November 2018

PSA Christmas Fair
Saturday 8th December

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Staffing News
- Parent Forum
- Christmas Arrangements
- NSPCC Update
- Christmas Charity Appeal
- Choir Performance
- Message from the Headteacher
Staffing News
As you know, Mrs. Dickenson is expecting her second child very soon. We wish her every joy as she prepares to begin her maternity leave later this month. I am also delighted to share with you the wonderful news that Miss Gilbody is expecting twins. Further information will follow as she prepares for maternity leave during the spring term.

Reception 2019 Applications
Fr Anthony will be available to sign Reception application forms on Friday 14th December between 2pm - 4pm. No appointment is necessary - please call at the Presbytery. Please remember to bring all related documents with you, especially your child’s Baptism Certificate. Thank you.

Parent Forum
Mrs Cahill and Mrs Barley very much enjoyed the opportunity to meet with a number of parents on 2nd November where school priorities were shared and the school’s website discussed. An outcome of the meeting is that Mrs. Cahill will include regular updates, in the newsletter, on whole school priorities and the progress being made in achieving those priorities. Mrs Barley has requested that parents take a few minutes to look at the school’s website in order to feedback on what would be useful to have on the front page e.g. links. Please provide any suggestions via email, by sharing at the gate or by attending the next Parent Forum meeting on Thursday 6th December starting at 2pm. We will also be looking at our Pastoral Care (Behaviour) Policy at this next meeting.

Playground Developments
We are very excited to share with you that the next phase of our playground development begins on Wednesday 5th December. The PSA have worked extremely hard to raise money to replace our ‘aging’ adventure play equipment. The work will take approximately a week to complete but the children will have a unique opportunity to observe the ‘old’ being removed and the ‘new’ installed. Thank you for your patience whilst essential maintenance work is being carried out on the main playground.

Christmas Arrangements
Final arrangements for our exciting Christmas activities are currently being agreed. Please look out for the ‘Christmas Letter’ that will explain all that is happening for your child and any key dates for you to be aware of.

Christmas Charity Appeal
For many years the school’s community have generously supported the ‘Christmas Shoe Box Appeal’. Whilst individual families may choose to continue to keep this tradition, by filling a box and taking it to a local collection point, the School Council and GIFT Team are considering the many other charities requesting our support this year. Once the children have made their decision it will be shared with the wider community.

NSPCC Response
A huge thank you to all children and parents of St Agatha’s school for the generous support given to the NSPCC through our recent ‘Big Buddy Workout’. We have raised a wonderful £1626.75 which will be used to fund the important work that the NSPCC does in helping all children to ‘SPEAK OUT. STAY SAFE.’
Road Safety Week

‘Road Safety Week’ is next week 19th - 23rd November. Throughout the week the children will enjoy some road safety awareness activities. Don’t forget to enter the poster competition to win the scooter (as mentioned in the last newsletter). On Tuesday 20th November we will be holding a 'Bright Socks Day'. This will remind us to be safe and seen, especially as the evenings become darker. Please allow your children to wear their brightest socks on this day!

Kingston Borough Cross Country 2018

On Wednesday 7th November, 29 children from Years 5 & 6 took part in the Kingston Borough Cross Country Championship. 548 children from 29 schools took part in the 2km running event, over 130 runners in each of the 4 races.

It was an amazing experience for all the children and a great result for the team event. Well done to Maura (5th), Holly (6th), Gabrielle (7th) who dug deep for their well-deserved top 10 positions.

Congratulations everyone - your performance and support for each other was fantastic.

Team Event Positions
Year 5 Girls' Team, 7th place out of 29
Year 5 Boys' Team, 11th place out of 29
Year 6 Girls' Team, 6th place out of 29
Year 6 Boys' Team, 8th place out of 29

Year 6
Martin, Cian, Leo, Jude, Timothy, Olu, Thomas, Jayden, Anna A, Florence, Maura, Marika, Ella R, Anasaoirse, Isabella W

Year 5

GIFT TEAM

We are delighted to be able to announce the GIFT Team for this year. They are as follows:
LARKS - Julia
HUMMINGBIRDS - Niamh
DOVES - Georgia
KINGFISHERS - Natalee
SWIFTS - Daniela
SWALLOWS - Julian
EAGLES - Italo
KESTRELS - Benedict
HERONS - Shreya
SWANS - Nell
FLAMINGOS – Ines

Thank you so much to all the children who applied for this important role – 63 in total. Mrs Wood and Mrs Cahill had a very difficult job choosing as all the applications were so strong – we did however enjoy reading every application. Congratulations to those on the team.

Inter-House Competition

All KS2 children have been learning a sport in their outdoor PE lessons. They have been working hard to build up the skills and teamwork needed to win the end of half-term inter-house competition.

Year 3 - Invasion Games
Year 4 - Football
Year 5 - Netball
Year 6 - Tennis

On a special note, this is the first year that Year 3's have been able to participate in the inter-house competitions. They have worked hard practising their skills and have enjoyed playing their part in helping their house compete for the cup. Here are the results:

St. Bernadette - 20 points
St. Francis - 19 points
St. Agatha - 17 points
St. Patrick - 9 points
Choir Performance

St Agatha’s School Choir will be performing at All Saints Church in Kingston on Thursday 15th November. The service will begin at 5pm and last for approximately half an hour, leaving everyone time to watch the Christmas light switch on at 6pm. Family and friends are warmly invited to attend.

Join the Team of Altar Servers!

If you would like to become an Altar Server at St Agatha’s please come to a short training session after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday 25th November. Both beginners and experienced altar servers are invited to attend. Any child or adult who has made their first holy communion will be most welcome. The session will last about half an hour and parents of under 18s are asked to remain in the church during the training. It is hoped that there will soon be a good team of servers for all four Sunday masses.
Dear Parents,

We continue to enjoy a busy and varied life here, at St Agatha’s School.

This term our school choir will once again be sharing their talents with the local community, with various performance scheduled in the coming weeks. I do hope that many of you will be able show your support.

Once again the Fireworks Night was spectacular! Thank you to all involved in organizing such a wonderful evening. I really enjoy seeing parents in school to attend class assemblies, hear children read, taking part in workshops or enjoying PSA events. Whether you are a new parent or one with a few years behind you, we encourage your involvement in school life and thank you for your continued support.

E A Cahill

www.stagathas.school