

**ISSUE**  
**20**  
**15**  
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# Newsletter

Dear Parents

As we approach the half-way point of this school year, it was fantastic to see so many of you at the **Parent Consultations**, celebrating your children's hard work and excellent progress. There was a very positive vibe in the hall on both evenings and I have had some lovely feedback from several families about the excellent care and attention they feel their children receive at Cardinal Newman. Our school community works very hard to support all our families to provide the best possible education for our children and it is always pleasing to have their hard work acknowledged.

This week our staff have also had external acknowledgement of the excellent work we do with children with **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**. You may not be aware that we have 73 children on the SEND Register at Cardinal Newman, which is about 18% of the school and broadly in line with other schools nationally. This spans the whole spectrum of ability, including children who are academically very able as well as those who find learning more challenging at the moment; some children have physical, social, emotional or behavioural needs instead of or as well as their academic needs.

We were visited this week for a SEND Review by two Specialist Leaders in Education with expertise in SEND. Our visitors were very impressed with the culture of learning that is evident for all children at Cardinal Newman and particularly praised the individual attention given to SEND children. We were delighted to hear noted as a particular strength of the school our well-trained and experienced staff, who embrace a flexible approach to meeting children's needs. I am sure you will join me in thanking staff whole-heartedly for all their excellent support for our SEND children.

Wholehearted thanks also to all the parents who so kindly supported the **Usborne Books** stall at Parent Consultations. As well as the benefit of a lovely new book for your child, you were also supporting the school and our English Team were delighted to hear that they can choose over £400 of new reading books from Usborne as a result of your generosity. Thank you.

Thank you also to the **Parents Association who are running the Valentine Disco** this evening – and to those who are supporting it. The regular PA events raise very valuable funds for the school, which enable us to offer lots of exciting opportunities to the children. Coming up in the next half-term there will be "Bringing Books to Life" workshops for all classes from the West End in Schools team and the PA has already agreed to fund more hands-on activities for the Creative Arts Week in the Summer Term. Please continue to support them – or get involved if you haven't had the opportunity already! The work of the PA directly benefits all our children.

In our Collective Worship this morning, we enjoyed a "**Praise and Worship**" liturgy, where we took a moment to give thanks to God for all the good things he has done for us. We listened to a version of the scripture story of Daniel in the Lion's Den and considered how God answers our prayers, just like he answered Daniel's. We thought about those people in our world today who are not free to worship as they would like to and we asked God to be with them in their lives. The children enjoyed participating joyously (and sometimes somewhat raucously!) with voices and instruments in some of their favourite hymns of thanks and praise including "10,000 Reasons" and "If I were a butterfly."

As we look forward to the half-term break, may we perhaps take a moment in our family life to reflect and give thanks with our children about all the good things God has given to our own family and to ask God to bless this half-term break as a time of joy and restoration. May the peace of the Lord be in your hearts and in your homes this week and always.

With best wishes, Catherine Burnham

## HALF TERM

We break up at 3.20pm today for half term and return on Monday 25 February.

## ST DAVID'S DAY (1 MARCH)—SCOUTING, GUIDING, ST JOHN AMBULANCE UNIFORMS

Our first Friday after half term is St David's Day and children may mark the day by wearing their Scouting, Guiding or St John Ambulance uniforms.

## KS2 LUNCHES AFTER HALF TERM

Please remember to let us know if your KS2 child is having full (£66.70) or part time (£25.30) school lunches next half term. No bookings can be made if there is an outstanding amount from this term. Thank you.

## BOOK WEEK — 4 TO 8 MARCH

We are re-sending with the letter about Book Week and the letter for Reception and KS1 families about our author visit. Some important dates:

**Monday 4 March** - Author Visit (Reception and KS1 only, orders for pre-signed books and payment must be received at the school office by **Friday 1 March**)

**Thursday 7 March**—World Book Day Book Swap (bring a suitable book in good condition during Book Week to swap on 7 March)

**Friday 8 March** - Dress Up Day (children may dress as their favourite book character)

Don't forget the **Extreme Reading Competition!** Half term might be an ideal time to take a photo of reading in an unusual place—just email with your child's name and class to: [office@cardinalnewmanschool.co.uk](mailto:office@cardinalnewmanschool.co.uk).

TOP OF THE FORM Well done to our Quiz Team of Lara M, Nathan C, Aidan H and Mackenzie R who won their first round match 55-33 against St Lawrence.

MOBILE PHONE USE IN SCHOOL Please note that mobile phone use, including taking photos, is not permitted in any of the child-facing areas of our school for safeguarding reasons. If you are in school and need to use your phone for any reason, please ask a member of staff to show you into an appropriate space. Thank you.

## SMALL TOYS NEEDED

We would be very grateful for any donations of small toys which do unusual or interesting things, eg flashing, push along, makes a sound or wind up toys. Thank you.

BOXES OF TISSUES A lot of children have had coughs and colds over the last few weeks which has depleted our supply of tissues. Classes and the school office would be very grateful for any donations. Thank you.

## PARKING AND DRIVING NEAR KENILWORTH DRIVE

Unfortunately, after a recent improvement, we have had another complaint about parking and driving around Kenilworth Drive. Please can we remind you that this is a residential area so we ask that **parents drive at an appropriate speed and park safely and with consideration for our neighbours**. This includes not parking across footpaths which necessitates pedestrians having to either walk in the road or on muddy grass. Thank you.

THANK YOU FROM MARY'S MEALS We have received this thank you from Mary's Meals: "Thank you so much for your donation of £726.11 to Mary's Meals, which will be used to provide life-changing meals for children in their place of education. Supporting our school feeding programmes is a great way of helping hungry children to learn and giving them the best chance of a future free from poverty. The daily meals we provide are enabling thousands of children to attend school and work towards their dreams."