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Newsletter

Dear Parents

You will be delighted to hear that the results are now in from our **consultation on uniform suppliers** and the outcome is clear. A substantial majority of votes (70%) were in favour of our local supplier AlleyCatz and that is therefore the supplier we expect to be using from the Summer Term (dates and details to be confirmed). Thank you to all the parents who contributed to our uniform consultation. One or two parents were concerned about the higher cost of the AlleyCatz knitwear, but others identified that the “faded” colour of the Marks and Spencer knitwear and the lower quality might well mean needing to buy more than one pullover/ cardigan at the lower price to keep the uniform looking smart. Parents identified as advantages both the high quality of the AlleyCatz uniform and the convenience of having a local supplier and supporting the local economy. Other local schools who use AlleyCatz have reported excellent service from them and so we look forward to a successful partnership going forward. Thank you again for all your input - we will keep you informed on our progress.

Sadly, I have had to take the decision to **close the staff car park to non-staff members at any time of day**. This is due to two staff cars being damaged in the car park before or after school hours. As you know, space in the car park is very tight and manoeuvring can be difficult. Parents who drop off early or pick up late are accustomed to using the car park, but I would now ask that you park outside and walk in to reduce the risk of damage to cars. The only exceptions will be individual parents who have had express permission from Mrs Burnham or Mr Flower for specific circumstances (e.g. illness/injury) which make parking in the car park necessary. I am sorry to have had to take this difficult decision, but hope you will understand the reasoning.

Many thanks to Father Bill and all the Year 3 parents and children who joined us for the **Advent Reflection at 8:15 on Monday morning**. The children read well and enjoyed seeing the first candle being lit on our Advent Wreath. This coming Monday will be the turn of our **Y4 parents and children** and we hope to see very many of you in the hall at 8:15am. Y3 and all other year groups are, of course, also very welcome to come and join us for a few minutes of quiet reflection before the start of another busy December week.

This week, Cardinal Newman has hosted our first **“Able Writers” workshop** with author Nick Cook. Some of our Y5 writers took part and other local schools were invited to join us for some collaboration and idea-sharing! The green screen work they did was very impressive and the video of their “news flash” will be uploaded to the website. We look forward to hosting more workshops for different subjects and different year groups later in the year.

Thank you for all the lovely Prayer Council applications I have received. In response to some children who felt they would like more time, we have extended the deadline to next Monday (4th Dec). We look forward to appointing our new Prayer Councillors before the end of term.

Wishing you all a very happy and relaxing long weekend and a positive start to the season of Advent.

All best wishes
Catherine Burnham

SCHOOL CLOSURE—FRIDAY 1 DECEMBER

A reminder that the school is closed tomorrow. We return on Monday, 4 December.

INSET DAY—MONDAY 4 JUNE

Our final INSET DAY is now scheduled for Monday 4 June, straight after our May half term. The school will be closed to children on that day.

YEAR 5 HIGH ASHURST MEETING FOR PARENTS—WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER

Parents are invited to this meeting at 7.00pm on Wednesday.

OWN SHOES DAY—MONDAY 4 DECEMBER

Children may wear their own shoes to school on Monday and bring an item of chocolate for the tombola at the Christmas Fair.

BOTTLE MUFTI—FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER

Children may wear their own clothes (with coats and sensible shoes for the playground) on Friday and bring a bottle for the bottle tombola. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS DATES

All our Christmas dates were sent home yesterday and are on the website.

READING BOOKS FOR DECEMBER

As you know, the children are busy preparing for their Christmas plays. We are still hearing them read regularly in school, but the changing books routines may be interrupted by the play practices in the next week or two! If your child's book hasn't been changed as expected, please do still read with them at home and take the opportunity to have a go at reading some of their home books instead. Some children respond well to paired reading, where child and adult each take a turn to read a page of a book, so that they can have a go at a slightly trickier book and still get the sense of the story! Talking about the pictures is also a great way of developing younger children's comprehension skills. Happy reading!

ADMISSIONS NEWS

Due to families moving out of the area, we have the unusual situation of one or two spaces arising in KS2 for January 2018 admissions. As you know, our school is generally oversubscribed and our results placed us in the top 20% nationally in 2017. If you have friends who weren't able to get their children into Cardinal Newman in Reception at the time or who might be considering Salesian for secondary school, do spread the word. We want as many children as possible to be able to enjoy our lovely school!

HEAD LICE

We sent an email home this week following a number of cases of head lice this term, including multiple cases in the same class. Please can we ask parents to regularly check their child's hair and treat if necessary. Thank you.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Next Wednesday, 6 December, will be the last uniform shop for the term. You can still place orders at uniform@cardinalnewmanschool.co.uk and once payment is made your order can be collected.

PA NEWS

The Christmas Fair newsletter is attached. Today is the last day for entries to the Christmas Fair Programme Cover Competition.