



Dates for your Diary



From the Headteacher



- 11th Jan Y1 & Y2 Flu Vaccination
- 12th Jan Y4 Start Swimming Lessons
- 13th Jan 9:15am Rec Parents Phonics Meeting
- 14th Jan 10:30am Celebration Poetry Recital Assembly – (Y1-6)
- 18th Jan Y6 at Stratford Circus
- 19th Jan 10:15am Y2 Assembly
- 20th Jan 2:30 & 5:30pm MFL- Parent Workshop
- 21st Jan 10 Y3/4 Pupils at St Helen-Interfaith workshop
- 2nd Feb Reception at Pizza Express
- 3rd Feb Individual Photographs
- 8th Feb Y5 at Tate & Lyle – Junior Citizens
- 9th Feb 10:15am Rec Class Assembly
- 15th February - Start of Half Term Week- School Closed**
- 22nd February – Pupils Return to School**
- 22nd Feb 9:00am Parents' Topic Information Morning**
- 22nd Feb Dickens Project & Victorian Dress up Day
- 23rd Feb Rec & Y6 Weight & Height
- 2nd Mar 2:30 & 5:30pm English - Parent Workshop

Breakfast Club starts at 7:45am- £2 per session

Morning Clubs start at 8:15am

School Starts: From 8:45am ~ Children can go directly to their class

First Holy Communion



Fr Samuel stated that families of children who are in Year 3 or older will now be able to enrol onto the First Holy Communion programme either at St. Mark's, Beckton or St. Anne's, Custom House.

Please see the parish newsletter for details or alternatively the parish website.



Advent & Brentwood Catholic Children's Society Advent Appeal

Thank you to the parents who have already returned the collection boxes before Christmas. The BCCS will be coming to collect the boxes sometime towards the end of next week. If you still have the box, please send it in with your child on Monday.

Sports News



- 13th Jan Y5/6 at UEL- Sportshall Athletic
- 20th Jan Y3/4 at St Angela's – Sports Athletics
- 20th Jan Year 5/6 football match vs Brampton at Flanders
- 27th Jan Year 5/6 Basketball mixed at Langdon
- 28th Jan Year 6 Sportshall Athletic at NLC
- 3rd Feb Y1/2 at Vicarage – Mixed Handball



Dear Parents and Friends,

Happy New Year! It is very good to be back at school. The children and staff certainly seem to be happy to be back. This was very much reflected in our first school Mass of the new year with Fr. Samuel, where the children were very reverent and sang beautifully. This spring term we have lots of activities and projects planned to take place, which are always very enjoyable. We have already started with our new Classics poetry project where children will get to learn about great poets, explore the use of language and learn and recite different poems. We will soon start out annual Citizenship Weeks project. The theme of this year's project is 'British Values and Gospel Values'. This project promises to provide the children with lots of enjoyable learning experiences and the usual educational visits. During the second half term, we will be doing our very popular famous author project where we will be focussing on Charles Dickens this year. We are hoping to take most of the school to Dickens World in Kent to get a taste of life in the Victorian times as well as watch and learn about many of Dickens' stories. Hopefully this project will lead to some fantastic writing and the usual great drama.

Miss Peace has once again got together the before and after school clubs programme which will be in full flow from Monday. I am pleased to say once again we have over **36 clubs** before and after school, running this term. In addition to this we also are running before school booster sessions for all the Year 6 pupils. On top of this, there is of course our usual Breakfast Club. Children who attend the Breakfast Club get priority for the morning sport clubs.

There are still a few vacancies in some of the clubs, which children may apply for directly to Miss Peace. Finally, I would like to thank all the parents and friends of the school for their generous wishes to the school for Christmas, and especially thank those who gave gifts to members of staff. These were all very gratefully received. **Thank you. James Allen**

Termly Punctuality and Attendance

Attendance since 1st September to 18th December 2015

Class	Attendance %	Punctuality %	No of Lates
YR	97.2	0.76	30
Y1	97.5	0.63	27
Y2	98.2	0.78	33
Y3	98.4	0.21	9
Y4	98.6	0.83	36
Y5	98.1	0.51	22
Y6	98.8	0.55	24



Good attendance by Y6.

Y3 have the best punctuality.

Well done!!

New English Project **Poetry Recitals: Classic Poets**

Since coming back on Tuesday, the children have taken part in a brand new poetry project: Classic Poets.

The purpose of the project is to expose pupils to classic poets and poems, and learn the skills of recital.

Each year group has studied a different poem - focussing on its narrative themes and effective language choices. Next week, each class will be learning to recite the poems in preparation for a recital assembly on Thursday 14th Jan - to which, of course, parents are invited to attend.

We are also running a Recital Competition for solo performances. This has been opened to Yrs 2-6, and is an opportunity for the children to recite a classic poem in front of a panel of judges!

The best of luck to all who entered!



William Wordsworth



William Blake

Individual Photographs

Children will be having their photo taken on **3rd February**. Please ensure that your child is in full uniform and the boys are reminded to wear their **ties**.



St. Joachim's Breakfast Club Vacancies

We currently have a few places available for our popular breakfast club.

Cost - £2 per day Starts: 7.45am

Breakfast is cereal, toast and something cooked such as scrambled eggs, beans or bacon. They can also have juice to drink, as well as fruit and yogurts.

Apply by phone or at the school office.



Advanced notice... **The Dickens' Project**



From 22nd February, we will be launching our next exciting English project of the year - Charles Dickens! For 4 weeks all children in FS, and Key Stages 1 and 2 will be studying a Charles Dickens' story and learning all about the Victorians. We will launch the project with an exciting assembly - where we hear Fagin and the Artful Dodger may make an appearance!

As part of the project, we will have a whole school Dress-up Victorian Day (22nd) so all children are invited to dress up in character as a Victorian child.

Miss Pape



Before and After School Clubs
Your child will bring home an updated Club Timetable.

Please read it carefully and return to school on Monday.

Year 6 Booster Lessons and 1to1 Tuition

For our Year 6 children we like them to have the best opportunity to achieve their best in the SATs. We have therefore organised daily booster lessons for all Year 6 children from Monday to Thursday each week until the SATs. This is provided totally free of charge. Also there is some 1to1 tuition provided for children who need an additional push. These will resume next week for the selected children, which is also provided by the school free of charge.

KS2 Christmas Drama and Carol Service **DVD ~ £5**

A DVD of the fantastic Key Stage 2 Carol Service and Drama is available to order from school. There are also KS1 and Early Years Nativity DVDs.

If you would like to order a DVD, please ask at the office.



School Champion Versus World Champion

It is not an everyday occurrence to meet a world champion let alone play one, but that is exactly what happened for Robert in Year 6. On 16th December Robert went to Hamleys in London, along with 5 other pupils, to play World Chess Champion and World No.1 Magnus Carlsen, a game of chess. Did Robert win??? Of course not but he certainly gave him a good game. Magnus is 25 years old and from Norway and has been world No.1 for around 5 years now. Robert received a Magnus Carlsen chess set which he signed after the game. It was a great occasion that very few people are ever likely to experience.

Chess is played by an estimated 605 million people in the world and so to be No.1 is such an amazing feat. In fact you could say that people are 20 times more likely to win the National Lottery than become a world chess champion.

At St. Joachim's we teach all the children in Years' 2,3&4 chess as part of the curriculum and we offer pupils in Y5&6 a chance to attend chess club. We are very lucky to have Robert's dad teach chess at St. Joachim's as he is a FIDE Master, which basically means he is an expert. Chess is believed to improve children's mental capacity to solve problems and has a very positive impact on children's mathematical ability. Well done to Robert and thank you Mr Dybowski.



Mini Vinnies Carol Singing at Asda, Beckton

On Tuesday 15th December Mini Vinnies went along to Asda Beckton to raise money. As always Minni Vinnies look at ways to help others in our community so when St Joseph's Hospice asked us to do some carol singing during the festive period they jumped at the chance.

The children sang beautifully. They impressed many of the Christmas shoppers who sat to listen to them and managed to raise a whopping £271.