

# St Patrick's Catholic Primary School



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10<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Diocese of Portsmouth

Headteacher: Mr Michael Lobo

## Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and start to the New Year. The children have all come back happy and eager to learn as usual and although still in the first week, we have already had BikeAbility and a pantomime performance of Snow White (thank you to the SPSA for this)!

#### **Dates**

Please find attached a list of dates for the coming term. These are also on the website on both the calendar and events pages.

## **Staffing Changes**

Mrs McWilliams will no longer be teaching music to classes as of this term, but will continue her instrumental teaching. We thank her for all the wonderful music she has brought to the children over the past few years and look forward to her continuing instrumental work.

We welcome several new members of staff: Mr Young and Mrs Ockelford (midday staff), Miss Clasby and Miss Gordon (support assistants).

# School/ Parish Mass

Fr Ross is very keen to improve the links between the school and the parish and so we have proposed that once a month we will invite children from the school to take part in and help lead the Sunday Mass. Our first date is on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February and it would be lovely if we could have a good number of children attending. A ParentMail will go out about this shortly.

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

We are intending to offer this opportunity once a month for our older children and for our parents. The first time will be on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January from 8.45 to 9.30am – please come to the office if you would like to join us for this.

#### **Christmas Collections**

Thank you for your generosity over the Christmas events. We managed to raise £450 which was used to buy quite a range of CAFOD Christmas Gifts to benefit people less fortunate than ourselves.

## **Board Games**

Do you have any board games/ puzzles that your children no longer need? If so, we would love to have them to build up our resources for wet playtimes. Please send anything you wish to donate to the school office.

### Playground Update

This is turning into a long-term project! We are currently awaiting planning permission to erect a fence on the Porchester Road side of the school to make the site more secure before we start to install any new equipment. Genesee & Wyoming Inc, an international freight company, have offered to donate a nature area and greenhouse and to send some employees in to install them (thank you to Mr O'Toole for this) and we are hoping to spend the community grant we received on an allotment this month. We are also grateful for a very generous donation of £100 from Mr and Mrs Keeping, grandparents of Nathanial.

In the meantime, if there are any green-fingered parents or grandparents who could offer some time to help the children tidy up the current raised beds and prepare them for spring planting, please do get in touch!

### Roadworks

For those not already aware, there are a variety of roadworks and closures at the moment around Victoria Road/ Portsmouth Road and also at Woodmill, which are anticipated to last several weeks. Please allow extra time for your journeys if you travel this way and consider using the free car park by the roundabout to avoid congestion and unsafe parking around the school.

Wishing you all the best for 2020.

Best wishes,

Michael Lobo

Headteacher