



St Gerard's Catholic School Newsletter

www.stgerard.bham.sch.uk

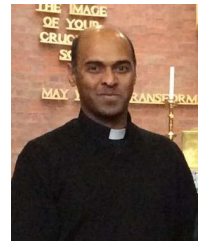


@StGerardsbham

January 2020

With Christ at our side and St Gerard as our guide we live, love, learn and pray together.

What a fabulous start to 2020 we have had this past month at St Gerard's. So much has happened already this half term. Father Mathew has settled in really well to the parish. He has been to visit the children many times in school and has led mass wonderfully at our new time of 9am every Friday morning. All masses are now for the whole school and it would be lovely to see more parents attend. Last week, Father blessed the Bibles to start the 'Year of the Word', something all



Catholic schools in England are celebrating over this year. Earlier this month, it was great to see the Nursery parents attending a workshop on Early Reading and Phonics. The workshop was extremely well attended and we received some really positive feedback – thank you for your support. It has been fantastic to see the children getting involved outside the classroom too, at our after-school and lunchtime clubs. It is lovely to see so many children reading together at the two lunch time book clubs that have started this term. The School Council and Eco-Club have been busy with the bird-feeders, and took part in the 'RSPB Birdwatch' with a little help from our expert, Mr Hird. The sports clubs are going well, with regular practice and children competing with other schools. Congratulations to all the children who represented the school at the basketball and archery competitions – finishing so close to the medals by achieving 4th place in both competitions. We are also looking forward to a visit from Image Theatre who will perform 'The Reluctant Dragon' later on this term, and the whole school taking part in NSPCC Numbers Day. I was very proud to receive a letter from the Minister of State for School Standards, Nick Gibb, to congratulate us on our KS2 Mathematics results. 100% of our children passed their tests last year which puts our achievement in Mathematics in the top 2% of all schools in England. We also received an award for the 'Health for Life' initiative due to the hard work of all the children in Eco Club, Cooking Club, and the produce we have grown in our new planters. Miss Creamer, three children and I went to receive the award from the Lord Mayor. You can see the plaque in the school entrance. We have so much to be thankful for. Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Crehan

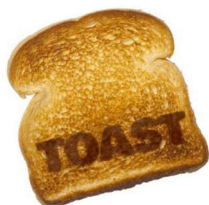
Parish Liturgy Group & Altar Servers

Every Sunday, during 10.00am Mass, a children's liturgy group runs for children aged 3-7 years old. This is growing in success and we would encourage you to bring your child each week. Fr Mathew is also looking for new Altar Servers. Please see him to find out more details or ask at school.



Parking on the Grass

Sadly, we have had a number of complaints about parents parking on the grass on Yatesbury Avenue. It is clear to see the damage caused by the cars. Can we please respect our local area, and use the church car park and walk down, or park along the roadsides. There have been several complaints about a parent in a van that has been driving along the grass verge close to the gates at the end of the school day – this is extremely dangerous, and if it continues, this will have to be passed on to the police.



Toast Trial

In response to your feedback, we are going to trial having toast available at breaktime for KS2 children only. This will help bridge the hunger gap from breakfast to lunch. KS1 children currently have fruit provided. There will be a small charge - details will follow soon!

Healthy Lunchboxes

Chocolates and sweets seem to be sneaking into a few lunch boxes! Please ensure you only send healthy snacks like fruit and yoghurt into school for your children to enjoy during lunch.

NSPCC Number Day 2020

On Thursday 6th February, we will be taking part in 'Dress up for Digits.' Pupils from Year 2 to Year 6 will be invited to dress as their TT Rockstars Avatar. Pupils from Nursery to Year 1 will be asked to be creative and dress as something related to maths. To help raise money for the NSPCC, we are asking for a donation of £1.



If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of the safeguarding team: Mr Crehan, Mrs Nicholls, Mrs Powis, or Mrs Kissun.

Events coming soon...

Thursday 6 th February		Number Day – Dress up for Digits
Friday 7 th February	9.00am	Whole School Mass led by Y2
Friday 7 th February		Image Theatre (The Reluctant Dragon)
Thursday 13 th February		Y5/Y6 visit Greenwood (Hairspray)
Friday 14 th February	9.00am	Whole School Mass led by Y1
Friday 14 th February	3.05pm	School Closes for half term
Monday 24 th February		School Opens for new term
Tuesday 25 th February		Shrove Tuesday Pancake Lunch
Wednesday 26 th February	9.00am	Whole School Mass Ash Wednesday(Y6)

Change to Early May Bank Holiday 2020

There is a change to the early May Bank Holiday due to the commemoration of VE Day. The first May Bank Holiday **will NOT be Monday 4th May but Friday 8th May 2020.**



Nursery Places

If you have a child born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017, then get in contact with the school office to find out how to apply for a place at St Gerard's Nursery.

Go Paperless

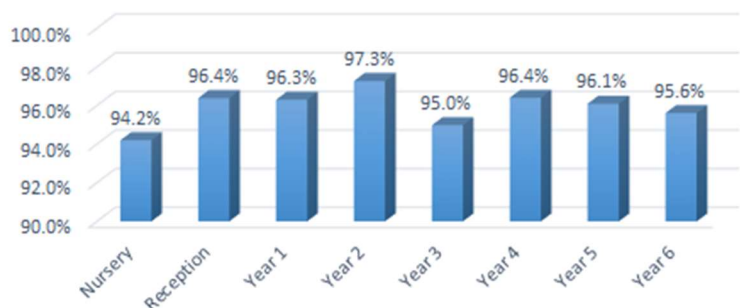
In an attempt to be more Eco-friendly and save money, this newsletter will be the last to be printed and given out to each child. This edition, and future editions will be emailed to the address you have given us, displayed on our website and we will add a link to our Twitter feed. If you would still like a paper copy, please visit the school office. Please make sure we have your current email address on your contact forms.



Attendance

Our target for attendance is 97%, we are at 96% at the moment – can we get beyond our target?

Attendance to Date



Term Dates

Spring Term 2020	Summer Term 2020
Tuesday 7th January 2020	Monday 20th April 2020
to	to
Friday 14th February 2020	Friday 22nd May 2020
HALF TERM	HALF TERM 2 weeks
Monday 24th February 2020	Monday 8th June 2020
to	to
Thursday 9th April 2020	Friday 17th July 2020

PLEASE NOTE:

Only one week holiday for Easter and two weeks at Whitsun.

*Children will return to School on:
Wednesday 2nd September 2020.*

Gospel Virtues



This half term we are trying to be more **Compassionate** towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and **loving** by our actions and forgiving words.

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