



#### THE END OF A VERY BUSY HALF TERM

Well, it seems as though you blink, and seven weeks fly by! We've had a remarkably busy first half term, and have achieved a great deal! Of course, we have welcomed thirty bright, interesting and engaging young people in to our Reception Class; it never ceases to amaze how well our pupils settle in to our routines of learning and living, and they have already achieved so much in their short time here.

Across school, children have been working hard in core learning areas: Reading, Writing, Maths and RE, and it has been wonderful to see the high standard of work produced already this term. What has been even more satisfying, however, has been seeing the extended learning opportunities the children have been engaged in. Reception Class are already in the full swing of their Forest School sessions, so wellies and waterproofs have been in heavy use; the rest of our pupils will begin their Forest School sessions with Mrs Recchia after half term, so watch this space! Music continues to be high profile across school; Year 4 have begun their string orchestra project, and the school choir continues to grow. Sport has also been a particular highlight, with pupils and parents from Year 5 signing up to take part in our Coast to Coast ride in June, and a number of pupils representing the school admirably in such fields as cross country and football. In every year group, children have been engaged in exciting and challenging learning opportunities, and we look forward to seeing how their individual gifts and talents continue to grow over the coming year.

In terms of our faith life, we have welcomed Fr Peter to our school and parish, and he has helped to kick-start the sacramental programme for our Year 4 pupils, with a well-attended first liturgical celebration during Sunday Mass at St Mary's. Pupils across school have taken part in weekly collective worships and liturgies, and it has been great to see our prayer and reflection garden in use. Please continue to help us celebrate our whole-school and shared class Masses, and keep an eye on the weekly bulletins to see how you can be involved in our Advent preparations.

Thank you, as always, for your support in ensuring high levels of punctuality, attendance and standards of behaviour, dress and attitude to learning. We look forward to sharing a wonderful second half term with you with the lead up to Christmas, and all that brings! As ever, please get in contact if there is anything we can help with – I'd be more than happy to hear from you.

Enjoy a restful, invigorating and safe half-term break!

God bless,

Mr J Wheatley  
Headteacher

## RIGHTS RESPECTING WEEK

This week, the pupils have been learning all about 'Rights'. As a Unicef Rights Respecting School, we are committed to teaching our pupils about their human rights, and engaging them in considering how we can all promote the rights of others – in school, local community, and indeed the wider world. In Reception class, pupils have learning what a right is, and how special all humans are; in Years 1 and 2 pupils have been learning about the variety of rights we have, and about the Convention on the Rights of the Child; in Years 3 and 4 pupils have been considering what it must be like to be a refugee, and finding out about some well-known, modern-day refugees; Years 5 and 6 have been discovering how different organisations act to try and ensure rights are met for children the world over, and the role the media play in highlighting issues facing refugees. We also welcomed two very special visitors in to school to speak to children in KS2: a gentleman who is currently awaiting official refugee status after fleeing persecution in Pakistan, and a refugee settlement officer from Gateshead Council, who has helped hundreds of asylum seekers and refugees to settle in our area. Both experiences offered our pupils a real insight in to the issues surrounding the human rights of migrants, and how we can act to ensure they are being upheld. We look forward to sharing some of our learning with you by way of an interactive school display and via the school website in the near future.

## ALL SAINTS MASS:

We will now be attending Mass at 9:30am on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November (All Saints day) rather than Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Please come along and help us to celebrate this Holy Day.

*Please be reminded that we try really hard in school for pupils to understand that when we go to church, the focus is the Mass – not the children. Unlike an assembly or concert, Mass isn't a show; we encourage active participation (joining in with responses, prayers and hymns etc) and a respectful, calm and prayerful focus. Thank you in advance for supporting us in approaching our whole school Masses in the right way.*

## PARENTS' EVENING:

In your child's blue bag this week, you will have received an appointment slip for our Autumn Term Parents' Evenings. If you (or another parent/carer) require an additional appointment, please get in contact with Mrs Noble in the school office.

*If you, or someone you know, would like to receive additional paper copies of school correspondence, please get in contact to let us know.*

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:

Thank you to all our parents, carers and wider community who helped to celebrate our first Sunday liturgy for the Sacramental Preparation group. The next Sunday Liturgy will take place on 6.11.16, when we will be renewing our Baptismal promises.

## A PLEA FROM DUCKPOOL PRE-SCHOOL:

Duckpool Pre-school are on the look-out for some kind donations to support the learning and development of its children. If there is anyone who would be able to donate any Mobilo or play buggies, in decent condition, the staff would be eternally grateful. Please just get in contact with Pre-school Manager Mrs Cameron or Mrs Noble in the school office. Thank you!

#### EVENING CHRONICLE WISH TOKENS:

HCPT Group 41 are once again participating in the Evening Chronicle wish token campaign. Last year, with your help, an astonishing 47,000 tokens were collected on the group's behalf which translated into a donation of over £600 towards the cost of taking 6 local children with a range of needs to Lourdes. Please help Group 41 to continue their work by cutting out the wish tokens from the Evening Chronicle and handing them in at the school office. Thank you.

#### SMALL SAINTS HOLIDAY CLUB:

Small Saints is offering places for holiday club this October half term:

Price per day is £24.00 per child and this includes 3 meals.

Each day we will be doing a specific activity which will include a Halloween party, mask making, rocket building, baking, sports activities, and lots of other fun things.

Spaces are limited and if you would like to discuss further or reserve your place please contact me on 07882421973 or email [smallsaints@hotmail.com](mailto:smallsaints@hotmail.com). Many thanks.

Leanne Sanderson (club manager).

#### KS1 & 2 ASSESSMENT EVENINGS:

There will be sessions to look at the SATs in a little more detail on 31<sup>st</sup> October at 4:30pm for KS1 and 5pm for KS2. This will give parents/carers an opportunity to look at the assessments from 2016, to get some advice in how best to prepare your child in the right way, and to ask any pertinent questions you may have.

#### SECONDARY ADMISSIONS:

A reminder that Year 6 parents, should submit an online application for their Secondary School place by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016. Any application received after this date will be classed as late.

#### APPLICATION FOR RECEPTION CLASS INTAKE 2017-18:

A reminder that the online admission application process for Reception intake 2017-18 opens on September 9<sup>th</sup>, with the closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017. If you have registered interest, you will receive a letter explaining the process, but for more information, please don't hesitate in contacting school.

#### THE WEEK AHEAD W/C : 31<sup>st</sup> October

TUESDAY – 9:30am Whole School Mass – All Saints Day **(NO MASS ON THURSDAY)**  
Y3 Visit to The Great North Museum

FRIDAY – KS1 Indoor Athletics (Selected pupils)

SUNDAY – Y4 1<sup>ST</sup> Communion Liturgy 2 – Baptismal Renewal  
9:30 Mass