

ISSUE
20
8
Feb
2019



Newsletter

Dear Parents

I begin this week with hearty congratulations to the **Year 5 children and the whole Year 5 team on an outstanding performance of "Darwin Rocks" on Wednesday evening.** The production was the fruit of 4 weeks hard work by children and staff and the hall was packed with parents, grandparents and friends who came to support. I am sure that all who were there will testify that we were treated to a wonderful evening of entertainment and fun.

The standard of singing, dancing and acting was very high and the children acquitted themselves amazingly well! Some of the audience feedback on the evening included:

"It's incredible that there is so much talent in just one year group."

"All of the children performed with such confidence."

"There were so many soloists – and they all sang so well."

"They were all stars!"

Well done Year 5! We are all very proud of you.

As you may be aware, we had our annual **Teaching and Learning Review from the Xavier Catholic Education Trust ("the MAT") on Monday this week.** The Teaching and Learning Leads were focussing on Foundation Subjects (or specifically, subjects which are not Maths and English!) and they met with subject leaders as well as looking at books, visiting lessons and talking to pupils. Their report was very positive, drawing out the strengths the school has and recognising how leaders are working to further strengthen the broader curriculum. Some of the positive comments from the final report include:

"Well resourced and thought-through lessons";

"Careful planning promoted curiosity and independence"; "Fun and engaging manner";

"The school has continued to improve since the last T&L Review";

"Middle leaders talk articulately about their role and subject priorities. They have clear action plans."; "Senior leaders have a clear and positive impact on standards"

As we continue work on the broader curriculum, we will be looking for parental input in various forms, including a questionnaire for all parents and a small discussion group of parents to talk about the curriculum and support our work to meet the children's needs as effectively as possible. **If you would be interested in joining that small group (a time commitment of perhaps 2 or 3 x 1 hour meetings), do please let the office know.**

On Wednesday this week, some of the school governors joined staff to hear a presentation on "Religious Education and the Catholic Life of the School" at Cardinal Newman. The presentation was led by Mrs Emma Sharp (RE Lead) and celebrated the many opportunities for development of faith and faith in action within our school. We are planning an information meeting for parents in the coming months, sharing information about the RE teaching and the school's role in supporting families in their faith – keep an eye out for the date when it is published!

Thanks to Father Bill, governors and staff were delighted to have the opportunity to pray together before Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament. It was the first time we have had this opportunity in our school chapel and it was a very special moment of prayer for our school community – parents will have the chance to join a similar moment of adoration during the **"24 Hours" initiative on Friday 29th March.** More information to follow. We also took the opportunity to pray for the canonisation of Cardinal Newman. (There are positive moves afoot in Rome and reason to believe that Blessed John Henry Newman may soon (perhaps even this year) become Saint John Henry Newman. If you would like to join the prayer for his canonisation, the text of the standard prayer is as follows:

God our Father, you granted to your servant Blessed John Henry Newman wonderful gifts of nature and of grace, that he should be a spiritual light in the darkness of this world, an eloquent herald of the Gospel, and a devoted servant of the one Church of Christ.

For his insight into the mysteries of the kingdom, his zealous defence of the teachings of the Church, and his priestly love for each of your children, we pray that he may soon be numbered among the Saints. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

With best wishes, Catherine Burnham

HALF TERM We break up for half term next Friday, 15 February, at 3.20pm. We return on Monday 25 February.

SCHOOL-RUN CLUBS NOT RUNNING NEXT WEEK

Due to Parent Consultations next week, **our school-run clubs will not be running, as indicated on the clubs list. This includes Homework Club.** Ballet will also not be running on Tuesday or Friday. Clubs run by outside providers will continue as normal.

USBORNE BOOK FAIR—12 AND 13 FEBRUARY (DURING PARENT CONSULTATIONS)

We're delighted to have a selection of Usborne books available for parents to view and order during our Parent Consultations next Tuesday and Wednesday. A leaflet with more information, including how to order, was sent home this week. Please look out for the books at the school entrance.

SCHOOL NURSE DROP IN SESSIONS—THURSDAY 14 FEBRUARY

The school nurse will be here again on 14 February 9.30am to 12.30am to speak to parents about any concerns they may have. Please contact the school office if you would like to make an appointment.

HANDWASHING—PLEASE ENCOURAGE AT HOME

We emailed home this week to say we had a case of worms at school and to ask parents to reinforce the importance of hand washing. With lots of colds, coughs and viruses also in school, we hope to keep healthy for the final week before half term. Thank you.

REAL PLAY WORKSHOPS FOR RECEPTION AND YEAR 1 FAMILIES

Mrs Williams is running Real Play workshops starting Friday 1 March at 2.30pm for families in Reception and Year 1. The sessions are for children, parents and younger siblings and will share ideas about different ways of enjoying play as a family. Please let the office know if you are interested in taking part.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK We have been supporting Children's Mental Health Week with class activities. The Havens website has more information you might find helpful— <https://www.cyphaven.net/> (or find the link on our website).

PAID INTERNSHIPS IN MATHS AND PHYSICS 2019—XAVIER CET

Xavier Catholic Education Trust is delighted to be running our paid maths and physics internship scheme for the fourth year. Open to maths and physics undergraduates considering a career in teaching (ideally in their penultimate year of their degree), this is an opportunity to spend 4 weeks in June and July at one of our schools on a teaching internship. During your experience you will spend time acting as a LSA, you will receive lectures on teaching and you will build up to teaching parts of lessons yourselves. You will also have the opportunity to be involved in the extra-curricular life of the school, as well as observing and shadowing students and teachers. You will be paid £300 per week and based at Salesian, SJB or one of our partner schools. This is an absolutely fabulous scheme of which we are really proud – for more information please contact: mfawcussmith@salesian.surrey.sch.uk.

PA NEWS The Valentine Disco will be taking place on Friday 15 February for all school years. The tickets are £3.50 per child, which will include a drink and crisps. Tickets are only available for purchase through **Classlist** until Wednesday evening.

There will be 3 sessions as follows: R & Year 1: 4.15-5pm; Years 2 & 3: 5.15-6.15pm; Years 4, 5, 6: 6.30-7.30pm. When you buy the tickets, please also return the slip with your child's details (attached and on Classlist) and return it to the office. Many thanks