



Head-lines

I have to admit, this first half term of the calendar year has never been my favourite; Christmas has been and gone, the weather turns bitter and the joys of Spring seem a long way off! However, this half term really does seem to have gone quite quickly. We are now in Lent, so the countdown to Easter has begun. I complicated my Lenten abstinence last year - having decided to give up crisps, I caused a family feud by phoning my mum one evening to ask if nachos counted as crisps? For fear of sparking your own arguments, I won't say what the outcome was, but it sparked a discussion on 'get out clauses' and rule bending....So this year, rather than giving something up, I am spending a little longer each day thanking our Lord for all he has given; including holding you, your children and all our families in my prayers. Wishing you all a lovely half term

Mr Turner

Our new mural - the 'Grand Unveiling'



If you've been in our office recently, you will have seen our amazing new wall mural. It was painted by hand by the amazing Joe Venning, a local artist who also has work on display in the Williamson Art Gallery. Joe is the talent behind our other recent art work in the lunch hall and corridors. What was lovely about this particular piece was that Joe worked on it during the school day so the children could see it in progress. Judging by their overhead conversations, they really enjoyed seeing it develop and I hope has also been inspirational to them - this was not created by 'magic' or by computer but by a man with a talent and a passion who has made a career out of doing something he loves and being creative. Hopefully one day some of our current budding

artists might return and do some work around the school for me! This particular piece is even more special as I have funded it using the generous donation made to the school by the Hillsborough Family Support Group. You may remember our wonderful choir sang an incredibly moving version of 'You'll Never Walk Alone' at the Freedom of the Borough event organised by Wirral Council. In a fabulous gesture, the HFSG made a donation to the school as a thank you.

I would now like to invite you to the 'unveiling' ceremony. This will take place at **10.00am on Friday 2nd March** (the first Friday after we return). We have asked Bishop Mark to visit school to bless the mural, and Margaret Aspinall, the Chair of the HFSG will also be attending to see how we have used her donation. The

school choir will kick off proceedings by singing a few new pieces as well as revisiting their classics. After the blessing by the Bishop, the PTA have organised some light refreshments. Our extended St Joseph's family from the Parish will also be calling in. It promises to be a lovely morning, celebrating more of the school developments.

I extended the welcome to you all - but I am sure you can understand space is limited! If you would like to join us during the morning please could I ask you to call in at the office before the event and simply put your name down to give me an idea of numbers. If it's looking like a lot, it may have to be a case of first names down get first entry and then have to open up the hall doors.

Sporting Success!

This term has provided major success for our Girls' Football team. Our triumph at the Tranmere Rovers tournament has ensured that the girls will represent TRFC at the Northern Finals at Stockport County FC in March. The girls, led by captain Jessica Brady, also have the opportunity of a unique double, as they currently sit joint top of the BHS Girls' League which concludes this week. Well done, girls!

Another well done, to our Year 3/4 Cross Country team who won the Birkenhead South Cluster event this month and also to Joseph Collins and Kyle McGregor who will contest the St. Joseph's Darts Championship Final on Friday.



OFSTED letter -


Following our OFSTED inspection in November, where the Inspectors felt that the school had made significant progress and was removed from Special Measures, I was further delighted to receive a letter from Amanda Spielman, the OFSTED Chief Inspector. In her letter, she writes


"I am writing to congratulate you and your school team on your recent inspection outcome. I know the progress your school has made is the result of hard work and commitment on the part of many people. It is positive that staff morale is high and that parents are supportive of the changes you are making. I am sure that you agree that the progress made by you and your team will benefit every pupil at the school."

I fully appreciate that we still have work to do in order to achieve the goals I have set out for the school, but I am confident that with your support, the work of the staff and our wonderful children, we will achieve them.

Coming up next half term.....

I would like to draw your attention to two events next half term;

 The WC 26th March, we will be having a reading/book focus. This is because World Book Day falls during this week. During the week we will be doing lots of reading and book related activities, and on the day of World Book Day, **Thursday 1st March**, the children (and staff!) are invited to come to school dressed as a favourite book character. I look forward to seeing all the fantastic and creative costumes.

 On **Friday 9th March starting at 1.30pm**, we will be hosting a parents internet workshop. This will be led by our school IT providers and helps you as parents try to stay one step ahead of the children with internet safety, filters, parental controls and various devices etc. After an initial parents session, your children can then join you for a joint workshop. I will send out a letter with further details and a reply slip during the first week back.

Thought for the term

During Lent, we often focus on the 'giving something up' side, but as well as this aspect, we can see it as an opportunity to do something extra. I'll leave you with the words of Pope Francis for inspiration...

