



*"While I am in the world, I am the light for the world."*  
John 9:5

### Newsletter No. 353 – 30.3.17

Dear Parents,

We wish to congratulate Year 5 on their enactment of the Stations of the Cross for their parents on Monday morning. Fr. Jeff sent this message to all the children:

"I was pleased to join you all for the most dignified and moving liturgy of the Stations of the Cross. The manner in which you entered into the spirit of the passion was truly beautiful – well done!"

Thank you to our teachers, Mr. Abel, Mr. Jackson and their support staff Mrs. Durham and Miss Holland for leading the children in their serene, gentle but thought provoking performance.

I wish you all on behalf of the staff, a very happy and holy Easter with your families. When we return the first week back, we will celebrate Easter with our Easter Raffle, Easter Bonnet Parade and our Easter Egg Hunt, all on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April.

On Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> March, I have told the children we are going to have a Wacky Hair Day and donations of 50p towards EducAid would be welcome. We have also promised as a school, that we would make a great effort to attend 6.30am Mass. Those who wish to walk back for breakfast in school with myself and other helpers, are most welcome. If you wish to do so and do your wacky hair in school, that is fine.

We say a fond farewell to Mrs. Sessions my PA. Sally has been part of our school for the last 21 years and her husband Mike's family for many more. Mike was a pupil here. Sally has been here initially in the role as a mother, then an LSA and finally my PA. We thank her for her outstanding service to our school community – she wore many hats over those 21 years and will be greatly missed.

Enjoy your retirement Sally and there will be many more doors opening for you I am sure – 'a whole new world', as Aladdin sings.

### **Easter Egg Raffle & Easter Bonnet Parade/Competition**

The school council fundraising team will be holding an **Easter Raffle** on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 1 raffle strip 50p or 3 strips for £1. Please donate a prize for the raffle.



There will also be an **Easter Bonnet Parade/Competition** on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> April. It's your chance to show off your creative skills and design and make your own Easter hat during the holidays. All entries will be judged by the School Council Officers, who will be looking for the most interesting and imaginative designs made by the children. There will be a prize for someone from each year group and everyone who takes part will get a little treat. Good Luck!

### **Easter Egg Hunt – Friends of the School**

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> April, run by Friends of the School. All Easter Egg donations and bars of chocolate are welcome. Please send donations to the school office. Thank you.

## **Infant Music Festival 2017**

On Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, our fabulous Year 2 choir took part in the SEESMA Infant Music Festival at The Paddocks on Canvey Island. The children sang songs linked to this year's theme of 'Colour' alongside four other schools and a hall full of parents and friends. Our children sang Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini and rapped the words to Green Eggs and Ham as their individual items. They performed with huge confidence and with massive smiles on their faces! We are all very proud of them! Mrs O'Kane

## **Fundraising**

Hussyband Fundraiser gig raised over £300 and we have ordered lots of playground equipment. Many thanks to Mrs. Watts for organising this lovely evening and to Hussyband for performing.

## **Big Pedal**

Many thanks to you all for taking part in the Big Pedal over these last two weeks. We are currently 90<sup>th</sup> out of 859 similar schools – a great effort by all involved! There have been some wonderful stories of families cycling great distances, riders taking off with increased confidence (staff and pupils alike) and new found routes along the Prittle Brook Greenway and national cycle routes. We have also been well supported too by our scooterists! Keep pedalling - Bike It Graham would be so proud.

Mrs Hopkinson (Bike It Champion)

## **Children's Achievements**

Well done to **Max Burzotta (4H)** and his family for raising **£200 for WAR CHILD UK**, helping children who live in dangerous places around the world. They provide safe spaces for them to play and learn with their friends and help keep children in school by providing safe transport, training for teachers, books and equipment.

Many congratulations to **Grace Campbell-Gibbs (4T)** for becoming the Floor and Vault Champion at Essex Gymnastics!



### **PEDAL POWER**

Wow! **Grace Matthews (RS)** has completed

**PEDAL LEVEL 5** with **Little Wheelers**. She has learnt some fantastic skills including standing freewheel over 5 metres!



### **Jolly Hockey Sticks**

Well done to **Charlotte Armitage (5J)**, who plays for the under 10s Old Southendians Hockey Team, for being awarded two winners' medals and two runners-up medals at tournaments in Reading and Upminster.



At the McGahan Lees Open Feis last Sunday, **Charlotte Daves (5A)** took 1<sup>st</sup> place! Wow! Her confidence has grown so much in the past year and she was thrilled with her performance.

Congratulations to **Luana Bull (6M)** who took 3rd place at the East Region Diving Championships on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, smashing her personal best by 28 points and qualifying to dive at the Olympic pool in July.

On the same day, her little sister **Lilia (1L)**, danced her socks off at the McGahan Lees Feis taking a 2nd and two 3rd places. Fabulous!

Karate Kid  
Well done to **Jude Mulhern (2M)** who gained his Orange Belt in Karate.

Super swimmer **Mackenzie Swift (2M)** swam brilliantly to receive his 20m swimming badge.

**Sidney Fisher (2M)** was awarded Grade 8 in gymnastics – wow!

## **A Special Word**

When **Ava McMahon (4T)** attended hospital recently, her parents gave her a £1 coin to spend in the vending machine for being so brave. Ava didn't buy anything for herself – instead she chose to donate the money to a worthwhile cause and popped it in a charity box. Her mum said she was, "Doing the school proud whilst wearing the uniform!" What a star!



## **100 CLUB**

Congratulations to the 100 Club March draw winners!

1<sup>st</sup> Prize £100 – Alison Pearce    2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £50 – Liz Paradine (Aidan RS)    3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £25 – Mary Laverty

For a monthly payment of £5 you too could win cash prizes whilst raising funds for our children.

New members welcome – email Liz Blackburn at [l.blackburn@ourladyoflourdes.southend.sch.uk](mailto:l.blackburn@ourladyoflourdes.southend.sch.uk) with your name, the name of your child and their class. Thank you. Liz Blackburn

## **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. After Easter the shop will be open every Friday unless advised otherwise.

Contact Details: [ololuniform@outlook.com](mailto:ololuniform@outlook.com) / 07764222825

Danielle Bertella

## **50th Anniversary of Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School**

This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School, Rayleigh and the highlight of their celebrations will be a special Mass in a marquee on the school playing field on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> July at **10.30am**. Bishop Alan Williams will be the main celebrant. They would love to welcome past pupils and staff to the Mass. If you would like to attend, please contact the school on [01268-785741](tel:01268785741) as they wish to ensure that they have adequate seating for everyone. Thank you.

## **BCCS**

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is hosting an evening of classical music in the beautiful surroundings of Ingatestone Hall on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. Come and enjoy an exciting and varied programme with three professional musicians singing duets from some of the best known operas. Tickets are £25 and include prosecco and nibbles. For tickets or further information, please call Libby Phillips on 01268 784544 or email [lphillips@bccs.org.uk](mailto:lphillips@bccs.org.uk)

## **Dates to Remember**

Mar 31 <sup>st</sup>	Wacky Hair Day End of Term – School closes at 1.30pm for pupils April 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> Easter Holiday
Apr 18 <sup>th</sup>	First Day of Summer Term
Apr 21 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Egg Raffle and Easter Bonnet Parade (morning) Easter Egg Hunt run by Friends of the School (afternoon)
Apr 27 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 Trip to Hadleigh Park
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	May Bank Holiday
May 8 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	SATS week (Year 6)
May 17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Residential Trip
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Trip to Belchamps May 29 <sup>th</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> June Half Term

Have a lovely Easter Break with your families.

Mrs. M. Sullivan  
Headteacher

