



**We learn together, we play together, we pray together,  
we grow together in the love of God**

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**SPRING TERM 2023**

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February

## Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all the parents who attended Tuesday evening's Parent Consultation. If you have not made an appointment to speak to your child's class teacher, please do so at your earliest convenience. Parents and school working together is incredibly important and beneficial to every child. John Hattie's seminal 2008 study, *Visible Learning: A Synthesis of Over 800 Meta-Analyses Relating to Achievement* found that "the effect of parental engagement over a student's school career is equivalent to adding two or three years to that student's education".

This week was Safer Internet Week and all the children were involved in internet safety workshops delivered by ECP Ltd.

It was also Children's Mental Health Week; the theme for 2023 is "Let's Connect". Human beings thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing, and our survival. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. And when our need for rewarding social connections is not met, we can sometimes feel isolated and lonely – which can have a negative impact on our mental health.

Thank you for all the support towards the fundraising efforts for the Y6 residential trip. Your contributions to the book sale were so generous that we are able to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> book sale after school on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Friends' KS2 Movie Night for children in Years 3 to 6 on Wednesday. The infant movie night is on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March and I hope many of you are able to support the event.

Thank you also to the children for taking part in today's "Wear something you love" for a donation of £1; we will let you know how much money was raised in our next school newsletter.

A reminder that when we return from the holiday, Father John will be celebrating Ash Wednesday Mass at the school on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 9.15am and you are all welcome.

I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye and thank you to Miss Mangan whose last day at St. Theresa's is today; she is returning home to Ireland this weekend. Thank you for everything you have done for the Y3 pupils; I know they will miss you greatly. The new Y3 class teacher is Lorraine Coleman and she will start after the half term – we welcome her to the school and hope she will be very happy here.

Have a lovely half term.

*Barbara Costa*

**Please visit our website where you will find our weekly newsletter, diary dates, curriculum information and lots more!** <https://www.st-theresas.barnet.sch.uk/>

## Message from the Friends of St. Theresa's

We hope that the children enjoyed today's non-uniform day "Wear What You Love".

Thank you to everyone who came to our KS2 movie night and a big thank you to Mr Troy and our Year 4 volunteers for supervising the children – we really appreciate your help!

## St. Theresa's School Attendance Policy

**Illnesses that will prevent your child from coming to school**

- Vomiting and diarrhoea (your child can return to school 48 hours after the last episode)
- High temperature with a diagnosed infection
- Hospital admission
- Dental surgery
- Medical emergency

**Illnesses that will not prevent your child from coming to school**

- Mild cough
- Cold/Sneezes
- Tiredness

## Authorised and Unauthorised Absences

### Examples of authorised absences

- Proof of illness from GP/Hospital provided
- Phone call from parent / carer explaining that their child is ill
- Proof of medical appointment
- Permission given from Headteacher following a written request for exceptional leave of absence (i.e. Religious days etc.). All requests for exceptional leave of absence must be made in writing to the Headteacher. Request forms are available from the school office.

### Examples of unauthorised absences

- Holidays
- Days out
- Birthdays
- Parent / carer or sibling unwell
- Tiredness
- No reasonable explanation received from parent / carer

## Bubble Show!! Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 3.45pm in the school hall

Come and watch the Olena Nesterenko bubble extravaganza on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 3.45pm in the school hall! The show will last approximately 30-40mins. Tickets cost £5 and can be purchased from the school office. All proceeds will go towards the cost of the Y6 residential trip in May.

## St. Theresa's pupil attendance target for 2022-2023 is 96%

Period	Whole school attendance
From 5/9/22 - now	94.7%

Class with highest attendance to date – Y2 is still in the lead with 96% attendance and Y5 is in second place!

At the end of the year, in July 2023, the class with the highest record of attendance will win a non-school uniform day!



<b>Reception</b>	<b>Zhan-Pier</b> for his positive attitude towards learning. <b>Radvin</b> for his wonderful effort in writing.
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Sebastian</b> for striving hard to improve his writing. <b>Lili</b> for working really hard on her sentences.
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Emily</b> for being a fantastic listener during carpet time and a super role model. <b>Lily</b> for facing every task with a positive mindset.
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Whole Year 3 Class</b> for making such fantastic progress and being so well behaved. Well done all!
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Leona</b> for showing good understanding in her times-tables. <b>Karo</b> for making a fantastic effort in learning his times-tables.
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Olivia</b> for demonstrating an increasing confidence in Maths. Olivia is getting better each time and has put a lot of effort into her work. <b>Krissy</b> for being a role model in class and demonstrating great behaviour. Krissy always tried her best in all her lessons and produces quality work.
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Timmy</b> for a great first week in Year 6! Well done. <b>Elizabeth</b> for being a great role model for you peers. Well done.
<i>The Golden Ticket Winners are:</i> <b>Nikolay (y2)</b> <b>Emmanuelle (y4)</b>	

### Love is in the air this half term as Libraries celebrate Valentine's Day!

Children can make a teddy bear card, create an animal and make Valentine's crafts. There's a focus on kindness too at Golders Green library's craft event.

At Colindale Library, Creative Communities delivers a range of events including a creative writing workshop for children with author Savita Kalhan, Sing, Story and Sign where we'll be learning some British Sign Language and a special event to explore STEAM with Lego.

All events are free and no booking is required. Find out more: <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/libraries/children-and-young-peoples-library-services>

### Half-Term Positive Activities

Fully funded activities for children and families in Barnet bookings are now live.

Places are fully funded and are for all young people who live in or attend school in the Borough of Barnet. Please note, you must register and apply online for all activities, courses, and workshops. If your application has been successful, you will receive an email confirming your child's place.

This February half term, the Positive Activities Team will be celebrating the Lunar New Year, marking Valentine's Day, and also delivering sessions that highlight Children's Mental Health Awareness. Activities include:

- Yoga Rap
- Circus Skills
- Squash
- Meditation
- Cookery
- Graffiti, and many more!

Book here: <https://barnetyouth.uk/Events?CalendarID=64>

### The Wednesday Word

"Let us thank all those who teach in Catholic schools.

Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life." Pope Francis  
What did Jesus say that people who practise and teach God's commands would be called? In this Sunday's Gospel (taken from the Sermon on the Mount), Jesus teaches us how important it is to follow God's laws; our Catholic schools and parishes try very hard to do the same. Ask your child what the word 'teacher' means to them. Ask them which people teach them about God – at home, at school or in the community. What have they recently been taught about God? Who is their favourite teacher, and why? Perhaps you can tell your child about a person you know who is, or was, a good teacher, and say why.

"The family is where parents become their children's first teachers in the faith. The family's strength lies in its capacity to love and to teach how to love." Pope Francis  
It's important to have good teachers. Parents are the first and foremost educators of their own children – others can also teach us so much about what really matters in life. Each of you choose someone who teaches you good and right things, and say a prayer for them. How can we show our appreciation to all those who teach us? Perhaps we can: be a good learner by really listening to what they have to say; do the good and right things they have taught us; simply thank them for being a good teacher.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/half-term-holiday-card?pid=MTA101634&cv=84.7>

### Safeguarding at St. Theresa's

Miss Costa is the Designated Safeguarding Lead at the school; Mr Troy and Mrs Folan are members of the safeguarding team. However, safeguarding and child protection at St. Theresa's is everyone's responsibility and is taken extremely seriously. Click the link to read the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy: <https://www.st-theresas.barnet.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Child-Protection-and-Safeguarding-Policy-September-2022.pdf>

### Dates for your diary

Mon 13<sup>th</sup>-Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Feb Half term holiday

Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 9.15am Ash Wednesday Mass

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Feb After school Y5 sweet sale**

Wed 1<sup>st</sup> March 3.30pm Infant Movie Night

Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> March World Book Day

**Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> March 3.30pm second hand book sale**

Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> March 3.45pm Bubble Show

Tues 7<sup>th</sup> March Y5 at Arts Depot for Barnet Schools' Dance Festival

**Mon 13<sup>th</sup> March Bouncy Castle Hop (more details to follow)**

**Mon 13<sup>th</sup> March Science Week**

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> March Red Nose Day

Tues 21<sup>st</sup> March Class photos

**Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> March Reception hearing and vision check**

Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> March 6pm Y3 and Y4 Easter Play

Fri 31<sup>st</sup> March Last day of term 1pm finish

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup>-Fri 14<sup>th</sup> April Easter Holiday

**New dates in bold**

*\*All parents welcome*



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[www.finchleyfoobank.org.uk](http://www.finchleyfoobank.org.uk)

email: [finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com)

## **Finchley Foodbank urgently needs more volunteers**

The cost of living crisis is hitting Barnet residents hard and we are struggling to cope with increasing demands amidst a fall in donations and overstretched volunteers.

### **When are you needed?**

Tuesdays from 11.15am to 2.30pm

### **What will I be doing?**

You will be part of a team of 12 well-practiced volunteers led by a session leader with roles varying from greeting clients to registering and guiding them through the foodbank hall as they choose food and other essential items.

### **What impact will this have?**

You will be supporting the smooth running of the Tuesday foodbank session. You will be supporting people who are facing very difficult times. 40% of our clients are children.

### **Commitment**

We are looking for volunteers who can commit 3 hours per week at least twice a month.

### **Training**

- Induction
- Safeguarding vulnerable adults and children
- Manual handling

### **How do I apply?**

Email us at [finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com) to start the process of volunteering with us.

**THANK YOU!**