



The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary Academy

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Diary Dates

Headteacher Newsletter 8, 25th January 2023

January

24 th	Faith in Action – Year 6
26 th	Year 6 Dental Survey
30 th	Year 6 SAT's Meeting – 4.30pm

February

1 st	Teacher's Strike Day 1 – please see attached letter
6 th – 10 th	Children's Mental Health week & Internet Safety Day
6 th – 9 th	Parents' Evenings – face to face in school. Further information below
9 th	PTA Non-uniform day – bring an item for the food bank
9 th	Pied Piper activity day for Reception
10 th	INSET Day – school closed
13 th – 17 th	Half Term week
20 th	Back to school
21 st	PTA meeting – 7pm in school
22 nd	Ash Wednesday
27 th	EYFS & KS1 Book Look – from 2:30pm
28 th	KS2 Book Look – from 2:30pm

March

2 nd	World Book Day – come dressed as your favourite character / in your comfiest PJs
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Parental Questionnaire – Catholic Life, Collective Worship and Religious Education

Many thanks to those of you who completed the questionnaire sent out by Mrs Dougal last week. Your views are very important to us as they enable us to hear what you feel we are getting right and also where we can improve in terms of supporting your child's faith journey. If you have not yet completed the questionnaire and would like to, please [click here](#). The link closes this Friday 27th Jan.

Mission Merits – Class Dojo

The children are so motivated to achieve Mission Merits in school and it is great that so many of you have signed up to Class Dojo so you can hear about their achievements at home too.

Unfortunately, we are unable to subscribe to a package through school that allows you to view more than two weeks' worth of merits. We will continue to look into this and hope that this function soon becomes available.

Please note that Dojo is only used as a means to inform you when your child receives a Mission Merit. Teachers will not access messages via Dojo, so as always, if you need to contact them, please do so via the school office.

Behaviour Curriculum – 'The Good Shepherd Way'

The children have responded so well to the changes to our behaviour curriculum and their conduct and manners around school was commented on very positively last week when we had some visitors from the diocese visiting school. They spent time in every classroom and the children's focus and contributions in lessons was fantastic – I felt very proud of them! Keep up the good work children 😊

Parents' Evenings

These take place for all classes on Monday 6th and Wednesday 8th February from 3.45 to 6.30pm in the school hall. Please book your appointment on school cloud via <https://goodshepherd.schoolcloud.co.uk/> Please note, that parents of children who are on the SEND register do not need to book – your child's class teacher will be in touch with you to arrange a separate appointment.

My thanks to Mrs Leman, our school cook, who will be putting on some food tasting for you to try whilst you

Book Looks

Shortly after half term, you will have the opportunity to view your child's books alongside them in their classroom.

EYFS and Key Stage 1: 27th February
Key Stage 2: 28th February

Classrooms will be open from 2.30 till 4pm. Please note, books will not be out in the hall on parents' evening.

Teacher Strike Action

Please see the attached letter regarding the teacher strikes that begin next Wednesday. Only one teacher union has opted to strike, therefore strike action is not open to all teachers.

Thank you to our PTA

Many thanks to our PTA for arranging the pantomime to come into school a couple of weeks ago – what a super way to finish the Christmas season.

They have also been busy creating 'wet play' boxes for every class with lots of games and activities for the children to do when it is wet outside and these have been delivered to classrooms this week.

Punctuality at the beginning and end of the day

I am becoming increasingly concerned about the amount of children who are arriving to school late in the morning (on average 20 children a day last week) and who are not being picked up on time at the end of the day. Whilst I appreciate that at times delays are unavoidable, these should be rare occurrences.

In the mornings, when children arrive late to school and to their classrooms, they disturb those who have already started their lessons. This impacts on the teacher too, who needs to give separate instructions to the children arriving late. Children arriving late need to be taken to their classes by a member of the office team (if they are in St Annes). This disrupts the smooth running of the office as staff are unable to get on with their morning tasks.

At the end of the day, children who are not collected on time need to be supervised by staff. This means they are arriving late to meetings and are delayed from getting on with their preparations for the next day.

Please make every effort to be punctual. The gate opens at 8.45am and the morning bell goes promptly at 8.55am. Children **must** be on the playground in good time for this so they are lined up and ready to come into school with their class. The school day finishes at 3.30pm and **all** children, who are not taking part in an after-school club, are expected to be collected off the playground at this time. If you are going to be late, please ring the school office in good time so messages can be delivered to the class teachers.

Thank you for your support with this matter.