

ISSUE

30

11  
May  
2018



# Newsletter

Congratulations to the children of the Cardinal Newman Choir who represented the school at the Surrey Arts Choir Festival at Dorking Halls on Wednesday. They had worked hard to prepare many songs to perform by heart and some children also had words to narrate to a packed hall. Their accomplishments and their sheer confidence were really amazing. They brought great joy to the parents and grandparents in the audience, telling the story of Helga the Viking in song and later reprising old favourites like "Any Old Iron" and "Knees Up Mother Brown". Most importantly, the children sang (and sometimes danced!) their hearts out and thoroughly enjoyed the whole amazing experience (photos on the website). Our heartfelt thanks go to the staff who prepared the children – Mrs Kilburn and Mrs Simpkin – and to those who facilitated on the night.



At the end of the concert, the conductor of the children's choir asked the audience to be aware that arts education is under great pressure from tight school budgets and a nationally increasing focus on the academic subjects. As you know, at Cardinal Newman, our mission statement focuses on Learners, Believers and Friends, trying to enable every individual to develop to his or her full potential. In our school we are blessed with many staff committed to supporting the children's Arts education. Watching our choir performing last night, it was clear that it was not only their musical development that benefitted, but also their confidence and self-esteem. The benefit of these wider opportunities cannot be measured in league tables, but it is important that we celebrate them all the more for their rewards beyond price!

As you know, we are holding a whole school **Computing Day on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June**, when the children will benefit from a range of activities, including workshops for every year group with a former police officer now working in supporting online safety for children. More details of the children's activities to follow, but please be aware that there will also be an opportunity for parents to attend an **"Online Safety" talk that evening from 7pm in the school**. We hope as many parents as possible will attend as e-safety for our children is one of the key challenges of parenting today and it presents an ever-changing threat as technology develops and also as our children get older (please see letter sent home today).

On that note, staff have asked me to make parents aware of the game "Fortnite" which children as young as KS1 tell us they are playing at home. Staff have raised concerns that this is giving rise to inappropriate language and play in school. The Video Standards Council rate this game for ages 12+ and particularly highlight the online nature of this game as possibly enabling children to have contact with strangers online. The link to their guidance is here:



[www.askaboutgames.com/parents-guide-to-fortnite-peg-12/](http://www.askaboutgames.com/parents-guide-to-fortnite-peg-12/)

Next week is shaping up to be busy. Prayer Council are leading the Rosary for parents and children on Friday morning at 8:15am. We also look forward to our Royal Wedding activities that day and the PA Fun Run after school! Finally, we will keep our Year 6 children in our prayers as they undertake their KS2 national tests next week. They have been well prepared and we know they will do their very best and make us all proud of them!

All best wishes for the coming week. Catherine Burnham

## **HAPPY SHOESDAY WALK TO SCHOOL—TUESDAY 22 MAY**

On Tuesday 22 May children may wear their own “happy” shoes to school to support the Living Street Charity’s walk to school day. Mrs Cox-Wilson will be walking from Hershams Station Car Park at 8.15am - parents and children are welcome to join her there to walk to school. You can find out more about the charity’s work to encourage people of all ages to walk more and to create safer, walkable streets by following the link on our website.

The first **WOW Travel to School badges** are being awarded today to children who have walked, cycled or scooted to school at least once a week this month.

## **PARKING**

Thank you for the improvement in parking which has taken place during the last term - complaints from neighbours have dropped significantly and the office are very grateful! Please remember that parents are not allowed to use the staff car park at any time for pick up and drop off (unless prior permission has been given) - this was due to a number of incidents where staff cars were damaged by parents manoeuvring within the limited space.

Some parents have brought to our attention an occasional lack of courtesy towards others when dropping and collecting on the road outside school - let us all strive to be role models to all in our community in our words and actions, especially in front of the children!

## **BOXES OF TISSUES**

All classes and the school office would be very grateful for any donations of boxes of tissues for children to use during the school day. Thank you.

## **PROMENADE JUNIOR CHOIR**

There are leaflets with more information about this choir for children aged 7 and above outside the office. This is one of the top choirs in Elmbridge and rehearses at Bell Farm School.

## **WALTON AND HERSHAM FOOTBALL CLUB**

Walton and Hershams FC run a mini academy for children aged 4 to 10. It runs on Saturdays 10.30am to 11.30am at Esher Rugby Club. Please see flyers outside the school office. They are also looking for Year 4 and 5 girls—there is a trial evening tonight 5.30pm to 6.45pm at the Xcel Centre, Walton.

## **PA NEWS**

**Year 1 Cake Sale** today after school.

**PA Meeting**—Thursday 17 May at 8.00 pm at Hershams Golf Club.

**PA Fun Run & Picnic** - Friday 18 May after school. Tickets are £3.00 each and are available through Classlist and also on the day.