



St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

“Seeking Growth Together”

September Newsletter 2016 - Issue 1

Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome back to a new school year. The children have made a fantastic start already both through their smart appearance (thank you so much for this) and their effort in their work. A warm welcome to all our new children in reception and nursery. I look forward to a long and happy partnership with you.

You have all had the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher, but if you have any worries/concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We are having a real focus on handwriting and reading this year. The reading expectation at the end of primary has increased and we can only achieve this higher expectation with daily reading at home. Please, please support school by hearing your child read daily and allowing them to access lots of books. We will be planning reading events throughout the year to support this target.

We are still continuing the theme from Pope Francis' Year of Mercy throughout school. Each year group is looking at the life of a particular saint and learning about the Spiritual Acts of Mercy (please see your child's year group curriculum planner, which is on the school website). Thank you for your continued support.
Mrs Allen



*** CONGRATULATIONS ***

**to our new Head Boy and Head Girl
Charlie and Olivia**

Following their interviews with Mrs Allen last week, they have both been awarded their badges. Well done!

BUILDING WORKS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience whilst the building works continue in the Reception area. Although we have had some disruption since we returned from the summer break we are sure it will all be worth while and are looking forward to seeing the much improved areas. We hope the project will be finished in two weeks and the Reception children will have brand new toilet facilities and a larger resource area.

All Blackpool primary school children will soon be able to have fluoridated milk, as part of the free school breakfast scheme. Fluoridated milk is just like normal milk, except it includes a small amount of fluoride, which helps to keep teeth healthy, as part of a good dental regime.

The milk will be offered to all children from Year 1 to Year 6 on return to school after October half term. Children recently brought home a leaflet with further information and an opt out slip. If we have not received an opt out slip then we will assume your child would like to have fluoridated milk each day. If you would like to learn more about the new scheme then please visit www.blackpool.gov.uk/fluoride

Attendance

Thank you to everyone who helped us to beat our attendance target of 96% last academic year. Our attendance so far this year is 97.9%. Well done to 2W who are our current leaders with 99.8%. 5H are hot on their heels though with 99.2%!



PTA

Our first PTA meeting of the academic year will be held on Friday 30th September at 3.15pm in school. If you are interested in getting involved please leave your contact details in the Office or just come along to a meeting. Everyone welcome!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Whole school activities

Tempest photography - Individual & Family photos on **17th October**

Reception 2017 Open Evening - tour times 3.30, 4.00, 4.30, 5.00 & 5.30pm on **17th October**

Harvest Festival - **27th October**

Scholastic Book Fair - **9th November**

Blackpool Dance Festival - **24th November**

Shared Advent Service at St Mary's - **1st December 6pm**

Year group activities

Nursery & Reception Nativity - **7th December 10am & 2pm**

KS1 Nativity - **15th December 2pm & 6pm**

Years 4, 5 & 6 Carol Service - **19th December 4.30pm**

Year 2 Pirate Dress Up Day - **18th October**

Year 4 Roman Day - **19th October**

Year 5 African Drumming - **21st October**

Blackpool Circus trip - **27th October**

5H - Class Assembly - **18th November**

5T - Class Assembly - **2nd December**

Year 6 6B Class Assembly - **27th October**

Parent workshop dates

Nursery - more information to follow - **26th October 10.15am**

Reception - Writing workshop for parents - **20th October 9am**

Year 1 - Raindance workshop for parents - **12th October 2.15pm**

Year 2 - Pirate workshop for parents - **19th October 2pm**

Year 3 - Greek Day workshop for parents - **25th October 2pm**

Year 4 - Christmas workshop for parents - **12th December 2pm**

Year 5 - more information to follow - **1st December 2pm**

Year 6 - Christmas workshop for parents - **13th December 2.15pm**

SCHOOL CLOSURES ON FRIDAY 28TH OCTOBER AT 3.10/15pm & RETURN ON TUESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER - staff training day is Monday 7th November

****Holiday club will be available during half term (not on staff training day) and booking forms are available in the office****



Following a review of school's Internet Safeguarding policies, we have decided to protect our tweets. In order to view tweets, you must register with Twitter and request to follow your child's teacher and school account.

Year 2

Can't believe we are a few weeks into Year 2 already, me hearties! The children have been really enjoying the Pirates topic.

We're really impressed with how quickly the children have settled into routines, including bringing in their homework on time. Keep it up!

Please remember to learn times tables at home to help in class. Our focus at this point in the year is our x2, x5, x10 tables. We will start testing soon!

Dates for your diary:

Pirate dressing up day and parrrrty Tuesday 18th October wear your best pirates yaarrns! (more information to follow)
Parents Pirate Workshop 19th October 2016 2pm in the hall.



Captain Mack and First Mate Walsh!

Year 3 - Welcome to the juniors! We are all adjusting and settling in well to the new routines of Key Stage 2 and have just about managed to control our rumbling tummies as we get used to a later lunch time! This half term we have been learning about Ancient Greece. During the mornings in our Literacy lessons, the children have been working extremely hard exploring Greek Myths. They have even planned and written their own Greek Myths and we definitely have some professional writers in the making! In Maths we are having a huge 'push' on times tables and regularly compete in our class 'Olympics'. As part of our topic-based afternoon sessions so far, we have looked at the Greek Empire on a map, ordered a timeline from this era, discussed

Nursery - the children have settled in really well. They are having great fun doing lots of activities related to the topic of 'Our Families'. The children have painted pictures of their families and made shape houses. They have sung lots of songs and nursery rhymes and enjoyed listening to stories. The children are excitedly making new friends and are getting used to the routines that we have in Nursery. We are really looking forward to watching them develop and flourish in the coming months.



Year 5 - Welcome back to another school year, we are pleased to say Year 5 have made an excellent start. We are all really looking forward to working with your children during this academic year! We have high expectations of the children in Year 5 and we are excited about the learning journey which lies ahead.

This half term our curriculum topic is 'Abracadabra' and the children have explored properties of materials and are learning about the wizarding world of Harry Potter. Over the next few weeks the children will have the opportunity to tie-dye a t-shirt and visit the Blackpool Tower Circus! What a way to start a new school year.

We also ask that you support your children in completing home learning tasks such as the weekly spelling and Lexia and ensuring the children bring in a signed reading record daily.

We look forward to working with you throughout this school year!

democracy, compared Greek Olympics to Modern Day Olympics and also learnt about life in Athens and in Sparta! What Busy Bees we are! In the last week before half-term, we will be hosting a Greek Day, packed full of Greek activities and also a parent workshop. This will really bring Ancient Greece to life and will be a memorable ending to the topic. We will wear Greek clothes, sample Greek food and listen to Greek music! Thank you for all of your support so far, please keep communicating with us regularly to ensure your child achieves the best that they can this year.



Year 6 - have gotten off to a fantastic start, demonstrating wonderful behaviour and manners! The children have received their 'Roles of Responsibilities' this week and we are very proud of all of them!

We are reading 'The Wizard of Oz' in English and the children are thoroughly enjoying it having produced some excellent pieces of writing.

In Maths, we are basing our problem solving around Roald Dahl's books and the children are working hard to work through investigations.

Our class assemblies are: Friday 14th October (6OK) and Thursday 27th October (6B) at 9am and 9.30am.

Keep up the hard work Year 6!

Reception - Your children have all settled in well at school and have enjoyed lots of exciting activities already! Every child has received a reading book and we would ask you to spend ten minutes a night reading with your child. Could you please ensure you return your child's book only on their nominated reading day! Your child will be receiving a Lexia password in the near future, with details of how to use the programme at home. P.E. kits are required as soon as possible, please ensure every item of clothing is named. Our building work continues and will soon be completed. Our outdoor area is being updated, we have lovely tables and chairs for the children to use and we are also getting new fencing. To help with our Homes topic, we would be grateful for any junk materials, e.g. cardboard boxes, kitchen roll tubes etc. Thank you for being on time in the morning and collecting your child at 3.10 in the afternoon. Our Literacy Workshop will be held in school on Thursday, 20th October at 9 o'clock. You will receive more details about this event in the near future.

Year 4 - We have enjoyed a great start to Year 4 in September. Our topic 'Under Attack' has seen us explore Ancient Rome and the Romans. To add to our learning experience of this we will be having a Roman themed activity day on Wednesday 19th October - watch this space to find out more about what promises to be a wonderful day!

As you will already know we have a huge push on times tables in Year 4, please continue to learn these at home, especially your 4x, 8x, 3x and 6x tables.

Thank you for all your support with this! Finally, 4L have been enjoying their first few Cornet lessons. This is a fantastic experience for the children and one which 4W will take part in after February half term.

Don't forget to keep up-to-date with what we are getting up to by following us on Twitter!

Year 1 - What a busy half term we are having so far in Year 1. We are really enjoying our Topic 'Whatever the Weather'. We have been acting as real life Weather Reporters and Mr Smith is going to help us use the ICT 'Green Screen'. Miss Crawford and Miss Hornby think we will look great on TV and from the practice so far can certainly see some potential here for future careers.

At the time of writing this; we are getting ready to perform our Rain Dance for parents which will be on Wednesday 12th October at 2.15pm. We hope to see you there!