



English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

"where everyone is special"

Newsletter 3: 18th October 2019

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@EMCPrimary



High attainment at KS2 continues at English Martyrs!

The school is very proud to announce that once again, the children at English Martyrs have reached high levels of attainment in comparison to all schools nationally. Below is a table to illustrate the standards achieved and how it compares to the national averages. In all areas, the children achieved significantly above national in Reading, Writing, GPS, and Maths, both at the expected standard and those working at the Higher Greater Depth Standard. Well above average progress was made in both writing and maths.

Key Stage 2 (End of Year 6)

Subject	Expected Standard and above	National Expected standard and above	Working at Greater Depth/High standard	National for Working at Greater Depth/High Standard	Average Scaled Score	National for Average Scaled Score
Reading	82%	73%	36%	27%	106	104
Writing	91%	78%	55%	20%		
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	91%	78%	61%	36%	111	106
Mathematics	91%	79%	42%	27%	108	105
Reading, Writing and Mathematics Combined	82%	65%	30%	11%		

Persistent Lateness

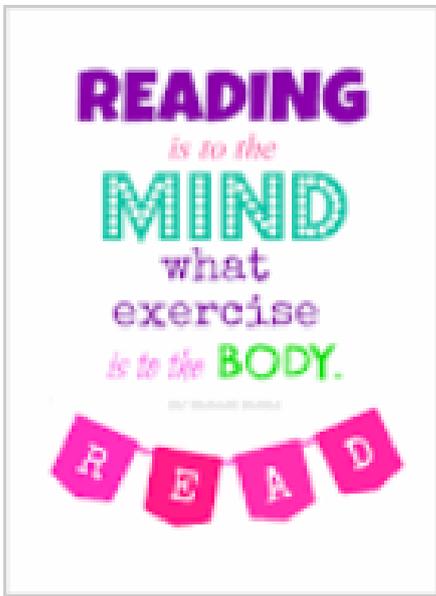
There are a number of families who are persistently late bringing their children to school. This means that their child's day starts in an unsettled manner which can be upsetting; it also has an impact on the rest of the children in the class who arrived on time - which is unfair. Children who are regularly late are being taught that it is ok to be late which does not instill good working behaviours for the future. When younger children are brought into the office late, the adults have to escort them over to the Ark Building, taking them away from their own work and duties, often leaving the office unmanned. This happens daily with a regular group of children. This message is for persistent lateness only and not for families who find themselves running late one day but this is not a common occurrence, we appreciate that we can all be late at times. Families who continue to bring their children late to school will be required to work with the school to improve punctuality and may



be referred to external services for support and intervention.

Every Minute Counts

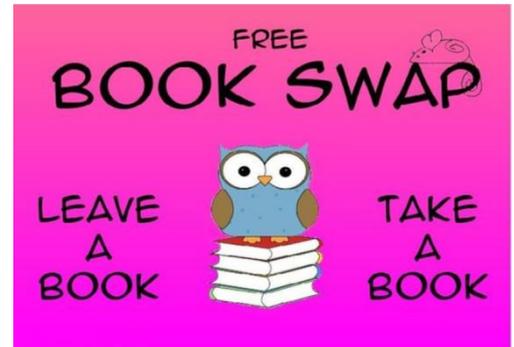
5 minutes late each day	3 days lost
10 minutes late each day	6.5 days lost
15 minutes late each day	10 days lost
20 minutes late each day	13 days lost
30 minutes late each day	19 days lost



Children's Book Swap

The school will be launching a new Book Swap initiative very soon. The idea of the exchange is very simple – children donate a book to the exchange library and then they can take a book from the exchange library. That's all there is to it. If they love their new book they can keep it forever. If they don't want to keep it they can swap it again the following week. A new cabinet has been installed in the Reception area (opposite Miss Sand's office) and each phase will have an area for the appropriate age range of

books to be swapped. Please note the Book Swap is for primary age children only and we would ask parents to check the suitability of the books they give to the Book Swap and those that the children take from it. If children wish to start bringing in their books from Monday then this new venture can begin.



School Building Fund

English Martyrs is a Catholic voluntary aided school. This means that while most of our income is derived from local Government funds as a Catholic school, we must contribute 10% of the cost for capital projects and for the maintenance of our school buildings. Without the school having the money to contribute the 10% we are unable to access these funds through LCVAP (capital funding from government) or DFC (devolved formulae capital) to enhance the school and maintain the site.

Over the last five years the school has been successful in bidding for funds to improve the buildings and its services. For example, new boilers and heating systems were installed on both sites; radiators were also updated in the Ark Building. Both of the boilers were replaced at the end of their life and failure in getting them fixed would have led to school closure until the situation could be remedied. The corridor in the main building was remodelled with a new fire system. Asbestos was removed from around the outside of the building. The Ark building had new flooring in the activating area. Through the DFC money new class laptops were purchased. To gain access to the DFC and LCVAP funding the school has to pay from its budget 10% of the total cost. For example, for one of the boilers to be installed the school had to find the 10% which was £13,000. The school did not have the money within its own budget to do this and on this occasion, due to the severity of the problem (if your boiler is not working a school would have to be closed), the diocese allowed the school to borrow the 10% from them and repay the £13,000 over the next three years which we were very grateful for.

Governors and staff are committed to providing a high standard of learning environment and there is still a lot that we would like to achieve but we do need to continue to finance additional projects and essential maintenance works. There is an ever continuing need to refurbish our existing facilities to meet the requirements of today's education standards and improve the learning environment of the school for the benefit of all the children, staff and parents. As such schools are depending more on the generous voluntary contributions of parents.

Over eighteen years ago, The Archdiocese of Birmingham introduced a Building Fund, in which parents contributed money which can be paid weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. The school can then use this money towards its building projects/capital projects or in the purchase of ICT equipment. English Martyrs has always been part of this scheme and we currently have a small number of families who make regular contributions.. Parents can set up direct debits and contributions which can also be Gift Aided, which

means that the school can reclaim from HMRC the basic rate tax you have already paid on your contribution. This increases the value of your contribution and at no extra cost to you. For each £100 that we receive we can claim back an additional £25. If parents wish to contribute in cash then we are also happy to receive this. All forms are to be returned to the school office in a sealed envelope, addressed with your child's name and **Building Fund** on the front of the envelope.

The forms have also been attached to the same email as the newsletter and a paper copy has been given to each child in the school. We would ask you to strongly consider making donations to the building fund and we thank you in advance for your continued support. If parents contributed at least £10 a term the school would be very grateful. A big thankyou to the parents who continue to contribute to this much needed fund. The school is wishing to launch a new library for the children and the DFC fund would significantly help towards this project but we need the 10% raised to make it happen.

PTFA Cake Sale

Thursday 24th October

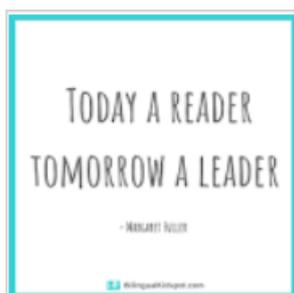
All Children to bring in cakes please for the cake sale on Thursday morning.



Inconsiderate Parking

A big thankyou to all of the parents who persistently follow the school rules regarding parking and behave in a manner that keeps children safe. There are a number of parents who knowingly park on the school drive without authorisation from the school. Parents are not to approach other parents regarding parking but inform the school office. Under no circumstances should parents be arguing or using inappropriate language to one another especially if children are present. If we know who the parents are parking without authorisation, the school will make direct contact with the adults. If we do not know who it is then an email will be distributed referencing the registration of the car.

A local resident who lives at the bottom of the school drive is still having parents parking and blocking her garage so she is unable to get in or out. No parking or stopping is ever permitted on yellow lines. On Thursday afternoon at pick up time, a number of parents drove onto the road near the Church and sat and waited for their children to get into their cars blocking the road for other car users. This is very dangerous and also blocks the traffic on the main road. Selfish and inconsiderate parking puts children's lives at risk.



Polite Reminders

Under no circumstances should anyone park on this no through road, which is clearly marked with double yellow lines on the corners. There is no space for parking or waiting. Neighbours would be blocked into their properties and there is no space to turn around. There are still some adults reversing around the **blind bend** which is incredibly dangerous, bikes and pedestrians can not be seen by the driver. This is never acceptable even in a morning when dropping off at the before school club in the Church.



Please do not park on the double yellow lines or drop children off/wait for children in this area. When children are dropped off in this area this is creating cars having to wait on the main road, which is dangerous and stops a smooth flow of traffic.



No cars should be parked within this 'Keep Clear' sign'.



Vehicles should not be parked on the double yellow lines it reduces the space for other vehicles to pass safely.



Vehicles should not go beyond the NO ENTRY sign and not reverse onto this area.



The private drive which is shared ownership between the Church and the school starts at the double white lines which reads 'STOP'. Parents/carers are not permitted to park on or drive beyond this sign in a morning or at the end of the school day. Parents who have permission to park on the drive must arrive well before the start of the day and leave after the children have all left school.



Diary Dates

October

17 th	Mass Y6/Y3
24 th	Mass Y5/Y2
24 th	PTFA Cake Sale
25 th	Teacher Training Day – School Closed to Pupils

HALF TERM 28TH OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

November

6TH	CONFIRMATION 7PM
7 th	Mass Y4/Y1
14 th	Mass Y6/Y3
15 th	Y5/Y6 PTFA Film Night (volunteers needed)
17th	Y3 Presentation of First Holy Communion candidates to the parish 11am at English Martyrs Church.
21 st	Mass Y5/Y2
28 th	Mass Y4/Y1
28 th	Non Uniform Day (Pupils to bring a bottle for the bottle stall)
30 th	Christmas Bazaar 12pm-3pm

December

3rd	Y3 Sacrament of Reconciliation 6:30pm
5 th	Mass Y6/Y3
6 th	Y6 Trip to London
9 th	Flu vaccinations FS to Y6
11 th	FS/KS1 Production 2pm
12 th	FS/KS1 Production 2pm
12 th	Mass Y5/Y2
16 th	Grandparents' Afternoon 1:45pm
17 th	Y2 to Y6 Puss in Boots Pantomime at the Belgrade
17 th	R and Y1 Hatton Trip
18 th	Whole School Christmas Lunch (please remember that this lunch has to be ordered in advance at the school office, late requests can not be accommodated. Miss Sands will send out information about the lunch in due course.
18 th	Christmas Party: FS & KS1
19 th	Christmas Party KS2
19 th	Whole School Mass led by Y4
20 th	9:30am Carol Service/End of term presentations

January

6th Teacher Training Day

June

6th **First Holy Communion 2pm**
29th to 1st Beaumanor Hall Residential for Year 5

School Improvement Suggestion

As a school we are always striving to improve, a good school listens to suggestions and opinions which can often lead to school improvement and positive change. If you have any suggestions you wish to share with the school, please fill the slip in below and hand it in to the school office or in the white letterbox in reception. Parents can also visit www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk to complete the parent view questionnaire.

Signed: _____ Name: _____ Date: _____

