

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

"where everyone is special"

Newsletter 8: 11th February 2022

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Academy News



In June 2021, the Archbishop, the Most Reverend Bernard Longley wrote requesting every Catholic Voluntary Aided school under the Trust Deed of the Archdiocese of Birmingham joined a multi academy company of Catholic Schools by September 2022 or were to be in the process of doing so. In a recent meeting the Governing Body of English Martyrs Catholic Primary School voted in favour of initiating the consultation with our key stakeholders and submitting an application for an academy order to convert the school to and academy and join the Our Lady of the Magnificat Catholic Multi-Academy Company. An Academy order

would confirm whether the Department for Education (DfE) was in principle supportive.

The governing body are considering joining the Magnificat Catholic Multi-Academy Company. We are now in the consultation period which is open from Monday, 31st January 2022 – Friday 25th February. Consultation will last for four weeks concluding on the 25th February 2022, so that everyone has time to consider the issues properly and, if they wish, to express their views using any of the following methods:

- Responding using the online form available from the school's website
- Emailing the school office, please mark the subject as 'Academy consultation'
- Writing a letter to the school marked Academy consultation.

Please go to our school website for further information on our Academy Consultation.

A consultation meeting was arranged on Wednesday 9th February and information from the meeting will go onto the website along with questions and answers raised in the meeting.

Punctuality

Please can I remind parents that children should be in their class line at **8.55am** so that when the bell rings, they can enter the school building promptly. This way we do not lose teaching and learning time. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

Theatre Trip to Belgrade



We are looking forward to our trip to Belgrade theatre on Friday 18th February for Years 2 – 6. Please ensure you have paid for the trip if you haven't already done so through Pay360 app. A packed lunch is required, unless your child is in receipt of Free School Meals or is in Year 2 and you have previously notified us that you require a deli bag for this day.



A reminder for the forthcoming PTFA events:

Forthcoming Film night and Non-Uniform Days



4th March – Year 3 and 4 Film Night

9th March – Pyjama Day £1 donation



Parking on Fellows Way

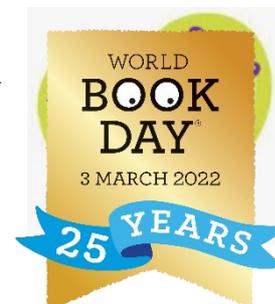
We have had complaint from residents on Fellows Way regarding parking. Please ensure you park respectfully and **DO NOT** park on double yellow lines. This is a criminal offence and your car will be booked.

World Book Day 3rd March 2022!

We are looking forward to sharing the joy of reading on World Book Day this year. Children will be bringing home a book token which can be swapped for a new, exclusive, FREE book available at participating booksellers. Or it can be used to get £1 off any book or audiobook worth £2.99 or more.

We'd love it if children came to school dressed as a book character on March 3rd. For ideas and inspiration you can visit www.worldbookday.com

We will be busy on the day with treasure hunts, quizzes, 'the masked reader' and lots of other fabulous work based on books. Thank you for all your support in making World Book Day a memorable experience every year.



Family Information Service



Mrs Copson sends out a newsletter from the [Family Information Service](#). It is packed full of helpful information for families. This week Newsletter. Please take time to read the latest newsletter.

Online Safety Information

This week the whole school took part in Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 8th February which focused on exploring respect and relationships online. The children were very knowledgeable about what they should and should not do online. Here is more information for adults to discuss with their children about being respectful online and what they can do.

10 Top Tips for Respect Online: INSPIRING CHILDREN TO BUILD A BETTER DIGITAL WORLD

Our ability to communicate with anyone in the world, at any time, via the internet has grown at breakneck speed. For teachers and parents, it can feel impossible to keep up. Worrying about our young people is understandable, and not unjustified: in 2020, for example, one in five 10- to 15-year-olds experienced bullying online. Our tips highlight ways that adults can support young people's positive online behaviours: by adopting and following 'netiquette', we can show them how to avoid getting into difficulty as they learn to negotiate the continually evolving digital landscape.

WHAT IS NETIQUETTE?

Just like etiquette is a set of rules which guides and governs our interactions with others in everyday life, netiquette – etiquette on the net – is the framework which helps inform how we communicate with people online. The rules of engagement often aren't the same as a face-to-face meeting, so it's important that we can accurately 'read' situations in the digital world and know how to act appropriately.



1 ACCEPT DIFFERENT RULES

A lot of our interaction with others is helped by non-verbal signals like body language and facial expressions. Online, of course, many of these clues are missing. Talk to your child about why this makes misunderstandings more likely to occur in the digital world and why keeping in mind that online communication is a very different process can help to prevent difficulties from arising.

2 PRESS 'PAUSE'

It's so easy to do things quickly online that most people (adults included) habitually send or respond to messages without considering the consequences. Pushing 'the pause button' buys a young person some time while they ponder the golden rule: "Would I still say this if the other person was right front of me?" You could practise this with your child on some made-up tricky situations.

3 THE INTERNET IS ADDICTIVE

Apps and sites use sophisticated algorithms and clever marketing to keep us engaged, while notifications to our devices are designed to draw us back in. It's no wonder that people continually return to the digital world, sometimes spending long periods of time there. You and your child could trial turning off notifications on certain apps and instead agree a time to check for updates manually.

4 BEWARE THE DARK SIDE

Getting a hurtful or unhelpful comment on social media or in a group chat can make the recipient feel publicly shamed. That's painful for anyone – but especially for a young person whose status in a group is integral to their sense of identity. Encourage your child to think about the best and safest way to send a message: for example, doing it as a private message rather than a public post.

5 HARMFUL INTERACTIONS

Unfortunately, it's very easy to send a hurtful message or to spread gossip and rumours online. We all know this happens regularly. Not having to deal with actually seeing the other person's distress usually doesn't help people to make a positive decision in the moment. It's important that trusted adults help children to visualise the potential consequences and have empathy for others.

6 APPRECIATE DIFFERENCES

We're all built differently; some people are simply more emotionally sensitive than others. Young people can be particularly affected by negative online communication, such as group shaming. Even a single message (which might seem trivial at face value) can cause deep anguish. Trusted adults should be prepared to be patient and listen to any difficulties their child might have had online.

7 ACCENTUATED ANXIETY

Young people's online lives create a lot of anxiety. Messages go into a 'black hole' until someone responds, there are more reasons to compare ourselves negatively, and social media can make us feel like we're missing out. Encourage activities such as sports and hobbies to balance this out, and remember that merely blocking out thoughts (by gaming, for instance) isn't the same as relaxation.

8 PRO-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

A huge positive for the internet is how it helps people to feel connected and makes being kind and helpful easy to spread. When young people get involved in pro-social behaviours online, it creates a positive feedback loop which makes them feel good. Show your child examples of when you've done or said something positive online, and praise and encourage them when they do the same.

9 BE A GOOD ROLE MODEL

One of the best things we can do as trusted adults is to role model positive online behaviour. Just letting your child see that you know when it's time to put your phone away and do something more productive can set a strong example. Some families set aside particular times of the week (such as mealtimes or a family walk) where digital devices aren't allowed and conversation takes precedence.

10 SHOW COMPASSION

Mistakes can feel much bigger online, because they're so public. If a young person does or says something regrettable on the internet, it's important to support them to forgive themselves, learn any lessons and move forward positively. Even as adults, we can often stumble when learning how things work in the fast-moving digital world, so it's important to have compassion for ourselves, too.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Carole Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who, through her research, specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications. She consults with businesses and organisations to support positive and effective communication online, often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the mediums.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Diary Dates

February

11 th	Non-Uniform Day - £1 donations
13 th	Enrolment Mass Year 3 First Holy Communion candidates at English Martyrs 11am
17 th	Mass Y4/1
18 th	Theatre visit Year 2 to 6 Belgrade Theatre "Billionaire Boy"

Half-Term February 21st to 25th February

March

3 rd	World Book Day come dressed as a book character
3 rd	No Mass – Father Gerry unavailable
4 th	Film Night Year 3 and 4
9 th	Non-Uniform PYJAMA DAY
9 th	Year 3 Reconciliation Service at 6.30pm English Martyrs Church
10 th	Mass Y6/Y3 and Reception
11 th	Cake Sale and "Be Loved" Uniform Sale (50p per cake, no change)
17 th	Mass Y5/Y2 mass
22 nd & 24 th	3.40pm to 7pm Parent Consultations (virtual event)
24 th	Mass Y4/Y1
31 st	No Mass – Father Gerry unavailable

April

7 th	Whole School Mass Led by Year 5 (alternatively Y5/Y2 mass)
8 th	Easter Presentation led by Year 4 and supported by Year 3 followed by End of Term Presentations

Easter Break 11th April to 22nd April Children return to school on 25th April

June

11 th	Year 3 First Holy Communion Service 11am at English Martyrs Church
29 th to 1 st	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: _____

