

ISSUE

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# Newsletter

After a whirlwind few weeks of the Spring Term, it has been good to see the children's progress really start to accelerate. It is this time of year when it begins to be most satisfying to look back in their books to the start of the year in September and realise just how far they have come in those few short months.

This week I have had children in Reception reading me their own writing – writing which they could neither have produced nor decoded in September! At the other end of the spectrum, Y6 have been showing me their accounts of a night in an air raid shelter, demonstrating not only their historical knowledge but also their command of sentence structures, vocabulary choices and imagery. It is impressive to see that, whatever their age, all of the children have gained enormously from their own reading experiences and that this impacts so strongly on their writing. Thank you for all your efforts as parents to read with the children and your encouragement for their reading at home. It really does make a difference, not just to their reading but to their attainment across the curriculum. Thanks to the generosity of our parish volunteers, we have this week trained 22 adults ready to start the **“Come Read With Us”** project after half-term. These adults will be supervised in the hall on Tuesdays and Fridays as they support the children with their reading and we are extremely grateful for their time and energy to help our children's reading skills. We are looking forward to celebrating Book Week with the children in a couple of weeks' time.

Following the deadline for **Parent Governor** nominations, I am delighted to share that we have had 6 nominations for the two Parent Governor roles. There will therefore be an election after half term and we urge you to participate in choosing the people you feel will best represent the wider parent view. Thank you to those who have put themselves forward for the role – we are truly blessed with supportive and pro-active parents at Cardinal Newman. The 6 candidates are: Helen Agnew, Ana Eady, Gareth Maher-Edwards, George Monteiro, Melissa Moore and Chris Richards. You will receive further details about how to participate in the vote after half-term.

As you may know, one of our pupils has been receiving treatment this academic year which has severely reduced his immune system. A letter is coming home with specific instructions about **notifying the school office of any illness/infections in your family** which may affect him. I would ask you to support us in this to help to keep him safe and healthy as he makes a gradual return to school.

Over the half-term, **we are planning a few minor improvements to the fabric of the school**. In a bid to rid the KS1 playground of (some of!) the puddles, the drains are having some attention; the blinds are also being replaced in all classrooms and the corridors will get a fresh lick of paint. The intended work to secure the doors/gates is not yet finalised and so the pedestrian/vehicle gates will remain closed/locked during the day after half-term too. We are working to resolve this as soon as possible and we thank you for your patience in gaining access through the closed gates where necessary. Unusually, **Ash Wednesday** falls during half-term this year and so the children will miss the usual Ash Wednesday service in school on that day. The times of Ash Wednesday Masses are published overleaf and on the school website and we will be having a **“Lenten Ashing Service” for KS1 (at 9am) and one for KS2 (at 10am) in school on the first Wednesday after half-term** to help our school community to develop our understanding of the start of Lent. Parents will be invited to these and the older children in our Prayer Council will be trained to distribute the ashes. We hope that some of you will be able to join us.

We wish you a very happy half-term with your families and look forward to seeing the children rested and refreshed on Monday 19th February.

With best wishes, Catherine Burnham

## HALF TERM

We break up for half term today at 3.20pm. We return on Monday 19 February.

## AUTUMN 2018 TERM DATES

Wednesday 5 September to Friday 21 December

Half Term: Monday 22 October to Friday 26 October inclusive

INSET Day: Friday 5 October, School Closure: Friday 3 December.

Spring and Summer 2019 dates will follow.

**BOOK WEEK—26 FEBRUARY TO FRIDAY 2 MARCH** Week commencing 26 February will be our

Book Week. This will include a whole school Shakespeare Day and a drama production based

on quality children's literature (many thanks to the PA for meeting the costs of this). On **Friday**

**2 March**, we will once again be encouraging staff and **children to dress up as their favourite book character**.

During the week we will be judging the **Reading Challenges**, so please could you ensure your children work on these over half term. Our aim is to work with you to foster a love of books.

Regular reading supports all areas of the curriculum and as we are sure you will agree there is nothing better than being "lost" in a really good book! Thank you for your support.

**KS2 SCHOOL LUNCHES** Please let us know by Monday 19 February if your child is having part time or full time school lunches—just follow the link on the website to book this online.

Payment must also be made by this date—no bookings can be made if there is any outstanding balance on your account. Thank you.

**REPORTING CHILD ABSENCE** A reminder that a child's absence should be reported to the school by 9.30am. You can either leave a message on the absence telephone line or email the school office. Thank you.

**YEAR 1 CHILDREN** are asked to please bring back their completed Reading Challenges on Monday 19 February. Thank you.

**CLUB NEWS** Letters for Surrey Football Coaching and Times Table Club after half term went home this week. All other clubs continue as before.

**TOP OF THE FORM** Well done to our team of Damian, Jude, Ciara and Rory who were narrowly beaten in the Elmbridge Top of the Form Quiz on Tuesday.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY PARISH MASSES**

St Erconwald's: 9.30am and 7.30pm

All Saints: 9.30am and 8.00pm

**RECEPTION REQUEST** Donations of small cardboard boxes (smaller than cereal boxes), small plastic packaging (eg yoghurt pots, bottle tops), corks etc would be very welcome for craft activities. Thank you.

**UNCLAIMED BICYCLES** There are a number of bicycles and scooters which have been left in the bike shed for several months. If one is yours please claim it as soon as possible, any unclaimed ones will be disposed of after half term. Thank you.

## **EFFORT AWARDS**

<b>Red</b>	Ryan W	Enzo M	<b>Ruby</b>	Mei C	Harvey B
<b>Orange</b>	Pola S	Evie H	<b>Coral</b>	Evie C	Leo P
<b>Green</b>	Tom M	Eryk M	<b>Opal</b>	Millie H	Daisy H
<b>Yellow</b>	Kieran H	Frank M	<b>Sapphire</b>	Olivia C	Nathan B
<b>Violet</b>	Rocco S	Leo I	<b>Emerald</b>	Bryan C	William J
<b>Blue</b>	George R	Sophie A	<b>Garnet</b>	Alexandra P	Molly B
<b>Topaz</b>	Lucy W	Tilly H	<b>Amethyst</b>	Rory N	Ashleigh A