



17th January 2014

Dear Parents,

School Library

It's been a good start to 2014 for St Theresa's. Our library is now complete and the children are able to take home any library book of their choice from the fiction or non-fiction area. They are able to spend time every week browsing through the books in a comfy, bright environment!

Thank you to you the parents - without your contributions to the Friends fundraising events we would not have been able to do so much so quickly!

Christmas Fair

Now that all the receipts have been handed in and we have the match funding from Barclays, we are able to announce that the amount raised from the

Christmas Fair was £4189.49 Well done everyone!

Reading Books Infants

Parents in the Infants will know that the banded reading books will be issued next week according to the child's reading level. Information about your child's reading day was issued in a letter this week.

Reading Books Juniors

Information about the day your child's book will be changed has been issued in a letter this week. The Juniors will be provided with a reading book from the class book area. The children are expected to bring their reading book in every day and to give the book a chance and not to swap it after reading one page! The books in the book corners will be changed every half term so the children will have a selection that will keep their interest. We ask that the reading book your junior child has in school be one from the school not one brought from home. We recently found out that many children particularly in the upper juniors were reading books containing unsuitable material for their age. Whilst a child may have excellent decoding skills and be able to read fluently they of course do not have the maturity to read books containing graphic violence. I would really appreciate your support with this request. All reading books at school should come from the school.

Marilyn Brocklehurst

We are delighted to welcome Marilyn Brocklehurst back to St Theresa's on Wednesday 2nd April to come to speak to the staff and parents about supporting your child in learning to read and develop a passion for books. She will hold a parents meeting at 7pm. Marilyn is an inspirational and very well respected librarian.

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She chose all the books for our school library and carried out an audit of what needed to stay and what needed to go. Every publishing company in the country sends Marilyn a copy of their latest children's book for Marilyn to read. If Marilyn recommends it then she installs the book in libraries and schools throughout the country. Please try to come to this event – you will not be disappointed!

School dinners

It has been brought to my attention that children who have school dinners have been bringing in a packed lunch on days when a certain food is served that they do not like. This is not an option we provide at St Theresa's – whilst it sounds reasonable the disruption and inconvenience this causes is huge. We will ensure that the children will always have a variety of food to choose from so that they will not go hungry if there is a certain option they do not like. We can allow you to change your child from packed lunch to school dinner or vice versa at the end of every half term as long as you give the office 2 weeks notice. Food is ordered well in advance and every potato, homemade chicken nugget, and fish stick is counted by the Local Authority so that food is not wasted. Again please follow this request.

Gymnastics for Upper Juniors

This term Year 5 and 6 will be receiving Gymnastics training on Monday afternoons from a qualified Gymnastics Coach. This is funded by the government Olympics fund. The lower juniors really enjoyed their session and certainly became more confident and skilled in gymnastics. I would really appreciate you reminding you child to bring their PE kit to school on this day so that this time and money is not wasted.

Swimming Lower Juniors

Years 3 and 4 are going swimming every Friday morning this term. After last week's hiccup where the coach arrived 20 minutes late we hope the children enjoy and take full advantage of this opportunity. Please ensure your child has their towel and swimming kit and hat (girls) with them on this day. The coach and swimming lessons are paid for out of the school budget so please make sure your child doesn't miss a session, eczema, colds or slight sore throats will not be a good enough reason for your child to be excused from swimming as creams can be applied before and after by our fantastic Teaching Assistants who are all first aid trained, and it has been proved that swimming does not make a cold, cough or slight sore throat worse. Let's keep the spirit of the Olympics alive in St Theresa's!

St Theresa's Blog

As from next Friday we will have a St Theresa's blog on our school website. A different member of staff, class or group will write the fortnightly blog sharing their account and opinions or what is happening at St Theresa's. Watch out for the first blogger next week.

School Fund

Please check to see if you have made your School Building Fund contribution. Lots of parents ask me if they've paid it or not because they naturally forget. Please feel free to ring Mrs Cole who will give you an update on your voluntary contributions. Thank you for your generosity, every penny goes towards the upkeep of improvements to the school building.

Foreign Language Assistant

We welcome our French Foreign Language Assistant Miss Niang who started with us last week. Miss Niang will teach a French lesson in Years 1 to 6 every week. She is getting to know the children and is discovering some who are very fluent in French. She will be planning her lessons to take into account children of all abilities.

Holidays during term time

In previous newsletters I have explained that I cannot authorize holidays during term time. However I had many requests before Christmas asking if children could have time off school to go to see their elderly grandparents who live far away and have not seen their grandchildren in ages, or celebrate a relative's birthday or other special events. These requests were not granted as they were not extenuating circumstances. Parents can only apply for Leave of Absence for exceptional circumstances, such as, bereavement or family emergency. However you will need to provide all relevant proof either before or on return from leave in order for it to be authorized. There is also a belief that I can authorize 10 days absence from school at my discretion. This is simply not true at all.

As a result our unauthorized absence figure has now worryingly increased which affects our school result in any inspections or publications.

I am now required to take action against anyone who takes their child out of school to go on holiday during term time. I would like to formally state that from the date of this newsletter holidays will not be authorized. If a child is taken on holiday I am expected to take action which will result in a fine and a possible criminal record. I do not want to do this however I have a duty to carry out these instructions as the Headteacher.

Please do not book holidays during school time in the hope I might authorize them as you will be disappointed.

Many thanks on your support in this matter

Message for the children

Photograph Reading in unusual places

It's not too late to hand in a picture of yourself reading in an unusual place. They will go on display in the library. The winner will be announced on 31st January. Many thanks

Dates for your diary

Some of the dates are very far ahead. We will try to keep to these dates as far as possible however there may be times when we have to change them. Please understand.

Class Assembly Yr 3– <i>Parents Welcome</i>	Wed 29 th Jan 9:15
Class Assembly Yr 2– <i>Parents Welcome</i>	Wed 5 th Feb 9:15
Class Assembly Yr 6– <i>Parents Welcome</i>	Wed 12 th Feb 9:15
Hindleap Trip Yr 5 Parent Information Meeting	Wed 12 th Feb 3:45pm in the hall

Half Term 17th to 21st February

Parent Consultations	Tues 25 th Feb 4 to 6:30pm
Class Assembly Yr 1 Blue– <i>Parents Welcome</i>	Wed 26 th Feb 9:15
Parent Consultations	Thur 27 th Feb 4 to 6:30pm
Ash Wednesday Mass TBC	Wed 5 th March 9:15
Hindleap Yr 5 Trip	Tues 11 th to 14 th March
Class Assembly Yr 1 Red– <i>Parents Welcome</i>	Wed 12 th March 9:15
Class Assembly Yr 4– <i>Parents Welcome</i>	Wed 19 th March 9:15
Class Assembly Yr 3– <i>Parents Welcome</i>	Wed 26 th March 9:15
Easter Assembly Yr 6– <i>Parents Welcome</i>	Wed 2 nd April 9:15

Many thanks for all your support!

Yours sincerely,

Miss M. Kelly
Headteacher