



*"This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased – listen to him!"
Matthew 17:5*

Newsletter No. 352 – 10.3.17

Dear Parents,

Miriam Mason-Sesay and some teachers from their schools in Sierra Leone (our EducAid charity project) will come to visit us on March 23rd in the morning. Miriam will do a presentation for the whole school, telling us how our money from last year (£1,500) has made an impact on the children's lives, their education and wellbeing. This is an amazing charity project we are involved in and it is something we are very proud to be part of. Dr. Paul Boardman, an ex-pupil from Our Lady of Lourdes, set up the charity with a partner doctor after spending some time there during his study days in medicine. Miriam has been part of that team alongside him and we have supported this charity since I became Headteacher of this school. We support many home charities and I thank you sincerely for all you give.

For this day, if possible, could you donate generously, sending in cash or cheques, addressed to 'Our Lady of Lourdes School' and we will in turn hand over to Miriam via a large cheque at the assembly. Members of the Charity Council will accept all generous donations.

This is our Lenten Promise regarding alms giving – supporting thousands of young people and families who are so much less fortunate than ourselves. Sierra Leone children, some with families, some without, need all the support we can offer. Let's give generously during this holy season of Lent.

Many thanks to Mrs. O'Kane for leading and conducting the school choir last Thursday evening. She must be a very proud Music teacher.

Yesterday, our Year 6 children had a retreat day at Walsingham House on Canvey Island. Many thanks to the Walsingham team, Leighton, Mikey, Natalie and Niamh, for giving the children a wonderful day of recollection, meditation and prayer.

A few quotes on the children's thought of the day:

"I enjoyed dancing and singing. I learnt that you don't have to be with your friends to have fun."

"My favourite part was the meditation – it was so calming."

"Overall, it was a good trip and an amazing experience!"

"I enjoyed the arts and crafts because we all wrote down our gifts and talents and shared them with everyone. Also, we talked about what we are looking forward to in Year 7 and how God could help us."

Southend Makes Music 2017

On Thursday evening, our fabulous Choir and heavenly Harp Ensemble took part in Southend Makes Music, a four night run of concerts designed to showcase musical talent in Southend's schools. Our 99 - strong choir took to the stage first and wowed the packed theatre with three songs: I Will Follow Him (Scarlett Perry as soloist), the beautiful Hallelujah (with Poppy Chambers as vocal soloist and Mrs Jane Dench, Mum to Charlie in 5A, as cellist) and finally our favourite song this year, Naughty, from the West End musical, Matilda. Every child gave the performance of their lives bringing some of the audience to their feet!





Our Harp Ensemble, alongside some of our past pupils and their tutor Louise O'Connor, then very confidently performed a series of pieces to a hushed audience (many of whom have never seen eight harps being played at once). They were joined in their final item by St Mary's Handbell Group. We then rounded off the evening in a rousing finale alongside Edwards Hall and St Mary's choirs! Huge congratulations to every single child who took part.

Thank you to Mrs Moonie, Mrs Kidd, Mrs Kwasnica, Mrs Sullivan, Mrs Hopkinson, Mrs O'Connor, Mrs Dench and Mrs Ferrington who gave up their evening to help it all run so smoothly and to all the families and friends who help prepare the children at home and support them so enthusiastically when they perform - what a team!

Some quotes from parents...

"We thought the evening was absolutely brilliant!! The OLOL Choir was (as usual) outstanding, they sounded amazing - so professional."

"The choir were a real credit to the school...absolutely fantastic!"

"My daughter loved it - she has definitely got the bug!"

"An ENORMOUS thank you for such an amazing performance - I am so proud of them all."

And finally, a quote from our local MP, Sir David Amess:

"Mrs Sullivan, just to say what a wonderful advert for the quality of learning at your school as judged by the concert, 'Southend Makes Music', last Thursday evening. Your school did you proud."

Mrs O'Kane

Children's Achievements

Charlotte Daves (5J) took part in the Maquire O'Shea Open Feis on Sunday, 26th February. She competed in five dances and went home with three trophies and two medals! Fabulous! She was thrilled with her performances and her family are very proud of her!



Congratulations to Zach Watts (5A) who was awarded 'Student of the Week' at his Kung Fu Club, Meridian Kung Fu UK. Zach was delighted to have been chosen.

"I have been going to Kung Fu for 5 years now and I really enjoy learning all the different moves for each grading. It's very good fun too!"

Music Tuition – Summer Term 2017

Booking forms for music tuition for the Summer Term will be sent out next week via email. Copies of the letter will also be available from the School Office from Wednesday, 15th March. Thank you! Mrs O'Kane

Green Bags - Recycling Scheme

This week your child will bring home a green clothes recycling bag! Once you have filled up the bag, could you possibly bring it to the front entrance (inside the front gate) or just inside the back gate, on **TUESDAY, 21ST MARCH 2017 by 9am** (please do not bring it in on any other day as we have nowhere to store the bags). All monies raised by the sale of the green bags will go towards much needed Music resources! PLEASE could you fill up that bag with the following: old (clean) clothes, pairs of shoes, duvet covers and pillow cases, handbags, belts, old towels and even clean underwear! PLEASE DO NOT put in worn out, dirty clothing, toys, boots, books, jumble, quilts and pillows. You are very welcome to use your own bags as well! Many thanks.

Mrs O'Kane

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop **is now taking card payments** as well as cash. Cheques will be accepted up until the end of July 2017 only. Opening dates for this term are 10/3 & 24/3. After Easter the shop will be open every Friday unless advised otherwise.

Contact Details: ololuniform@outlook.com / 07764222825

Danielle Bertella

Harp's Prittle Brook Spring Walk

Why not sign up for HARP's Prittle Brook Spring Walk?



Taking place on Sunday, 23rd April 2017 at 2pm, it's a 3½ mile Sunday afternoon stroll along the Prittle Brook Greenway from Priory Park to Belfairs Park – raising vital funds for HARP. Every step you take will show you're supporting local homeless people.

What's more, with each entry you will receive a FREE HARP Spring Walk T-shirt and also enjoy a well-earned cup of tea and slice of cake afterwards at the Woodlands Centre at Belfairs Park.

This is a great afternoon out and knowing you are helping Southend's homeless community rebuild their lives and live independently, makes it even better!

Entrance fee (including tea and cake and FREE T-shirt)

Adults - £8 Children - £4 Family ticket - £20

Please sign up today by visiting our website <http://www.harpsouthend.org/spring-walk>

It would be lovely if you could join us.

Dates to Remember

Mar 14 th	Reception trip to Belfairs Woods	
Mar 15 th	E-Safety Talks for KS2 and Staff (afternoon)	
	Parents' Information Evening on E-Safety & Child Protection	6.30pm-8.30pm
Mar 17 th	St. Patrick Day	
Mar 21 st	Green Bags Recycling Day	by 9.00am
	Hot Cross Bun Run at St. Thomas More	12.30pm
Mar 23 rd	EducAid Visit	9.00am
Mar 27 th	Stations of the Cross – Year 5 Parents	10.00am
Mar 28 th	Pupil/Parent/Teacher Consultations	3pm – 6pm
Mar 29 th	Pupil/Parent/Teacher Consultations	4pm – 7pm
Mar 31 st	End of Term – School closes at 1.30pm for pupils	
	April 3 rd - 17 th Easter Holiday	

Have a lovely weekend with your families.

Mrs. M. Sullivan
Headteacher

