



FOCUS



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ST MARY & ST THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
www.stmaryandthomasquinas.co.uk

15th November 2018

Remembrance Liturgy



Last Friday all children from Nursery to Year 6 gathered in the school hall to partake in a wonderful Liturgy of Remembrance which was led by the children. The children observed a minute of silence before they processed to the Keystage 2 yard, where 100 balloons were released to remind us of those people who had died in warfare. The Liturgy ended with a blessing from Father Rose.

Visit our school website to read more about the 'Remembrance Liturgy' and balloon release.

International Visitors - Erasmus partners



Teachers from Romania, France and Italy spent almost a week with us in school last week. They were all extremely impressed with the high standard of education throughout the school and were particularly impressed with the politeness and behaviour of our children. Well done everyone!

UK Parliament Week in School

This week we have been celebrating UK parliament week. Liz Twist MP, spent time in Year 6 this morning discussing political issues with the children. Liz explained the differences between the work of a Councillor, such as Cllr. Buckley who visited school last week and her work as an MP.

Liz was extremely impressed with the in-depth questions and challenges she was faced with by the Year 6 children. A great debate took place!

Well done to Year 6 children and many thanks to Liz Twist MP for spending quality time with our children despite her very busy schedule. Thank you.

St Mary & St Thomas Aquinas School in top 6% of all primary schools in the country

Congratulations and well done to all of our pupils and staff. Thank you also to our parents for your continued support.

Please read the letter on the back of the Focus which we received in school this week from Rt. Hon Nick Gibb MP (Minister of State for School Standards)

Christmas Lunch - 12th December

If your child normally has a packed lunch and would like a Christmas dinner, can you please return the slip with payment on the letter that they should have already brought home.

PTA Cake Sale was a huge success

Thanks to the PTA who organised a fantastic cake sale for the parents and children last week. The cake sale was a great success thanks to the hard work of PTA members and parents who donated cakes. They made a fantastic amount of £165.80.

The cakes which were left over after the sale were all donated to the homeless in Newcastle.

Thank you everyone!

Children in Need Raffle

Our school councillors along with Mrs Wilders are organising a raffle on Friday 16th November tickets will be 50p each.

Anti Bullying Week

As it is also Anti bullying week please, you could wear odd socks on Friday to support and highlight this cause.



Mass of Remembrance - Year 6

Children in Year 6 will be celebrating Mass in school on Friday 16th November - 2.30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.



Eschools - Parents Evening

Closing date for making you own appointment is Sunday 18th November. Other appointments will be issued next week.



Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Miss E White
St Mary and St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School
Stella Lane
Blaydon-on-Tyne
NE21 4NE

RECEIVED 12 NOV 2018

8 November 2018

Dear Miss White

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils on your school's outstanding achievement in the 2018 phonics screening check.

Achieving early fluency in decoding is a necessary first step in acquiring the key skill of reading.

There is a significant body of evidence that demonstrates that systematic phonics is the most effective method for teaching early reading. We want to ensure that every child develops a firm grasp of phonics, which is why I was delighted to see your results. With 97 per cent of pupils at St Mary and St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School reaching or exceeding the pass mark in the check, your school is in the top 6 per cent of all primary schools in the country.

This year's figures show that 89 per cent of pupils who achieve the expected standard in the check go on to achieve at least the expected standard in key stage 1 reading teacher assessment, which underlines the importance of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

Your success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation in reading, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading.

Thank you for your work in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulations again to you and your staff for all you have achieved.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

P.T.A. information

Christmas Fair

Saturday 24th November (11 a. m. until 1 p.m.) will be our annual Christmas fair. As always, we ask for your kind donations to make this event as successful as possible.

Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2 - Bottle of all kinds for the tombola

Keystage 2 - Donations for hampers :

Year 3: Pamper hamper (suggestions of donations include bubble bath, face mask, nail varnish etc.)

Year 4 :Toy hamper (new toys, games, puzzles, colouring or activity books, figures or Lego etc)

Year 5: Christmas hamper (festive toys, games, candles, treats)

Year 6; Traditional hamper (Jam, Pickles, chutneys, port etc)

We ask that any donations are sent into school by 16th November.

All of these fundraising events will benefit school and your child. This year like past years the PTA will be contributing towards the cost of the transport for the Christmas Pantomimes. Thank you in advance for all the hard work that you do.