

Holy Cross R C Primary School

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2010

Dear Parents

An Easter Newsletter to bring you up to date with school events.

PTA

The PTA worked very hard to produce attractively presented gifts for the Mother's Day sale, which was a huge success and raised £518.50. We particularly need to mention Mrs P Beetham and Mrs V Ramsey who co-ordinated the event. We are most grateful to them for the support. We hope mums enjoyed their presents. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

The PTA are raising funds for more ICT resources. This term they have provided £1000 for new blinds for the Key Stage 1 building as well as £168.00 to subsidise a school outing.

Fund Raising

During Lent, classes have been organising a variety of events to raise funds for CAFOD and St Cuthbert's Care. Their ideas have been most ingenious and enjoyed by all pupils.

World Book Day

To promote World Book Day on 5th March, pupils and staff dressed as characters from books. Thank you to all parents for making this an enjoyable day by providing such good imaginary costumes.

Curriculum

The Nursery held a day for parents demonstrating activities for Literacy skills for the children. The day was extremely well attended. Thank you for your interest.

A mathematics workshop will be arranged for next term.

Statements to Live By

Statements to Live By are becoming well established in school. You may have seen press releases in the Evening Chronicle and the Guardian about the launch of 'Radio to live by' at our school. We are very proud of Year 6 children who produced their own radio station and series of radio programmes, which can be listened to on www.wordfm.co.uk. The children gained many technical skills and wrote and recorded songs linked to the 'statements to live by'. Members of the parish and local community have been involved. Fr John contributed to the programmes with reflections on the statements.

Thank you for supporting this work. Parents have been very positive about receiving their regular letters.

Sport

Year 5 are continuing to enjoy their Tai Chi lessons. They have told us that it calms them, helps concentration and gives them confidence.

The Arts

Years 4 continue learning to play the tin whistle. The tuition and instruments are provided free through the Wider Opportunities Programme.

Year 6 Guitar Club remains very popular and children are very dedicated. We are fortunate to have Mr Phil Caffrey teaching songwriting and music. The children find him inspirational.

Year 2 are visited the Stephenson Railway Museum as part of their history topic on 25 March 2010.

School Garden

A new exterior light has been installed in the Key Stage 1 garden. Mrs Alexander continues to use the area to teach pupils about the environment and sustainability. As well as growing lettuce for the Chelsea Flower Show, the gardening club are taking part in the Gardener's World Campaign to grow extra vegetables to be distributed to the community.

Building Works

The new windows and doors are now complete and improve the appearance of the Key Stage 1 building. During the Easter holidays the painting of the doors should be completed.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is going well. Children are very well behaved and enjoying the games and the healthy nourishing breakfast.

Health and Safety

A big thank you to parents who have made alternative arrangements to avoid bringing dogs onto the premises. It is much appreciated and provides a safer environment for our children.

Safeguarding

Many of you will know of the increased concern for security in schools. Whilst some people consider this concern to be disproportionate to the risk, others regard safeguarding to be an important issue and the safety of our children is paramount. With this in mind, the Local Authority have visited schools in North Tyneside to advise what measures should be put in place for each school.

Holy Cross has always been regarded as an open, welcoming school and we intend to continue to do so. However we are now required to control access to the school much more carefully in order to make the building as safe as possible for your children.

Therefore it is important to remember that the doors at Key Stage 1 will not be open until 8.55 am and 3.10 pm. Doors should only be opened by a member of staff. Corridors need to be kept free of obstruction. Please do not use the access through Key stage 1 hall and library to use the main office as an exit.

Car Park Safety

Parents and children are reminded that they must not enter or leave school by the car park. This rule is to protect all of our children. Their safety is paramount.

Just a reminder ...

Milk Money

Milk money of £3.00 is now due for the Summer Term for those children who take milk.

Please ensure you are up to date with payments for this term as unfortunately we cannot supply milk for those in arrears.

If you have any difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Nearly New Clothes

Quite often parents send in good quality nearly new items of school uniform which are held in reserve for any parents who may require assistance in providing their child with the necessary uniform. Please ask at the school office for further details.

Parent Contact Numbers

To ensure that we are able to contact parents/carers in the event of a child's illness, we ask all parents/carers to inform school of any changes in emergency contact numbers as soon as possible. If you give a mobile number, please ensure that it is switched on during school hours.

School Council

The School Council and pupils have been talking about healthy eating. Taster samples of the lunch time menu will be available on both parents evenings.

Parish News

An Invitation

Parents regularly attend Class Masses and Liturgies at Church. A big thank you to members of the parish who prepared refreshments for the community after Mass. It is very much appreciated.

Easter Services at Church for Holy Week

Please could you encourage the children to attend the Church services during Holy Week.

- Palm Sunday 9.45am
- Holy Thursday 7.30pm
- Good Friday 3.00pm
- Stations of the Cross 7.00pm (Audio visual presentation)
- Saturday Evening 8.00pm (No mass at 6.30 pm)
- Easter Sunday 9.45am



After Easter school re-opens on Monday 19th April 2010. **School will be closed on Thursday 6th May for elections and staff training.**

Thank you for all your continued interest and support.

Have a happy Easter – don't eat too many eggs!

Best wishes

Mrs A M Burns
Headteacher