

# English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

*"where everyone is special"*

## Newsletter 3: 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022

[www.englishmartyrs.warwickshire.sch.uk](http://www.englishmartyrs.warwickshire.sch.uk)

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@EMCPrimary

## Harvest Festival Appeal 2022 Rugby Foodbank

A great big thank you on behalf of Rugby Foodbank for the generosity shown in donating food. We very much appreciate your efforts. Behind the children are 12 crates full of food for those who are most in need of your wonderful generosity.



## Individual school photo

Please be reminded that individual school photographs will take place on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October**.

## Sacraments

**Year 6 Confirmation enrolment mass** Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 11am

**Year 3 Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Parent meeting** – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm. If possible, please refrain from bringing children to this meeting

**Year 3 enrolment mass** – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022

## PTFA

The Parent Teacher Friends Association (PTFA) work so hard to raise money in our school. Without their support we would not have our sweets for Christmas, Santa visits to classrooms, goodies for Christmas parties and special events e.g. the Queen's Platinum Jubilee street party and our Festival on the Field. We are also looking to invest money into a timeline display for our corridor which will show historical events throughout the ages. We would love new and old members to attend this meeting to support our school and arrange some new and exciting events.



### **Forthcoming events:**

PTFA had a meeting last night and these are the following events arranged for the Autumn Term:

Cake Sale – **Friday 4th November**

English Martyrs Social – with complimentary cheese and wine on **Friday 11th November 2022** – Adults only. A letter will go out if you would like to attend and RSVP 4th November

Film night Year 2 and 3 **Friday 18th November** 3.30pm to 5pm

Non-uniform day **Wednesday 30th November** – Bring a bottle for our Christmas Fair

Christmas Fair – **Saturday 3rd December 2022**

**More information will be sent out nearer the time for the English Martyrs Social, Film Night and Christmas Fair.**

## Parent consultation meetings

Thank you for completing our parent questionnaire in September. We had asked parents if they would like face to face or virtual meetings for our parent consultations after half term. 141 parents completed the Microsoft form. The results were:

49% in favour of virtual meetings

51% in favour of face to face meetings

As the results were so close, I have decided to listen to your requests and will hold Parent consultations with one night for virtual meetings and the other night for face to face meetings.

Each meeting will last 10 minutes and we must adhere to these time limits to ensure we get through all parents and to alleviate long waiting times for families. Please be aware that we will need to adhere to our time limits in face to face meetings. We will send out the link via email in due course.

**Parent consultations will take place on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November and Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.**

## Parking on the drive



Please be reminded that there is strictly no parking on the school drive.

Parking is available at the Ex Service Man's Club across the road from the school. The cost is £10 for the year. Application forms for non-member parking can be obtained from Mrs Copson's office.



## Absences from school

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At the beginning of the September new term, we noticed a sharp rise in pupil absence. I have taken the difficult decision to now fine parents for unauthorised absence from school during term time for holidays. As such, I will amend the Attendance policy in due course, and this will then be in use after October half term. Please see the information below:

### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

The Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of *Platt v Isle of Wight Council* which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. The parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

Head Teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head Teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

*Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.*

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council.

**It is important to note**, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

**Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority**

**Warwickshire School pupils recorded 37,021 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Autumn/Spring terms 2021/22.**

# Pupil Premium

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Schools are given a pupil premium for:

- Children who have qualified for free school meals at any point in the past six years. The school receives £1320 for each of these children.
- Children who are or have been looked after under local authority care for more than one day. These children are awarded a premium of £2300.
- Children from service families who receive a child pension from the Ministry of Defence. They are awarded £300.

In March 2018 the Government announced that free school meals would only be available to children in KS2 whose families have a net income of £7400 or under, effective from 1 April 2018. If your child was previously entitled to free school meals but is no longer, they will still receive pupil premium based on the 'Ever 6' qualification (a pupil who has ever had free school meals in the past six years).

Prior to April 2018, children qualified for free school meals – and accordingly pupil premium – if you received any of the following benefits:

- Income support
- Income-based jobseekers' allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of state pension credit
- Child tax credit, provided that you are not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of £16,190 or less

These benefits have now been rolled into a single benefit, called **Universal Credit**. From April 2018, free school meals and pupil premium will only be allocated to pupils with a family income under £7400 (net) per year.

School's spend this pupil premium based on what they feel are the needs of the children and schools can vary widely on how this is spent.

Since September 2014, all children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 have qualified for free school meals, regardless of their family income, but only the children who would qualify for free meals under the above income-based criteria will receive the pupil premium. **If your child would qualify for free school meals, even if they are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 it is important that you register and claim free school meal via the Warwickshire website. The school does not automatically receive this money** and it is the only means schools have to receive the additional funding.

## Online Safety Information

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English Martyrs Catholic Primary School is committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet and as such we feel it is our responsibility to share advice and tips for parents about different online platforms or social media sites that some children may be using. Look out for further tips shared on our website, Twitter and Facebook page. In this newsletter, we have attached "**What Parents Need to Know about YouTube Kids**". These are attached to the email separately. We are aware that parents find it difficult to put control mechanisms in place for these sites.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about YOUTUBE KIDS

YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of YouTube which offers a colourful and easy-to-navigate environment that's suitable for young children. This app is easily accessible and available for mobile devices, which can be downloaded without needing the YouTube app on the device. Despite YouTube Kids seeming like a very child-friendly platform, it has raised concerns over its advertising and inappropriate content seeping through the curation process.

## SETTING UP

1 Download the YouTube Kids app and connect your own YouTube channel.

2 Input your child's name, age and birth month.

3 Select the types of videos you want to include for your child based on their age and your own personal choice.

4 If you decide to approve the content yourself, the app will present you with sample videos for you to accept and reject.

5 Once you've made your choice, you're ready to use the app!

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### REMOVE ADVERTISEMENTS

Like YouTube, adverts on YouTube Kids are also quite pervasive. If you decide you don't want your child being exposed to adverts, you can subscribe to YouTube Premium which will remove adverts on YouTube Kids. However, it's worth remembering that this doesn't block adverts that content creators decide to make as part of their content, and children are still able to access channels from branded fast food or toy companies.

### BE WARY OF UNSUITABLE CONTENT

YouTube Kids has a far lower chance of showing unsuitable material than YouTube, but there are still reports of malicious users deliberately uploading inappropriate content. It's important that your child feels able to talk to you if they were ever exposed to upsetting content in the future. It's also safest to report inappropriate videos: tap the three dots in the corner of the video and select 'Report'.

### DISABLE SEARCH OPTION

YouTube Kids allows you to disable the search feature, which you may find useful in preventing your child from unintentionally finding age-inappropriate content. Doing this will also give you more control over what your child is watching. It's also worth noting that setting an age limit will ensure that your child is only exposed to recommended videos that are deemed suitable for their age group.

### RESTRICT VIEWING TIME

The YouTube Kids app provides you with the option of setting up a timer to monitor and limit your child's daily usage, which automatically stops the video when it reaches the set time. It may be best to make use of this feature to prevent screen addiction - which can potentially lead to children staying up too late, affecting their mood and concentration the following day.

### MONITOR WATCH HISTORY

YouTube Kids has also made it possible for parents and carers to see what their children are watching on the app by clicking on the 'Recommended' icon on the top right of the home screen. It may also be worth having a look at what your child has recently watched by clicking on their history tab. The red bar on the video shows how much of the video has been watched.

### WATCH TOGETHER

It's important to make YouTube Kids a fun and positive experience for your child. This may require spending time finding channels and content that you and your child will enjoy and benefit from. Try introducing family sessions where you can share the most enjoyable videos that you and your child have recently watched. This can be a great way of giving you and your child many new things to talk about with each other.

### Meet Our Expert

Claire Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

# Diary Dates

## October

11 <sup>th</sup>	Individual school photographs
12 <sup>th</sup>	PTFA meeting at the Ex Service Man's club 7pm – all welcome
13 <sup>th</sup>	Mass: Year 3 (lead) and Year 6 and Reception
<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 6 CONFIRMATION enrolment mass at English Martyrs church 11am</b>
20 <sup>th</sup>	Mass: Year 2 (lead) and Year 5
<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Y3 Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Parent Meeting 6:30pm (No children please)</b>

**HALF TERM 24<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 28<sup>th</sup> October**

## November

1 <sup>st</sup>	Parent consultation meetings 3:35-7pm
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mass: Year 1 (lead) and Year 4
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Parent Consultation meetings 3:35-7pm
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 3 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION enrolment mass at English Martyrs church 11am</b>
10 <sup>th</sup>	Mass: Year 6 (lead), Year 3 and Reception
16 <sup>th</sup>	Heights and Weights check - Reception and Year 6
17 <sup>th</sup>	Mass: Year 5 (lead) and Year 2
24 <sup>th</sup>	Mass: Year 4 (lead) and Year 1
<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 3 Reconciliation service at 6.30pm English Martyrs church</b>

## December

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mass: Year 3 (lead), Year 6 and Reception
8 <sup>th</sup>	Mass: Year 2 (lead) and Year 5
15 <sup>th</sup>	Whole school Mass Year 6 lead
16 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Service/End of term presentations

## January 2022

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Teacher Training Day
4 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school for the Spring term

**Year 3 First Holy Communion – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**Year 5 Residential Beaumanor trip 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

## 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](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk) to complete the parent view questionnaire.

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