June, in instalments on WisePay at any time up until the **30th April 2024** to suit you.

Forestry Area

You may have spotted that we have lots of work going on in the corner of the Key Stage 2 playground. Steve, who maintains our grounds, and Mr Yarrow have been working very hard to create an outdoor learning area. They have re-sized the pond to a more manageable area, and we have lots of plans for making use of the area with den-building, growing plants and vegetables, and all sorts of outdoor/ forest school activities! If you have any spare materials that we could use, we would be very grateful. At the moment we are on the look out for pond plants, any decking material (non-slip), willow plants or weaving materials, a raised firepit (small) and rocks to create a rockery area. Please let us know if you can help in any way. Many thanks.

Coats

Please make sure your child brings a coat to school as the weather is very changeable at the moment. We try as far as possible to ensure that the children get fresh-air and a run around at playtime, so it is really important that they have a warm, dry coat, even if it looks sunny when you leave the house! Many thanks

Second Hand Uniform

We have lots of second-hand uniform at the moment, and our super team of helpers have offered to run a sale for us on Tuesday, 3rd October from 2.30pm onwards. If the weather is fine, the sale will be in front of the main entrance, if it rains we will have to move inside. Come along and snap up a bargain before the children move into winter uniform at half term!

Acceptable Use Policy

Yesterday we sent home a copy of our new Online Safety Policy which has been updated to reflect the changes to this year's Keeping Children Safe in Education. We are asking all children to sign an Acceptable Use Policy, and for you to support your child in doing this. Please could you sign the forms and return them to school as soon as possible. Many thanks.

Flu Immunisation

You should have received an email from us on Monday with information about the flu immunisation taking place in school on Monday 9th October. If you wish for your child to have the immunisation you MUST complete the online consent form **by Wednesday 4th October**, you can do this via this link <https://links.inhealthcare.co.uk/dorset-flu> and our school code is **7KXwfvj**. This immunisation provides protection for your child against this nasty illness – I do hope you consider it for your child.

Malvern Road, Bournemouth, BH9 3BY

Tel: 01202 528811

email:office@stwalburgasprimary.co.uk

Website: stwalburgas.bournemouth.sch.uk

School Attendance

Our whole school attendance was **95.42%** by the end of the last academic year (2022-2023). Here is a breakdown of the final attendance for each year group:

Year Group 22-23	Attendance 22-23
Reception	94.72 %
Year 1	94.38 %
Year 2	94.71 %
Year 3	95.92 %
Year 4	96.06 %
Year 5	96.02 %
Year 6	96.05 %

This year we are aiming to achieve our target of **96%**. We will continue to keep you up to date with how we are getting on throughout the year.

The DfE has made it clear that pupil attendance is a national priority. Regular attendance and good punctuality are vital for children's education, wellbeing, and their overall long-term development. The expectation is that pupils should have 95% attendance and any child whose attendance is 90% and below is considered a persistent absentee. If your child had 90% attendance at the end of last year, this equates to 3 weeks + 4 days of learning missed. Those who had 96% attendance missed 7 days of learning. We do understand that children do get poorly and we would not expect, nor want your child to come to school if they were really unwell, but it is important that you are aware of the expectations so that you can avoid the unnecessary absences.

Please remember, if your child is unwell and unable to attend school, you must contact the school office by no later than 9.00am to report your child absent. You can do this by phoning the school office on **01202 528811** or sending us an e-mail at office@stwalburgasprimary.co.uk. If we don't hear from you, we will contact you ourselves and if unsuccessful we will then contact the other emergency contacts we have for your child. If we are still unable to confirm a child's whereabouts we are required to make a welfare visit to the child's home. This is to maintain confirmation of our pupil's safety & wellbeing at all times – and this is set out in our attendance policy. You can find a copy of our Attendance policy on our school website.

The bell goes for the start of the school day at **8.40am**, if your child arrives after this time, they will be marked as late. Registers close at **9.10am** – lateness after this is recorded as an 'unauthorised late' which is an unauthorised absence for the morning session, affecting your child's overall attendance rate.

It is also worth me reminding you that the government guidance states that children must not take holiday during term time. Headteachers are only able to authorise time out of school in exceptional circumstances. Unauthorised absences can result in a penalty notice. If you need to request time out school in term time, whether you think it can be authorised or not, you must write to me with 10 days' notice, explaining the reason for the request and the dates. I have had quite a few requests already which is disappointing as we have just had 6 weeks off school. For those of you with children in Year 6, it is important for your children to be in school as much as possible, particularly in the lead up to SATs. Their SATs will take place w/c 13th May 2024 – please do not request time off or book anything for that week or the weeks leading up to it.

We have regular meetings to monitor pupil attendance and identify ways in which we can support children and families in achieving regular and punctual attendance. If at any point in the year you feel that you could benefit from support from our Pastoral Team with regards to your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to ask at the school office.

A message from the 37th Scouting groups

The 37th Bournemouth Scout group is currently looking for Squirrels (aged 4- 6 years), Beavers (aged 6 – 8 years) and Cubs (8 - 10.5 years). The 37th has been closely affiliated with both St Walburga's School as well as the parish of the Annunciation and St Edmund Campion for over 30 years, providing an engaging and balanced programme for all our young members. As a member of Scouting, your child will be encouraged to make new friends, take part in new adventures and be able to earn badges and awards. If you would be interested in sending your child(ren) along, please send Akela and email – akela37thbournemouth@gmail.com.

Mission Statement hero

Our Mission Statement hero this week is Illac Diaz, who has provided helped 690 000 people throughout the world to get out of fuel poverty. He has used an idea started by Alfredo Moser in 2002 to give plastic bottles filled with water (and bleach to prevent algae from growing) to households and schools without access to electricity. The bottles are fitted into a hole in the roof and refract sunlight, providing light to the hose. He has also provided solar lights which also diffuse light through a plastic bottle. You can see more here: <https://climateheroes.org/illac-diaz-light-by-the-liter/>

Well done to our Stars of the week!

Super Role Model: RP: Freya; RJ: Natalia; 1JC: Leo; 1WH: Luca; 2NW: Emily; 2ML: Klara; 3BM: Lara; 3NL: Alex; 4CY: Amaya; 4CR: Nathan; 5RD: Lewis; 5RH: Rosie; 6KB: Nell; 6PM: Mariyam.

Learning Champion: RP: Max; RJ: Kit; 1JC: Finley; 1WH: Aimee; 2NW: Robbie; 2ML: Jessica; 3BM: Harry; 3NL: Clara; 4CY: Ollie; 4CR: Alesia; 5RD; Klaudia K; 5RH: Alexandra; 6KB: Evan; 6PM; Estelle.
Well done to all of them!

Dates for your diary:

Mon 25 th Sept	2.15pm	4CY Class Liturgy – parents and carers welcome
Mon 25 th Sept		Year 6 Bikeability
Tues 26 th Sept	2.15pm	4CR Class Liturgy – parents and carers welcome
Thurs 28 th Sept	1.30pm	6PM Class Mass – parents and carers welcome
Fri 29 th Sept	2.50pm	Macmillan cake sale – see separate letter
Mon 2 nd Oct	2.15pm	2NW Class Liturgy – parents and carers welcome
Mon 2 nd Oct	3.15 or 6.00pm	Reception Parents' Workshop
Tue 3 rd Oct	2.15pm	2ML Class Liturgy – parents and carers welcome
Tue 3 rd Oct	2.30pm	Second Hand Uniform
Thurs 5 th Oct	3.30-4.30pm	Stay and play session for children due to start school in September 24 (and their parents!)
Tues 10 th Oct	2.15pm	3NL Class Liturgy – parents and carers welcome
Wed 11 th Oct	2.15pm	3BM- Class Liturgy – parents and carers welcome
Wed 18 th Oct	All day	Harvest celebrations and Food Bank collection –
Wed 18 th Oct	3.30-7.00pm	Parents' Evening – more info to follow
Thurs 19 th Oct	3.30-7.00pm	Parents' Evening – more info to follow
Fri 20 th Oct	2.50pm	Children break up for half term

Wishing you a lovely weekend with your family.

Veronica Woodward

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