

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

"where everyone is special"

Newsletter 5: 13th January 2023

www.englishmartyrs.warwickshire.sch.uk

office@emc.magnificat.org.uk

@EMCPrimary

Happy New Year
2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Welcome back to Spring term 2023.

PTFA News



The PTFA has been an active group of people supporting English Martyrs School for over 50 years and it would be very sad to see this disappear.

Remember that you are all automatically a member of the PTFA when your child joins the school but under no obligation to attend meetings and events. However, we do need more support from parents and families to enable the PTFA to continue their valuable work. Without the extra funding they raise, we would not be able to supply your children with extra facilities, enjoyable events (film nights, fetes), Christmas parties and gifts, as our normal budget does not stretch to this. All these events provide your children with great experiences and memories to carry forward from their time at English Martyrs.

The PTFA are looking for a new chair. Please put your name forward and come to the next meeting which is on 17th January at Ex Service Man's club, Hillmorton for the AGM. If you would like to bring a second to this meeting please feel free to do so.

The PTFA have funded many items around the school. The **wellie stands** for KS1 and Reception are a great success and recently, the PTFA paid for our **Humanities Timeline** which takes pride of place in our school corridor. Since its arrival, I have learnt so many facts... Did you know that the Teddy Bear was invented in 1902 in the USA?! We are hoping to utilise our new timeline in lessons across the school so classes can use it in their History and Geography lessons.



Sad news

As we began this new year, we were saddened to learn of the tragic death of Cody Fisher, a well-known and loved footballer and Sports coach who many of the children knew. Cody was a hugely talented young man who worked very closely with a school within the Magnificat family of schools and local schools to us. We send our condolences and sympathy to his family and friends and ask God to bring them comfort at this time. We offer our prayers for Cody and his family. We also mourn the death of Pope Benedict XVI who passed away during the holidays. Eternal rest grant unto them, Oh Lord, let perpetual light shine upon them and may they rest in peace.

English Martyrs Parish Hall Hire

English Martyrs Parish Hall is available for hire for birthday parties, meetings etc...

To enquire please contact: Caroline Deery on 07768171146 or email her on caroline.deery@btinternet.com

Attendance and Safeguarding at English Martyrs

Attendance and Safeguarding both have great importance at English Martyrs. We want to keep your children safe in school and to do this we look at Safeguarding along with attendance. These are monitored on a regular basis.

It is the school's statutory duty to monitor attendance. Not only can regular absence, particularly unexplained absence, be a red flag for safeguarding issues, but only when children are in school can they talk to staff and be given support for any pastoral and safeguarding problems. Furthermore, as has been widely seen and discussed in recent months, 'Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school.' (Extract from p. 5 of [School Attendance: Guidance for Schools](#)).

Any absences, including medical appoints should be taken out of school time where possible. If this is not the case, then an absence request form must be completed in advance of the absence (no matter how short) and as soon as you are made aware of the appointment. We must see a copy of the appointment made for the child's absence. [Absence forms](#) can be downloaded from our school website under parent information, policies and documents.

Thank you for your understanding with this matter.

Vacancy for a Caretaker

This role will be based at English Martyrs Catholic Primary School, Rugby.

25 hours per week

Hours will be on a split shift of 6.30am – 8.30 am then 3.00pm – 6.00pm

52 Weeks

Permanent

PAY GRADE Band E 5-6 (Sal £13277 pa to £13542pa)

Our Lady of the Magnificat MAC are looking to recruit a Caretaker.

The successful candidate will:

- Present a positive personal image, contributing to a welcoming school environment which supports equal opportunities for all.
- Have experience in the relevant field
- Has practical maintenance and DIY skills (desirable)
- Possess good reading/writing/IT skills
- Ideally have a knowledge of COSHH regulations and use cleaning materials and equipment in a range of situations (training will be provided where necessary)
- Ideally have a knowledge of Health and Safety procedures and precautions
- Professional, approachable, and proactive
- Enjoy being part of a team and develop good working relationships with all contacts
- Carry out cleaning functions and associated duties to specified standards

Please send expression of interest letter, detailing your experience and reasons for applying for the post to the Headteacher, Miss Petras at office@emc.magnificat.org.uk.

The MAC is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff & volunteers to share this commitment. As such we will be implementing the use of online searches for all posts in line with guidance from KCSIE 2022. Online searches are not part of the shortlisting process itself and candidates will have a chance to address any issues of concern that come up during the search at interview.

The post is subject to an enhanced DBS Statement.

COMMITTED TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES.

We're Hiring!

Come and join us on our journey at St Benedict's!

Opportunities

- Head of Art, Design and Technology



To apply, visit www.magnificat.org.uk/vacancies or email sbe-hr@sbe.magnificat.org.uk

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 in the school office.

Film and television certification

An email went out on Friday which contained a letter explaining the certification of films. It is now easier than ever to watch films and television programmes online with live streaming. We wanted to make you aware of the film certification and a great website where you can teach your children about the ratings of films.

The BBFC also have a [website specifically for children called CBBFC](#) which includes information aimed at children aged 8-11 about recent film releases and a version of the BBFC Guidelines written for children explaining what they pass at each category. It offers activities such as [Rate a Trailer](#), allowing younger children to have a go at watching a trailer, noting the issues, and thinking critically about how they would rate the trailer themselves and how their view compares to the recommendation the compliance team made.

M & M Theatre Production

Children will have a panto production of Cinderella by an outreach company called M & M Theatre taking place in the afternoon on 27th January 2023.

Thank you to those parents who have already made payments. For those who have not made their payment, please log onto Parent Pay. The product is called "Cinderella". If you have trouble logging onto Parent Pay, please contact Mrs Copson in the school office.

Drinks in school

Please can I remind parents that children can bring drinks into school using their own water bottles. We only permit water in school so that spillages can be easily cleaned especially in the classrooms. It is the healthiest drink. We aim to keep these bottles in a safe area within the classroom to avoid spillages on work. The "Prime" hydration drink product has caused difficulties in school as the bottles are very sought after and are selling for an extortionate amount of money. Please refrain from bringing this product into school.

School meal price increase

Unfortunately, due to an increase in food prices and transports costs, there will be a 14p per day price increase on your child's school meals. This increase will take effect from 1st April 2023.

Pupil Premium

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.

Schools 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

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 social media and mental health**". 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

SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which so enthral young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't OK... and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM

Algorithms rank content by user interest; someone who regularly interacts with sports news, say, will see the latest results at the top of their feed. Likewise, if a user browses content that can cause harm, that's what will be recommended to them in future. Someone who's had a bad day and looks for posts which reflect their mood will find similar content being suggested to them more and more.

2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS

Avoiding the default feeds on social media platforms limits the amount of recommended content that's shown. Users can opt to only scroll through the accounts they follow, use restricted modes, or highlight posts that they don't want to see more of. Explore the platform safety settings to see how you can take control of what your child's phone shows them when they open the app.

3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN

Chatting about what your child's seen online keeps you aware of the content they're interacting with. Don't assume that platforms are screening out inappropriate material, or even that your child would recognise content as being harmful. Discuss who they follow, what posts they like and what comes up in their feeds: if alarm bells ring, it could be time for a more in-depth talk or to seek support.

4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT

If your child stumbles across unsuitable content on social media, there's the option to hide that post as well as indicating you'd prefer any similar material not to be suggested in future. On some platforms, you might also be able to block posts that contain specific words, which is an excellent way to start taking control of what your child sees online.

5. SET DAILY LIMITS

Phones and most apps can tell you how much they're being used. Spending too long online can mean a child misses out on other activities that are important to all-round wellbeing. You could set some family rules – for everyone to follow – around device use, such as screen time limits and tech-free spaces: involving your child in creating this agreement makes them more likely to stick to it.

6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY

Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help ensure they're not entering potentially dangerous situations. As they grow up, of course, children need space to exercise their independence – but you can still occasionally ask to see what they're looking at. Be transparent about your own social media use and try not to sound judgemental about your child's.

7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Even for adults, it's tempting to check an email or message as soon as the alert sound pings. Push notifications encourage people to open their apps and spend time on their device, so turning them off will help your child to practise mindful use of tech. Most of us have other things that we need to focus on as a priority – and those notifications will still be there later, when we have more time.

8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER

Giving children internet-enabled devices and complete freedom to explore platforms on their own can result in exposure to hugely damaging content. You could consider making a particular area at home a designated space to use phones, tablets and so on – making it much easier to monitor what content your child is viewing and (if necessary) steer them away from any potentially harmful paths.

9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of exercise, quality time with loved ones, a balanced diet and restful sleep for our mental wellbeing. Spending hours on social media can cause us to sacrifice other activities that our brains need to feel well – so encouraging your child to put down their phone and enjoy something that doesn't involve a screen can be immensely beneficial.

10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE

Most platforms default children's accounts to private, so only people they've accepted as friends can see their posts. This reduces the risk of bullying or unkind comments, but – just like offline life – the digital world can still make children feel as if they need to act or look a certain way to fit in. Talk to your child about peer pressure, and listen to any concerns so you can provide the support they need.

Meet Our Expert

Shazia Sarwar-Azim is executive headteacher at a specialist primary school and, as an emotional therapy coach, works with school leaders to focus on the SEND, mental health and wellbeing agenda. A passionate advocate for vulnerable learners, Shazia is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of *The Rainbow Within*, a book which supports children with SEMH needs.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Diary Dates

January 2023

3 rd	Teacher Training Day
4 th	Children return to school for the Spring term
17 th	7.30pm PTFA AGM at the Ex Service Man's club, Hillmorton.
19 th	Menu change – Census Day menu – Jungle Explorer lunch
20 th	Year 1 and Year 5 Fire safety talk
24 th	Peer mediation Year 5
27 th	M & M Theatre Production – Cinderella 1.30pm

February 2023

1 st	6.30pm Confirmation meeting Part II
7 th	Menu change – Winter Sports lunch
15 th	Confirmation for Year 6
17 th	Last day of school – children are in this day

Monday 20th to Friday 24th February half-term holiday

March 2023

30 th	Last day of school – Easter presentation followed by end of term awards
31 st	Teacher Training Day – school closed to pupils

Year 3 First Holy Communion – Saturday 10th June 2023

Year 5 Residential Beaumanor trip 5th – 7th 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 to complete the parent view questionnaire.

Signed: _____ Name: _____ Date: _____

