



ST JOSEPH'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Part of the Edmund Rice Family

13th February 2018

Dear Parents,

We are heading towards the half term break.

This has been a tough half term with so many parents, children and staff succumbing to the very nasty bugs and 'flu that has been about. I hope that the half term break will give everyone the opportunity to recharge the batteries and feel fully well as we head into March and hopefully some better weather.

I am pleased to report that Mr Hood is making good progress after his recent surgery and we look forward to him returning to us when he is fully recovered.

Lent

When we return after half term we will be in the season of Lent, a time of fasting, moderation and self-denial.

Traditionally at school we have used Lent as our main fund raising time as we consider 'almsgiving' and the less fortunate than ourselves.

We will be talking to the children about Lent and using practical examples of how we can use this as a time to come close to God.

This year each class will have just one day for each week of Lent to present some fund raising activities to raise money. These activities can include Games and the sale of cakes (for allergy sufferers we will need to know the ingredients). We ask that reasonable charges are made for each of the activities provided -10p to 50p.

We hope that by keeping the activities to one day a week it will help the children to be more focussed and be somewhat easier on your pockets.

This year our charities are the work of Edmund Rice (Christian Brothers) and the Kabanda Trust which is a local charity, based at Trentham Mews Medical Centre working with children in Uganda.

thekabandatrustweb@gmail.com

We hope that as usual you will feel able to support our fund raising.

Prep 6 will lead the fund raising with their stalls on Wednesday 7th March.

The Pre Prep are asking parents to help them to collect 'pennies' to cover a lamb which is taken from the icon of Blessed Edmund Rice which you can see in our entrance hall. Pre Prep parents will be notified about this. Each Friday during Lent children and staff will get together for a time of reflection and prayer.

Thank you.

Uniform

The Office staff and I am aware that some people have had problems in obtaining items of uniform from Clive Marks. We have been in conversation with them to express our concern. Please let myself or Mrs Pickford/Mrs Edwards know should you continue to have difficulties.

We are proud of our children and their uniform and we would ask that they attend school in the correct uniform. We have recently had a number of different coloured coats coming into school - school coats should be plain black please. Hats, Scarves and Gloves should be either plain red or black.

We have a large amount of unnamed 'Lost Property'. During week commencing 12th February (weather permitting) we will put this out so that you can have a look and see if you recognise any lost items.

Could I please ask that if boys are having their hair trimmed over half term that they have a traditional haircut and do not have the 'steps' cut in.

Girls must wear red or black hair accessories and tie hair back which is shoulder length. Girls are not permitted to wear nail polish.

Our girls are so active that we ask that ear rings are not worn in school for Health and Safety reasons. Should any of the girls be considering having their ears pierced can I suggest that they are pierced at the beginning of the Summer holidays to give them plenty of time to heal.

Sacraments

If anyone is taking their Sacraments of First Holy Communion or Confirmation this year and has not filled in forms, please get in touch with Mrs Pickford.

Parking Onsite

I am aware that parking is a perennial problem, however, I am sorry but parents are not allowed to enter or park on the school site unless they have permission. The parking area at the back of the school does not belong to the Prep School and so does not come under our jurisdiction.

PTA Chair Vacancy

Over the years the school has been very grateful for the support of the PTA.

The PTA has funded our school mini bus, IT equipment, including laptops and class white boards and has contributed towards the Jungle Gym and various Sports equipment.

Your support has been invaluable.

Recently Mrs Bains and her team have done a great job of continuing to provide activities for the children and parents whilst raising funds for the school; as I have indicated in previous letters Mrs Bains would now like pass on 'the baton'.

Mrs Brittleton is willing to take on a leading role in a PTA team but would like some support and a person /persons to call on to help her organise and run the PTA events.

The PTA will hold a meeting on 26th February at 3-35pm in the Resource room to see how the PTA can best move forward and to plan some future events. We hope that you can attend.

Yours sincerely

S. D. Hutchinson .

Mrs S D Hutchinson BEd
Headteacher