ALL CREATED EQUAL

Equality has been very much the theme of this term in our worship and our Citizenship learning. Reflections on the legacy of Martin Luther King were held last week, remembering the message of ‘The Holocaust’ was this week part of our ‘Holocaust Memorial’. Rev Pete led worship on Wednesday with a reminder to treat ALL others as being of equal worth no matter who they are. Equality, rights and responsibilities is the theme of Citizenship week next week.

Letter to Parents

There has been much coverage in the national press recently when people like Damian Hinds (Education Secretary) and Amanda Spielman (Head of Ofsted), have spoken about teachers’ workloads and the added pressure of dealing with parental emails and questions. In our school, all parents should have received a letter from our Chair of Governors, Yvonne Conroy, on behalf of the Governors of the school; it was sent last week by email and is on the website under the heading for Governors’ Newsletter. The school is asking that parents remember to be respectful and courteous and think carefully before questioning decisions or policy especially over relatively trivial matters. It all diverts attention away from their teaching and can be hugely time-consuming. Hopefully we can all get behind this and show how much we value what the staff do each and every day for our young people!

Lockdown Practice

Two weeks ago the school held its first ‘Lockdown’ drill. The message in advance to the children was very clear: sometimes we need to stay inside the building in order to stay safe (e.g. a stray animal on the field, pollution in the air, police incident in the neighbourhood.) We are able to make use of a PA system which enables us to send clear messages to classrooms around school and teachers and students were able to walk and talk through the procedure for staying put. We do, of course, liaise closely with St Edward’s First School as part of our practice. We will continue to hold regular drills for both evacuation and lockdown throughout the year as part of our Health & Safety policy.

Daisy’s Dream

This week we welcomed Zoe from the charity ‘Daisy’s Dream’ who collected a cheque for over £860. She spoke with Year 7 about the charity’s work in supporting young people experiencing bereavement and thanked all students for their efforts in raising such a magnificent sum. The money was collected as part of our Christmas charitable fund-raising from our Mufti Day and from the retiring collection at our Carol Service. So thanks extend to all parents who gave so generously too. The School Council chose ‘Daisy’s Dream’ as a charity they would like to support knowing how important is their work and how some of our students past and present have greatly appreciated the help on offer.

Winter Weather

In the event of heavy snow, icy conditions or problems with heating or access at this time of year we will publish notice of any closures on our website and via text message. We will publish as soon as a decision is made and as early as possible to help families make arrangements. However, it is always our aim to stay open and we do not rush to decisions when the state of the weather is not certain; please be patient. Sometimes the issue is bad weather further afield than Windsor which may prevent staff from getting to work in Windsor. However, we very rarely close and have sometimes been open for business while others have not. We always try to do our best.

REMEMBERS

Year 6 Liddington, Wiltshire trip – the next payment is due 1st February. Final payment is due 1st March and all outstanding balances are to be cleared at this time. Please contact Mrs Blanchard if there is a problem making these payments.

Online payments – please can you ensure when returning reply slips that the online payment has been made. We are receiving lots of slips where the box has been ticked that payment has been made online when in fact it hasn’t and we are having to chase for payment. Your co-operation with this is much appreciated.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 12th—Thursday 14th February
SCHOOL PRODUCTION—MARY POPPINS

February 18th—22nd
HALF TERM

Monday 25th February
INSET DAY

Tuesday 26th February
PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

Wednesday 27th February
Year 8 French Trip Meeting - 7pm

Friday 1st March
Quiz Night - 7.30pm

The next “SERFBOARD” will be emailed on 15th February 2019. E-mail us your views on any items we run in the newsletter office@sterf.org.uk

**Careers day**
Any parents able to come in to school on Friday 8th of March in the afternoon to speak to year 8 about their careers please let Mrs Bruce-Carter know availability. We would love to hear about the routes taken to your current jobs.

**Budding Engineers**
Engineering club pupils are working towards a national engineering competition called Leaders award. This week we had two wonderful engineers visit us to answer questions about engineering and support us with our inventions. There are still places in the club (Wednesday 8am) and time to enter. For more information see Mrs Bruce-Carter.

**Inter-House Chess Competition**
The Inter House Chess competition is in full swing. This week Alban play Bede and Columba play Dunstan.

**Sports & PE Update**
Over the next couple of weeks the year 8 netball team are looking forward to their final tournament of the season. They have been training really hard to ensure they are ready to defeat some tough competition. Keep up the hard work ladies.

**THIS GIRL CAN COMPETITION**
Ladies we would like you to create your own THIS GIRL CAN posters to go up on display in the PE department. We are aiming to show how active girls are within our school as well as show off all the amazing sports you participate in.

Please follow the link below to create your own. When completed tap on the image to save and print. We look forward to seeing all of your entries.
http://www.thisgirlcan.co.uk/

As we progress through the term the weather seems to be getting colder. Please ensure your child brings extra layers and tracksuit bottoms for PE to keep warm whilst outside.

**Production Tickets**
Production tickets are on sale now for Mary Poppins from 12th—14th February. Only a few tickets remaining! Thank you.

**Bikeability**
There are still a few places left on the Bikeability Course running during the February half-term break. If you would like further details and a registration form, please contact the school office.

**Accelerated Readers—Congratulations go to:**

- **Millionaires:** James Daly 8/2, Casper Litherland 6/4, Nathan Boom 6/4, Chloe Clark 7/4, Jack Boom 8/2, Eliza Jordan 5/3 and Mrs. Bird.
- **2 Million words:** Amelie Knowland 6/3 and Sienna Newman 6/2.
- **HONOURS READER:** Kitty Seales 7/4

**Car Parking**
We are getting an increasing number of parents requesting to drive in to our car park, and sometimes even tail-gating the car in front which could prove extremely dangerous.

Since the gates have been installed, we have tried to be consistent and only allow parents drive in to the car park in “exceptional circumstances”. Exceptional circumstances do not include dropping off forgotten items such as lunches and PE kits or collecting children for appointments (please allow extra time for this). All these circumstances require you to park outside the school premises and walk through the pedestrian gate.

Additionally, please do not drop/collection your children in your car by the school gates at the start or end of the school day. This causes disruption and prevents staff from entering/leaving the school. We would appreciate your support to ensure the Health & Safety of your children.

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***** PSA UPDATE *** PSA UPDATE *****

Congratulations to Anne Hytry mum to Raya in Year 5 for winning the 50:50 draw in January. If you would like to take part for the rest of the school year, please send a cheque for £9 and send the attached form to the office.

We are looking for helpers to serve refreshments for Mary Poppins – please let Catrina Newman know via Facebook, Classlist or psa@sterf.org.uk if you can help. Many thanks.

Also, don’t forget it is the Quiz Night on Friday 1st March – a fun night to be had by all – tickets are £12 – to include fish and chips (or alternative) and nibbles. Please see information and order form attached.

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