



NEWSLETTER 1

St Marie's Catholic
Junior School,
Rugby

Welcome back, I hope all the children had a refreshing break – if not parents. Everyone needs time for periods of recreation – ‘re-creating’. These periods of ‘down-time’ enable us to take on new learning and new challenges with renewed vigor. I am a trustee of a very small charity which has built and maintains a small school in a remote village in Myanmar (Burma). I had the opportunity to visit in April but had to advise teachers that primary aged children, working until very late into the evening, is counter-productive. We want children to enjoy learning not loathe it

I am looking forward to my time here at St Marie's and will try to maintain the many strengths that the school already has. I know that the governors are continuing to actively recruit a permanent head teacher. There is, nevertheless, a national shortage of head teachers particularly in the Catholic sector.

However, St Marie's is fortunate to have appointed Steve McCarthy as Deputy. Steve and I have already talked at length about the school and our plans for the autumn term.

School uniform

I was delighted to see almost every child looking smart and well presented in their uniform on the first day. Sturdy sensible shoes and no trainers were another very positive first impression. This indicates to me that children take pride in their school – well done. Small details such as uniform, punctuality and civility can be much more important than they may appear.

School and home in partnership

It is very important to us that your child is happy at school and arrives with a positive attitude. Parents can contribute to this by ensuring a good nights sleep; a healthy and balanced diet; and by providing opportunities for physical activity and time to play. Homework, must also play a part in a child's learning. Homework should re-enforce what has been learnt during the day or help prepare the child for a new lesson. We hope that parents will take an interest in their children's work – please encourage, advise and

support but not actually do their homework for them! We all meet problems that can seem insurmountable. We need to encourage children to develop the qualities of perseverance and resilience. We actually learn best at the point where we are stuck. However, if a child has genuinely tried to complete their homework task but can go no further, please stop them and avoid any undue anxiety. A brief note to the teacher will help greatly.

School Lunches

The price of a school lunch provided by Warwickshire's County Caterers has increased slightly to £1.70 per day - £8.50 per week. Payment must be made in advance. Alternatively children may bring a packed lunch.

We encourage healthy packed lunches which means that carbonated drinks or those with many additives are not permitted. Chilled water is always freely available.

Water bottles

We actively encourage children to drink water at regular intervals. We recommend that each child bring in their own bottle. Please make sure that your child brings it home at least each half term for to be thoroughly washed. No special bottle is required.

School Fund

I understand that traditionally the school has invited a donation for school fund to meet the costs of school visits and so on. This is under review. However, a careful note has been kept of those who have already made a donation. Should our system change you will not be disadvantaged. For the present, please do not send in any further School Fund donations.

Very important

It is very important that the school office is kept fully informed of any changes to the contact details of parents or guardians. In the event of an emergency this information could make the difference between life and death - I am not exaggerating.

Mobile phones

For many reasons mobile phones should never be brought into school. Apart from being a distraction, they are valuable and desirable items. Neither the school office nor colleagues are able to accept any responsibility for them. Ensuring that a child arrives safely in school remains the responsibility of a parent or guardian. Your assistance with this matter is particularly appreciated.

Reminder

The entrance gate at Alfred Green Terrace is only in use from 8.30am – 4pm term time only. If your child is attending an after school activity please collect them from the Merrittens Drive entrance and use the 7-11 club bell which is clearly marked.

And finally...

I can see little value in writing Newsletters for no particular reason consequently these will appear as and when there is news.

Stuart Hallahan

Acting Head Teacher

September 15th

15th at 6pm: Welcome Service for Y3 in school hall

19th at 6pm at St Marie's Church. Confirmation enrollment Mass

October

15th. Thanksgiving Mass 11.am at St Marie's Church

19th 3.30 – 6.00pm: Parent Teacher meeting

20th Confirmation at St Marie's Church a 6pm

22nd. 3.30 – 6.00pm: Parent Teacher meeting