

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

"where everyone is special"

Newsletter 5: 17th December 2021

www.englishmartyrs.warwickshire.sch.uk

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@EMCPrimary



Thank you for all your support this term. It has been a tricky term and guidance is forever evolving but you remain resilient and accommodate our changes. We really appreciate your kindness and encouragement this term. From all the staff at English Martyrs Catholic Primary School, we wish our community a peaceful and heartfelt Christmas.

PTFA news

The Christmas outdoor event and the non-school uniform day raised £227.

Your super efforts mean that English Martyrs could purchase sweets and treats for the children for their Christmas parties.

The next PTFA meeting will be held on 10th January at 8pm in the Ex Service Man's club

Staff changes



It is time to say farewell to Mr Bromage and Mrs Paterson. We wish them the best for the future.



Mr Christie will also be leaving our school and we wish him the best for the future.

We now have new members of staff and would like to welcome **Mr Myatt** to Year 2 who will job share with Mrs Golby and **Miss Nleya** who will be the new Year 1 teacher. Our new Year 6 teachers will be **Mr Watson** who will work four days and **Mrs Yates** will work one day. We look forward to welcoming them to English Martyrs in January.

Reception – Mrs Jones KS1 phase leader

Year 1 – Miss Nleya

Year 2 – Mrs Golby (Monday to Wednesday) and Mr Myatt (Thursday and Friday)

Year 3 – Mrs O'Malley

Year 4 – Miss Long

Year 5 Mrs Skuse

Year 6 Mr Watson (Monday to Thursday) and Mrs Yates (Friday)

Mrs Rouledge is the Deputy Headteacher

PE Timetable

Please find below the PE Timetable for classes starting back in January. Children will still be required to come to school in their PE kits next Spring Term. This will begin on the first week back. Please ensure that children have the correct school uniform for PE. This is on our website and in the school [Uniform Policy](#).

Reception	Wednesday
Year 1	Wednesday and Friday
Year 2	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 3	Tuesday and Friday
Year 4	Tuesday and Friday (swimming)
Year 5	Monday and Tuesday
Year 6	Monday and Friday

Mark Pawsey Christmas Card Competition 2021

We had fantastic news that **Hannah V** won 1st Prize for her Christmas Card design which can be seen on the left. Mr Pawsey said "He was impressed with the design; it really was excellent! You should be incredibly proud of your artwork and I know that you must have put a lot of time and effort into it, for which I am very grateful."



Highly Commended were also **Canisha J**, **Sophie F**, **Joseph V**, **Darshith S K**, **Efesombia A** and **Anna-Louise A**. They all receive a certificate and a pencil from the Houses of Parliament.

Reading Competition winner

We are delighted to announce that **Gilbert E** won the reading competition this term and received a £25 gift voucher. We will start the competition again in the New Year and it would be lovely if children continue to read during the Christmas holidays.

Parent Governor Elections

We are looking for a new Parent Governor. A letter was sent out explaining the role of governor along with nomination forms. Please consider this to support our school governance who supports the strategic direction of our school and work together with staff to make sure that our school provides a challenging and supportive environment for its pupils.

Caretaker job vacancy

Mrs Thompson has worked in our school for 15 years as a cleaner and caretaker. She has now reduced her hours and we now have a vacancy for a new Caretaker in our school. The caretaker vacancy will be advertised on WM Jobs early in the New Year, please look out for this if you are interested or speak to Mrs Copson in the school office.

Christmas services at English Martyrs and Sacred Heart church

Christmas Eve 24th December: English Martyrs 5pm, Sacred Heart 8pm

Christmas Day 25th December: Sacred Heart 9.30am, English Martyrs 11am

Sunday 26th December: Holy Family Feast: Sacred Heart 9.30am, English Martyrs 11 am.

Midnight Mass from St Chads will be televised live on BBC.

LATEST GUIDELINES FROM THE BISHOPS CONFERENCE RE COVID GUIDANCE at church

With respect to the current situation with the omicron variant it is important to ensure the following points are followed in our churches:

- That people displaying any symptoms of covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person.
- That hand sanitiser is available to those attending the Church.
- That you must wear a face covering (both nose and mouth) during the act of worship.

- That there is good ventilation and air throughput in the building; in this case, because of climatic conditions, it would be important to remind people to wrap up well in church!
- That a positive message encouraging people to get vaccinated and have the booster jab when able is delivered whenever possible.
- That people who are engaged in a form of pastoral ministry which involves ministry to the housebound, sick and vulnerable, should take regular lateral flow tests to ensure they are safe to do so. These are free from the NHS.

Covid-19 update from the Government

I am aware that there has been information in the news about school's preparing to switch to Online Learning if required in the New Year. This may be due to children having to stay at home because of Covid-19 infections. The Government has committed to ensuring that schools in England stay open in January. Please ensure that you have your child's login details for Microsoft Teams and they are set up and ready to move to remote learning if there is a need in the New Year.

National Online Safety

We sent out an email about our National Online Safety Subscription. Please find below the URL you need to visit to register your account. You will need to complete your details and select "I am a: Parent/Carer" from the dropdown:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/english-martyrs-catholic-primary-school-5>

Once you have registered, you will be able to access the "Online Safety for Parents and Carers" course and National Online Safety's Resources (which includes 50+ online platform guides on the latest social media channels and games). This aims to help empower parents with the knowledge to protect their children from the dangers of the internet.

Our suggestions would be :

ALL parents complete - Annual Certificate in Cyber Security for Parents and Carers

EYFS and Key Stage One parents complete – Annual Certificate in Online Safety for Parents and Carers of children aged 3-7

Key Stage Two parents complete- Annual Certificate in Online Safety for Parents and Carers of children aged 7-11

We hope you will agree that this is a really important issue that we need to work together to develop and would appreciate your comments and feedback about the resource once you have signed up.

If you have any questions, or trouble accessing the course please contact support@nationalonlinesafety.com or come and speak to a member of staff who will do their best to support you.

In this newsletter I have included information about making the most of the online world this Christmas. I hope you find this useful.

MAKE THE MOST OF THE ONLINE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS

1 EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Budding bakers will relish helping out in the kitchen with some tasty festive treats. Spend some time together researching child-friendly Christmas recipes online (the BBC Good Food site is an excellent place to start), and then you and your little chef can rustle up gingerbread santas, marshmallow snowmen or reindeer shortbread. The only thing that's more fun is eating your creations afterwards!

WHEN THE SNOWMAN BRINGS THE SNOW...

4 A WORLD OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW

From turkey on the beach in Australia to roller-skating to church in Venezuela, Christmas is celebrated in a variety of ways worldwide – curious youngsters might enjoy discovering other nations' festive traditions online. Google's Santa Tracker is a brilliant (and free) starting point, with games, activities and animations to help children enjoy learning as they count down to the big day!

2 THE OLD SONGS ARE THE BEST?

We've all had that Christmas compilation CD that was almost perfect, if it wasn't inexplicably missing one of your best-loved tracks. In this era of music streaming, however, your little helpers can assist you in compiling a definitive playlist of all your favourite seasonal songs – no more pinning for The Pretenders or wishing for Wizard.

5 THE NEAR AND THE DEAR ONES

Between time constraints, distance, the weather and Covid precautions (or a combination of all four) for many families it just won't be possible to physically spend time with everyone they'd ideally like to this Christmas. Video calling technology, of course, takes some of the sting out of the disappointment by virtually transporting loved ones into your living room.

3 DECK THE HALLS

There's no such thing as 'too many' Christmas trimmings! Let your child channel their excitement into some creative crafting, and you'll make memories as well as your own DIY decorations. There are loads of step-by-step guides online (including video walkthroughs on YouTube) for seasonal showpieces like paper plate angels, handprint wreaths and cupcake wrapper Christmas trees.

6 KIDS FROM ONE TO 92

If Santa's brought your young ones a console this year (or they already had one), it's a perfect excuse for some quality time while they gleefully trounce you at FIFA or Mario Kart. Digital versions of traditional board games like Monopoly and Cluedo are available on most platforms, too; get the whole household together for a modern take on some old-school family fun.

7 A WINTER'S TALE

Everyone enjoys a story at this time of year; after all, the whole celebration is based on an engrossing yarn. Sites such as Audible are an excellent way of entertaining excited young ones, with classics like Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and seasonal short stories by Enid Blyton alongside more contemporary Christmas tales by the likes of Tom Fletcher, JK Rowling and Ben Miller.

8 CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THOSE FACES

People used to express their gratitude for a thoughtful Christmas gift with a thank you card or a dutiful phone call. Not in the digital age: now your relations can see first-hand on video calls how delighted the children are with their presents – and even how they look in that slightly questionable hand-knitted pullover.

9 BROUGHT ME SOME CORN FOR POPPIN'

Snuggling up against the winter weather with the family (and a generous helping of chocolates) to enjoy a well-loved movie is a delightful Christmas tradition. The usual streaming services have some classic candidates on offer: *Home Alone* and *The Santa Clause* are on Disney+, while Amazon Prime has *Ti* and *The Grinch*, and Netflix goes with *The Princess Switch* and *The Christmas Chronicles*.

10 GUESS WHAT I FORGOT?

Friends and family pitting their wits against each other on Zoom, Teams or Skype really took off during lockdown, so why not revive the tradition over the holidays? Your questions could be on the biggest news, sport and showbiz stories of 2021, or be Christmas themed, or you could stick to classic general knowledge. Ideal for those days between Christmas and New Year.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Diary Dates

December

17th Children finish at normal time of 3.30pm on this day

January 2022

4th Training Day – no children in school

5th School begins for the Spring Term all children in school

18th Peer Mediation with Year 6

25th Peer Mediation with Year 5

27th Confirmation for Year 6 with Bishop Kenney

February

8th 6.30pm Year 3 parent meeting Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Venue to be confirmed.

18th Theatre trip for Year 2 to Year 6 Billionaire Boy

March

9th Year 3 Reconciliation at English Martyrs Church

April

8th Last day of Spring Term

June

29th to 1st Beaumanor Hall Residential for Year 5

11th & 18th FHC 11.00 am (Group 1 11th and Group 2 18th) Groups TBC

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: _____

