



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

9th January 2019

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of myself and the staff for the very generous gifts which we received at Christmas. Thank you, we are all most appreciative.

'Open Doors'

Before Christmas the Head Boy, Head Girl, Miss Kent, Mr Ferris and I were able to take a minibus full to the brim of food donations for 'Open Doors', collected during our 'Reverse Advent'. Mr Denson then made another trip just prior to Christmas with a car full of food. Thank you so much for your kind donations.

We are going to continue to support 'Open Door' throughout the year as part of the Prep 6 Edmund Rice Award and so would be very happy to receive your continued donations. There is a collecting box in the foyer for any dried goods you would like to donate.

Help Needed

I have received the following email sent by the Edmund Rice Network which does a lot of work with Refugees. I would like to support this family - if you can help with the donations they have requested in any way I would be grateful. Please send any items into school.

Dear Friends in Schools,

This term we are beginning to support a family in the North West who are in dire need of our help.

At the request of Wilf Hammond, Ex Head of a Christian Brother School), we are going to advocate on behalf of a couple who have been appealing for asylum for 10 years. They are now destitute as the Home Office has refused their case and they struggle to keep their 4 small children (all born in the UK). If they are forced to return they face honour killings as the wife's family do not approve of their marriage on religious grounds. She was forced into a marriage with a much older man, raped, imprisoned and beaten by her family in Pakistan. Her cousin was killed by the family for wanting to marry a man of her own choice. They have already been sent to detention more than once in the UK and understandably, the wife is very emotionally unstable.

*We are holding a meeting on 23 Jan at 2.00pm in Woodeaves to start to join together and launch a campaign to help highlight their case. We also hoped, as they are destitute and have nothing, to be able to offer them some **practical** help. **We hoped our schools would have a bake sale / fund raiser** so we can hand them over a small amount on the 23rd.*

As well as a small amount of cash, if you are able to raise it, we are appealing for these items which the family needs:

- **Children's clothes:**
Twin girls - Age 5 - 6
Boy - Age 4 - 5
- **Boy - Age 2 - 3**
- **Food basics items such as rice, lentils, oil**
- **Toys, books**

- **Nappies. Size 5+ and 6+ wipes. Nappy cream**
- **Children's Toiletries**
- **Cooking equipment: big cooking pot for family of 6. Crockery, cutlery**
- **Cleaning & washing goods; cloths, washing powder / liquid. Washing up liquid**
- **Bed linen**

St Teresa's Church

I have been in communication with Father Michael at St Teresa's to wish him a Happy New Year. He is very busy in his new parish and has had to change some of our Mass dates due to this. On 6th April, Ash Wednesday, we will be holding an 'Ashing Assembly' in school. The St Joseph's Day Mass has been rescheduled for 10 am on 19th March not 1-30pm. We will not be holding a Lenten Mass on 4th April. Father will be coming into school to lead Stations of the Cross with Prep 5 and Prep 6 on 8th April. Father may need to alter the other Masses that we have scheduled for May through to July. I will inform you when I know if these dates or times have changed.

The Term Ahead

The overarching theme for this term is 'Care for the Planet'. Throughout Assemblies and Collective Worship, we will focus on this topic; considering such aspects as pollution, conservation, recycling and our own impact on the world.

Our PSHCE week is themed 'Caretakers of the World' and will focus on Recycling.

We are excited that this term we have become a 'Clay School'; we are will be using clay as a means of delivering various aspects of the curriculum and proudly consider the rich heritage which we have here in Stoke-on-Trent based on the Pottery Industry. Mrs Parrish is our 'Clay Representative'.

I am sure that you will hear more about this as the term progresses.

I look forward to welcoming you at the various events we have in the school calendar - the next one being Prep 5 assembly on Wednesday 23rd January at 3pm – Parents and Carers are welcome to attend.

Clive Mark

We are aware that some families have uniform items still on order and that you may have been waiting a while for your order to arrive. Should you require any assistance, then please contact Mrs Pickford with your order number and she will contact Head Office on your behalf.

Marketing

We have some new Marketing material for the school and would be pleased if you have a business or contacts where any of our leaflets could be displayed that you collect some of the leaflets from the school office, or contact Mrs Pickford who will send some home.

God bless for a happy, healthy and peaceful 2019.

Yours sincerely

S. D. Hutchinson .

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