

ISSUE

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Newsletter

Life continues apace at Cardinal Newman and as always, children in all classes have enjoyed some wonderful learning opportunities this week.

You may have noticed Year 6 children coming into school on Monday dressed as evacuees for their World War Two Day. They had earlier met and heard first-hand the experiences of a real-life evacuee, which linked with their class reader "Goodnight Mr Tom." I joined Year 6 on the "Home Front Bus" as they considered rationing (in a 1940s shop set-up) and home life (in a 1940s home). Their faces registered real shock as they heard about boys and girls their age knitting socks for the troops and unravelling woollen pullovers to knit up again in a bigger size. The air-raid shelter experience was certainly very powerful for the children –when asked about it, they chorused with great glee, "Careless talk costs lives!"

Some Year 4 children had the opportunity to work with a published author and some children from other local schools in an Able Writers workshop hosted at Cardinal Newman on Tuesday. It is very positive for the children to have the chance to share their ideas in a bigger pool of different children and to be inspired by a real-life author to think that they may one day have their work published too!

At this time of year, writing progress is often very evident and I have been delighted to celebrate children's progress from a range of classes this week. In Reception, those children who could perhaps only write their names when they came to school are now writing in sentences with full stops and using their sounds to spell words such as "wonderful" phonetically. I have celebrated a Year 1 child for writing and illustrating his own picture book "The Shark and the Ray" while Year 2 children have come to me proud of their use of adverbs in their Florence Nightingale diaries. Further up the school, progress manifests itself in the organisation of writing into paragraphs and of course the sought-after pen licences, as well as the careful composition and amazing creativity which makes their writing such a joy to read. When you have the opportunity to look at books during parent consultations in a couple of weeks, I would urge you to compare where your child started in September to what they can do now – it is most gratifying and is testament to the hard work of staff and children together.

Congratulations should go to Coral Class for their hard work during their Mission Week. The children focussed on the issue of plastic pollution and linked that to our responsibility as Christians to look after God's creation. The evidence presented was compelling – especially when they demonstrated how plastic bottles will soon (by 2050) take a stranglehold on our seas and sea creatures. They urged all members of our school community to "Reduce, reuse, recycle" and most especially to only bring re-usable plastic bottles to school – it would be great if we could all support them in that mission.

Finally a plea for support to bring even more wonderful learning opportunities for our children. In May 2019 (in the week before half-term) we will be holding a "Creative Arts Week" at Cardinal Newman. We already have some great opportunities in the pipeline, including a KS1 Choral Festival, in collaboration with St George's, Art workshops to produce some wall art for our playgrounds and a German exchange teacher who will teach some folk songs. Creative Arts covers anything from drama, dance, art, DT (woodwork, metalwork, textiles, cookery), music, photography and film. We would love to harness the power of our very talented parents and grandparents, so if you think you have something to contribute, we would love to hear from you! Please email the school office and we will try to incorporate all the contributions into our planning for the week in May! Thank you in advance for all your support!

All best wishes for the weekend ahead,

Catherine Burnham

MUFTI DAY FOR ST JOHN BOSCO HOUSE—FRIDAY 1 FEBRUARY

Children in St John house may wear their own clothes next Friday.

BLUE CLASS ASSEMBLY—FRIDAY 1 FEBRUARY

Parents in Blue Class are invited to their assembly at 9am on Friday.

YEAR 5 PRODUCTION

A letter is going home today with information on how to get tickets for the Year 5 production of “Darwin Rocks” which takes place on Wednesday 6 February.

LIFE BUS

We are looking forward to welcoming the Life Bus on Monday—please see the letter sent home for more information.

PE KITS

We sent home a note about PE kits again this week because several children either have no PE kit or are missing parts of it. Please can we ask that the whole kit is in school every day, including sweatshirts and jogging bottoms for the cold weather (not Reception). Thank you.

PARKING

To reiterate what we said last week, no parent should drive into the school car park to drop off or pick up, including for Breakfast Club and before/after school clubs. If there is an exceptional circumstance, e.g. medical need, please contact the school office in advance.

A number of parents are parking in Arch Road to pick up and are running their engines for half an hour while they wait. Can we encourage parents to stop doing this as it obviously has a very negative impact on the environment near the school. Thank you.

RECEPTION STAY AND LEARN

A reminder that Reception Stay and Learn sessions are taking place next week on Tuesday 29 and Thursday 31 January.

LOST PROPERTY

There are a large number of items in the lost property box ranging from odd shoes to snack pots. Please check if your child has misplaced any items. Lots of items are un-named so please make sure all of your child’s items are clearly labelled.

TEACHER TRAINING

On Tuesday 12 February the Surrey ITT Network (www.traintoteachinsurrey.org.uk) will be hosting a Surrey wide Train to Teach event for those interested in primary and secondary teaching.

BOXES OF TISSUES

A lot of children have colds at the moment and the school is running very low on tissues. Any donations to classrooms or the school office would be very gratefully received. Thank you.

PA CAKE SALE

There is a cake sale after school today.