

STMS Newsletter 5th July 2018

Dear Parents,

I don't know if you are feeling it at home, but this last term always feels like the most hectic for staff! People often refer to the 'wind down' to the end of term but this is something I have yet to experience in a primary school.

End of year reports

Teachers are busy preparing final drafts to children's end of year reports. These will be circulated, as always, in the final week of term on the 17th July but the Year 6 reports will be issued the week before on Friday 13th July with their SATs results.

Year 2 Moderation

Year 2 teachers have just had their reading, writing and maths assessment judgements moderated by local authority moderators. I am very pleased to say that the moderation team were highly impressed by the quality of the evidence supplied to them and the accuracy of teachers' judgements.

End of year assessments

Teachers will very soon be making end of year assessments of children and are currently busy ensuring that every effort is being made to enable children to achieve age related expectations. These assessment results will be included in the end of year reports. These results are based on ongoing teacher assessment throughout the year and not on test results. This is something some parents wanted clarified.

Transition arrangements

We have already started preparing the children for the transition to the next year group. All children in infant classes will have had the opportunity to visit the classrooms from the next year group, to meet their new teacher and TA, familiarise themselves with the new environment and see where the cloakrooms, the toilets and the playgrounds are {should these have changed}. Children in junior classes will have the opportunity before the end of the year to meet their new teacher and TA. All this helps to prepare the children for the move and to make the transition as smooth as possible.

School Uniform

I was recently asked to clarify our uniform policy for parents, so I have attached our most up-to-date policy. Some of the common misunderstandings are around shoes and jewellery. Footwear should be black shoes or plain black trainers. Children should not wear earrings or ear studs unless they are able to remove them completely independently. This is something to consider particularly in younger children. If you are considering having your child's ears pierced, then the first week of the summer holidays is a good time to do it.

Backpacks and Pencil Cases

I would also like to draw your attention to a new policy we hope to implement from September. It refers to school bags and pencil cases. For some time now, school bags and pencil cases have been growing in number and size. It has reached the point where they are taking up too much room in cloakrooms and in classrooms.

In response to this we have decided that pencil cases will not be necessary from September and should not be taken to school. We have always provided more than enough stationary for the children and we will continue to do so. These are kept in the classroom within easy access for the children.

We will also be imposing a maximum size for back packs if children wish to take their belongings to school in a bag. Infant classes (Year R to Year 2) should use a Book Bag. These can be bought from our uniform supplier Skool Kit. Junior children (Year 3-6) may wish to buy a navy school backpack with the school logo, also available from Skool Kit from August 2018 priced at £10.99 or they may purchase one of their own choice online or on the high street but it must not be any bigger than the School Back Pack. Please note, they are small but perfectly adequate. An example of the School Backpack is on display in the entrance by our reception desk.

PE kits should continue to be taken to school in a drawstring PE bag. Please also note that PE kits cannot be used for extra-curricular sports clubs. Additional sports kit like this can be taken to school, either in the School backpack or in a small sports bag or backpack. Most children use a bootbag!

Year 6 Show

This Year, the Year 5 and 6 production is Mary Poppins. It will run on Tuesday the 17th July at 1:30pm and 6:30pm and on Wednesday 18th July at 6:30pm. Tickets cost £2 per adult and £1 per child. Order slips are available at the office but should be returned to your child's class teacher at register time with the money.

Year 6 Leavers Mass

The highlight of the final year for our Year 6's is the Leavers Mass. This will take place on Thursday 19th July at 2:00pm in the school Hall. Parents and family are very welcome to join us.

INSET days next year

We have set our INSET days for next year. They are as follows:

Monday 3rd September 2018

Monday 10th September 2018

Friday 2nd November 2018

Monday 22nd July 2019

Tuesday 23rd July 2019

I apologise for the two dates in close succession in September. This is because we have booked a trainer to deliver important training to all staff and this is the only time we could conveniently book it.

We are unable to provide childcare on the 3rd of September, the 22nd of July and the 23rd July, but Tommy's Childcare will be providing childcare from 7:4am – 5:45pm on the 10th September and the 2nd November.

First communicants

All our First Communicants have now made the First Communion and to celebrate we are organising an afternoon of reflection and celebration on Wednesday 11th July from 1:00pm – 3:15pm. Further details will be supplied to parents of First Communicants in a specific letter.

Summer Fair

Plans for the Summer Fair are going full steam ahead this week. The weather is certainly looking ideal. Please look out for the daily collections of goods for stalls and prizes. Donations are needed tomorrow, please don't forget cakes and plants.

The Summer Fair starts at 11am and runs through until 2pm. Please come along and support the PTA and our school. Tomorrow is non-school uniform day if you bring in a bottle. We will be streaming the football at 3pm so stick around after the fair and enjoy a family football show.



School Dinner cost change

The cost of school dinner will increase from £2.15 to £2.30 from September 2018.

Church News

St. Joseph's Church, Havant will be holding a parent and toddler morning from 10.15am to 11.30am in the Church Hall on Wednesdays until 18th July 2018.

Tea, Coffee and refreshments provided. £1.00 per family. Any queries please contact havant@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Tommy's Childcare

We offer breakfast and after school club every day. Breakfast club starts from either 7.45am (£4.00 a session) or 8am (£3.00 a session), the children are offered a range of breakfast cereals and toast and there are plenty of games and fun to be had!

After school club runs until 4.30pm (£5.00) or 5.45pm (£10.00) the children are provided with a range of snacks and entertained with fantastic games and activities.

If you are interested in hearing more about our childcare, please contact Mrs Miller.

Bikes left at School

Any bikes left at school need to be secured to the racks provided. Please do not secure any bikes to the railings.

Non School Uniform Day

Friday 6th July will be a non-school inform day, please bring in a bottle for the Summer Fair.

ITEMS FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Time	Event
Friday 6 th July		Non-Uniform Day – bring a bottle for Summer fair
Saturday 7 th July	11.00	School Summer Fair & live football screening
Tuesday the 17 th July	13.30 and 18.30	Y5/Y6 Mary Poppins Production (Tickets only)
Wednesday 18 th July	18.30	Y5/Y6 Mary Poppins Production (Tickets only)
Thursday 19 th July	14.00 – 15.00	Y6 Leavers Mass
Monday 23 rd July		INSET DAY
Monday 3 rd September		INSET DAY
Tuesday 4 th September		First day back after holidays
Monday 10 th September		INSET DAY
Friday 2 nd November		INSET DAY
Monday 22 nd July 2019		INSET DAY
Tuesday 23 rd July 2019		INSET DAY

Admissions Policy 2019-20

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to draw your attention to the Admissions categories for the school for children applying for entry to Reception Class in September 2019.

In previous years we have had an oversubscription category for “Catechumens” – that is children who were awaiting baptism into the Roman Catholic church at around Easter of the year of their entry into Reception class. However, the Diocese advised us that we should not have this category since, according to the Church, only adults and older children who make a choice to be instructed in the Faith and seek baptism can be “catechumens”. It is the parents who make the choice of baptism for their young child. So we now no longer have “catechumens” as an oversubscription category in our Admissions Policy.

If your child is to be considered for admission in the “Baptised Catholic” category, then she or he must be baptised before the Governors Admission Panel meets in January 2019. You must provide the certificate of baptism to the school (it will be returned) with the Supplementary Information Form for the governors to be able to place your child in the correct category for admission to the school.

If you are thinking of baptism for yourself or your child, our three Parishes welcome enquiries from those interested in the Catholic Faith. The Parish Priest will help you on your journey towards the baptism of your child and your commitment to the Church. This first stage will take some time, so the earlier you make contact the better.

Our Parish Priests – Father Leslie Adams St Joseph’s, Havant havant@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk 023 9248 4520 Father Gerard Flynn St. Michael and All Angels, Leigh Park gerardflynn@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk 02392 484 323 Father Mark Whiting St Patrick’s Hayling Island haylingisland@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk 023 9246 3854

Please pass on this information to anyone you know who might be interested. We also welcome applications from children of other Christian denominations and other children whose parents wish them to have a Catholic education.

We hope to see your child in Reception Class in September 2019

Catherine Davis

Chair, Admissions Committee

School Uniform Policy
St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School

Rationale

We believe that wearing a School Uniform enables children to identify with their school community, giving a sense of belonging and promoting equality. The recommended uniform is chosen with health and safety in mind and is practical and smart. We believe that it reinforces a positive work ethos and therefore supports our Mission to 'educate and inspire every child to fulfil their unique giftedness within a loving Catholic community'.

Aims

- To encourage a sense of pride in belonging to the school
- To engender a sense of community
- To promote a sense of equality
- To support a focus on learning and achievement
- To support health and safety requirements
- To support sustainable development through the inclusion of some Fairtrade products

Uniform Details

Essential items -

- White tailored shirt
- The school tie is dark blue with narrow red and yellow diagonal stripes
- Tailored school trousers, skirt or pinafore in mid grey (No culottes)
- The V-neck sweatshirt or sweatshirt cardigan is navy blue.
- Girls white socks or grey tights
- Boys grey socks
- Boys and girls - flat, closed dark shoes
- PE KIT - Navy P.E. shorts, plain white top and plimsolls to be kept in a drawstring bag. Children will also require warm P.E. clothing for cold weather - preferably navy blue jogging trousers and sweatshirt or navy blue tracksuit.

Optional Items -

- Children may wear Trainers instead of plimsolls for outdoor PE
- If a summer dress is worn, it should be in French navy gingham
- Fleece Jackets embroidered with the school name
- Boys may wear tailored short trousers in the Summer Term

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Hair and Jewellery

- In the interests of safety children should not wear jewellery to school. (Exceptions - Medical Alert bracelets/necklaces. Small stud earrings are permitted only if the child can independently remove them for PE lessons and put them back in afterwards. If a child is not able to do so then small stud earrings may only be worn for six weeks after piercing, but must be covered, before school, by paper tape on P.E. days. This includes Non-School Uniform days. A watch may be worn but will need to be removed for P.E. lessons.)
- No Make-up including nail varnish
- Long hair should be tied back with a very plain navy blue or white hair bands, small bobbles or clips. **Large bows and hair accessories are not allowed. Extreme hairstyles and colouring are discouraged.**

Role of the School

The school no longer sells uniform at school but has approached Skoolkit and appointed them to produce and sell our uniform. School Uniform can be purchased from Skoolkit, Havant which is located on the top level of the Meridian Centre in Havant (02392455795) or online www.skoolkit.co.uk.

Children will be regularly reminded of the expectations and praised for their support of the policy. The Class Teacher will speak to any child (or the parent in the case of younger children) who is not complying with expectations. The headteacher will communicate with parents/carers where there is persistent infringement.