



ST. NORBERT'S  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Newsletter

17th March 2017

*Article 29: Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities.*



## Lenten Reconciliation Service

This week has been a very busy one at St Norbert's, in all sorts of ways. On Monday, Father Paul visited Miss Blacoe's class, Year 1, for their prayer service. The children took a full part in the service, praying and singing beautifully. We are very grateful to Father Paul for sharing this special time with us.

On Wednesday, Father Paul returned to the school, accompanied by Father Stan and Father Daniel, for our Lenten Reconciliation service. All the school's children took part in the first stage of the service, a time of prayer and reflection on the meaning of Lent, then those older children who have made their First Holy Communion remained behind for the Act of Reconciliation with one of the three priests present. St Norbert's is extremely grateful to all our local clergy who do so much to support the school as it seeks to fulfil its Catholic mission.

## Dads, Lads and Lasses day

This week has also seen the 'Dads, lads and lasses' day, where fathers (or other male relatives) have joined their children at the school for a morning of teamwork challenges.

As well as being great fun, it's a different way of sharing with parents some of the learning that their children are involved in at school.

The morning was extremely well-attended and hugely successful; something which we definitely intend to run again next year. Our thanks go especially to Mrs Jameson, for organising the event, and to Mr Morton for his invaluable support. Thanks also to all the dads, granddads and uncles who came along and joined in so enthusiastically and good-naturedly with all the fun.



Photo

### Parents' Evenings

Our thanks to all those parents and carers who attended the Parents' Evenings this week. They were very well-attended and we greatly appreciate your support on these occasions.

### Parental questionnaires

Thank you also to all those parents who have completed a parental questionnaire, either the paper or the online version. This is one way in which we can seek your opinion on what you think we do well as a school and, just as importantly, what we could do better or in addition, so as to help us provide the best possible education for your children.

If parents or carers haven't yet completed a parental questionnaire and would like to do so, you can obtain a paper copy from the school office or the online version can be accessed through the link below. Thank you.  
[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/73ZH9L5](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/73ZH9L5)



### Improving our children's memory skills

This week Panorama showed a programme called 'Sleepless Britain'. It was all about children's short term memory resulting in lack of daytime performance in school. The programme explored how it is the result of sleep not being prioritised and the detrimental effects of using tablets and other electronic devices before bedtime. It explained how, when the sun goes down, our bodies release the hormone melatonin which makes us feel sleepy.

Blue light from smart phones, tablets and other devices trick our brains into thinking

it's daytime, which reduces melatonin, hence, making falling asleep much, much harder. Then, when children don't get as much sleep as they should do, their brains are not consolidating and storing everything that's happened during the day. Their memories are not being passed from short term memory to the cortex of the brain, which means their memories/ learning are not hard-wired for long-term retrieval. If they haven't slept well, children don't process their learning in the same way.

Other recommendations to improve learning included a clear routine, a bedtime snack such as a banana and no devices an hour before bedtime. If you would like to watch the programme yourselves, it can be accessed through the BBC iPlayer.

### Happy St Patrick's Day!



St Patrick is the patron Saint of Ireland. His feast day is March 17<sup>th</sup>. Patrick was born in Roman Britain and, at age 14, was captured by Irish pirates and taken to Ireland as a slave, to herd and tend sheep.

When Patrick was twenty, he escaped after a dream in which God, told him to go to the coast. There some sailors took him back to Britain and reunited Patrick with his family. Later Patrick became a priest and then a Bishop and was sent to take the Gospel to Ireland.

Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He often used shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity and worked many miracles. He died on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 461. Every year, his feast day is

celebrated around the world by Irish people and those of Irish descent. *Slainte!*



**School photographs**

Remember that class photographs are on **Monday** so please ensure your child is in full school uniform, smart and tidy. Thank you.

**School Uniform reminder**

Just to remind parents and carers that the deadline for our move to the new school uniform is the end of this term. Year 6 pupils are exempt, of course, but all other pupils should be wearing our new uniform from Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup> onwards. Thank you.

Uniform items can only be ordered online from our suppliers [www.uniform-direct.com](http://www.uniform-direct.com)



**Book Fair**

The Book Fair has returned all this week and has been a big success! Parents and pupils have been visiting the Book Fair after school to browse and buy. There was a wide range of books on offer to suit avid readers and also those more apprehensive. To inspire reading in Years 2 - 6, classes ran a competition to design a book character for a chance to win a £5 book token!

With imaginative designs and some beautiful illustrations, the winning entries were:

- Y6 - Laura Borowiec
- Y5 - Liene Melne
- Y4 - Livia Koperkiewicz
- Y3 - Armandas Useckaitė
- Y2 - Harley Fletcher

Congratulations for those winners, we hope the books will be thoroughly enjoyed. Why

not take a seat in our newly designed library and relax with a book?

**Pupils of the Week**



**Reception - Nicola Wydra** for her enthusiasm to develop her learning through child initiated play.

**Year 1 - Malachai Gillick** for his extended writing when recounting our trip to the museum.

**Year 2 - Olivier Antoniuk** for trying really hard with cursive handwriting and phonics work this week.

**Year 3 - Nikola Zachaczewska** for her excellent achievement in reading and improving her fluency and pace.

**Year 4 - Antonio Ribisse** for a super effort in Maths learning!

**Year 5 - Vincent Nicolas** for being a supportive learning mentor to his peers.

**Year 6 - Julia Waldowska** for all round excellent attitude and performance in our MOCK SATS. Excellent spelling skills especially!

**Attendance**

Week commencing: 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2017						
REC	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6
88.52	91.11	92.98	92.99	100	100	94.07
%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Congratulations go to Year 4 & 5 this week for the best attendance.



**Rewards-House Points**

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
335 points St Lucy	298 points St Francis	181 points St Dominic	179 points St Bernadette

Well done St. Lucy House. You are the winning house this week.

**Year` 6's Challenge Corner**



### English Challenge Corner

#### **Full-Stops, Exclamation Marks & Question Marks**

Rewrite the following sentences with a full-stop (.), exclamation mark (!) or question mark (?).

1. "Look out " shouted James to his brother
2. "Would you like some cheese with your spaghetti " asked Tim's mum
3. The party was a success, everybody enjoyed themselves
4. "Do you know the time" asked the teacher
5. It's important that you always end a sentence with a full-stop



#### **Prayers please!**

God of tenderness,  
Be with the people of South Sudan at the present time:  
With those who harbour thoughts of ethnic hatred and violence  
Pour love into their hearts.  
With those who have fled their homes with nothing  
Give strength to their limbs.  
With those who search for food, water and safety  
Lead them to a peaceful place to rest.  
With those who are exhausted and despairing  
Give hope to their uncertain future.  
God of tenderness, we ask you, be with your people today.

*(Susy Brouard/CAFOD)*

God bless.

Mr J Burns  
Headteacher