



St Aidan's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter

February 2015

HALF TERM

Tomorrow is the start of our half term holiday. We will be closed for a week and return on Monday 23rd February 2015. During the half term holiday we celebrate the start of Lent with Pancake Day and Ash Wednesday. We haven't been on holiday at the start of Lent for a long time and will therefore miss the opportunity to visit church with the children to receive ashes and start to prepare for the season of Lent. We will of course speak to the children when we return and look at making some Lentern Promises—looking for ways to make the school/parish community better by maybe doing something nice for friends or family, playing on Games Consoles less, tidying up or just making someone smile. Hopefully you will be able to take the children to a church service over the holiday to think about Lent as a family

OPEN EVENING

Thank you to everyone who attended Open Evening this week. As usual it was very well attended, which is a credit to you all. Open Evening is one of the key days when we can speak to every parent about the progress the children are making, however please remember that staff can speak to you any time if you want to make an appointment. Good communication between school and home is essential and we appreciate your commitment to Open Evening.

SOMEONE IS RETIRING!!!

Who can it be?

Our big news for this term is that after 20 years of working at St Aidan's, Mrs Deslandes (School Office) has decided to take early retirement! If (I didn't mention it was early retirement, I would be in trouble)!

Mrs Deslandes is planning to finish on May 31st this year and has great plans to rest, relax, go on holiday and spend plenty of time with her family which sounds lovely!

We wish her well and thank her for her great commitment and hard work to St Aidan's. We thank her for always managing to balance our school budget and keeping us super organised. I am sure many of you have many memories to share and will want to wish her well over the next 2 terms—don't disturb her too much though—I have a long list for her before she goes!

OFSTED and HMI

We were visited by HMI a few weeks ago following our Ofsted Inspection. HMI work with schools to support them in moving towards a new judgement—Good or Outstanding. The Inspector was very pleased with what she found at St Aidan's and was complimentary about the children's writing and books in general, the school, the staff and the work we do, which was really good news.

I am still planning to meet with parents to discuss the Ofsted Inspection and now the new HMI report (available on the Ofsted Website) and look at how together we can make St Aidan's a truly Outstanding School.

Look out for a letter after the holiday

COLLECTING CHILDREN

Please let us know via a letter, phone call or message to the office if someone different is collecting your child from school.. We try to ensure all pupils are safe and sometimes we do not know the person who has been sent to collect a child. Unless a prior arrangement has been made we will only be able to hand your child to a known relative. Please support this. It is after all for your child's own safety.

I am also aware that at home time it can become frustrating to wait for your child to be released into your care (especially when it rains). Please wait at the bottom of the stairs or a little way away from the door so we can see you more clearly and also so that the children can actually reach you without having to squeeze through a crowd

Year 6 Need your help—Please Read On

Year 6 pupils entered a competition this term. They worked with a Radio Technician to design and record a number of adverts for United Utilities. Apart from learning how Radio Commercials are made which was really interesting they also had a fun morning recording themselves and working as a team.

THE GOOD NEWS IS—TEAM 2 (Tom, Lisa, Francesca, Macie and Mathew) have made the TOP 10 and are in the Semi Final!!! Well done to them!

HOWEVER— THEY NEED YOUR HELP!

Their commercial will be uploaded to the United Utilities YouTube channel on Monday 23rd February and we now have two weeks to promote the commercial (one of them is half term so we need your help) to get as many people to promise to views and likes it as we can. After the deadline has passed the three commercials with the most views will automatically enter the final at United Utilities headquarters on **Thursday 26th March 2015**. The three finalists will then pitch their commercial to the United Utilities judging panel who will choose a winner.

Voting will commence at **9am Monday 23rd February 2015**, any views/likes placed before this time **WILL NOT BE COUNTED**. We will be e-mailed the YouTube link to launch the social media challenge on Monday 23rd February at 8:59am. I will then put this on the school website, text it via our text to parents site and tweet it on our twitter feed—we then need you to pass it on with instructions!

We will then have until **5pm Friday 6th March 2015** to get as many views/likes for our advert. It's all about the engagement and United Utilities will be keeping a close eye on the statistics throughout the challenge.

On Monday 23rd, Year 6 will send out as many flyers they can with the link to the YouTube clip. Please view it, send it to your friends and family, work mates and anyone you can think of who will view the site. It would be great to get to the final. Or even better, win!!!

So please tell all your friends and family and then when the link becomes available pass on the link then view the commercial as many times as you can—it is very funny so will certainly entertain you !

HAPPY HALF TERM TO YOU ALL