

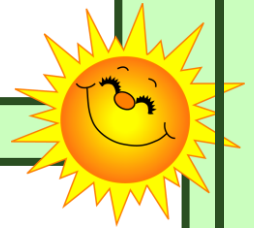


St John Vianney Catholic School

Newsletter

Edition: 2016-17 / 9 (16th September 2016)

"Everything we can be, with Christ in our hearts."



Phew...what a scorcher!

We have had a very busy and productive start to our school year this week, all carried out in almost Saharan conditions!

This week we celebrated Roald Dahl's 100th birthday with some super writing and astounding art sessions, all topped off with a slice of specially prepared 'James and the Giant Peach Cake' (a huge thank you to Ms. Allan and her staff).

The children have settled down beautifully; teachers have been impressed with their calmness, hard work and ability to adapt to the step up – all bodes well for the year ahead, I am sure.

Our Reception and Nursery Classes have been 'dipping their toes' this week and have really started positively. Despite the inevitable trepidation, tears and angst (and that's just the Mums!), all have settled down quickly to become part of our special family here at SJV. Long may that continue.

The only fly in the ointment in an almost perfect week was Tottenham's abject failure in their opening Champions' League match...but I understand that that is not a concern for everyone and I must stick to the point, which is: well done everyone on a fabulous start to the year – staff, parents and especially the school's prize asset: the children.

Friends of SJV – Annual General Meeting

Our hardworking Friends association are having their **Annual General Meeting on 19th September 2016 at 3:45pm in the Parents' Room**. If you can, please show your support for them and the school with your attendance. Our school is blessed with a close and supportive parent community; new ideas, voices and volunteers are always welcome.



Mass for the Start of the Year

Fr. Joe and Fr. Damian helped us start our year in beautifully reflective fashion this week. The gospel and homily helped us all think about the gift that is Education. It is a gift that we should be thankful for and one that we should use to grow ourselves in mind and in Christ as we journey through it. If we make the most of our education, we will reap its benefits all through our lives and beyond.



(Another) Happy Birthday Fr. Joe!

As a school, we couldn't let Fr. Joe's recent milestone pass without marking it, in appreciation for all he does in support of this school, its staff, parents and pupils. The children all created birthday messages for Fr. Joe, which were presented after Mass, and a truly exceptional cake was quickly devoured in honour of the occasion in the staff room afterwards!

Many happy returns indeed.



Fundraising for Malawi

We were also delighted to see Fr. Henry back here at school, prior to his return to Malawi. This school has a proud history of fundraising and support for this particular project, and Fr. Henry's support of All Angels and Chinziri primary schools in Malawi continues. He reports that they now have a full complement of primary classes for the first time and that the schools are thriving, popular and becoming oversubscribed. We are very happy that our fundraising efforts have helped achieve this amazing feat; Fr. Henry has asked me to pass on his sincere thanks and appreciation, and assurances that our money is being put to immediate and brilliant use.

The school raised a total of £1,012 in the last year, supported a generous donation from the Friends of SJV.



Fr. Henry is presented with £1,012 by the pupils and parents of St. John Vianney School



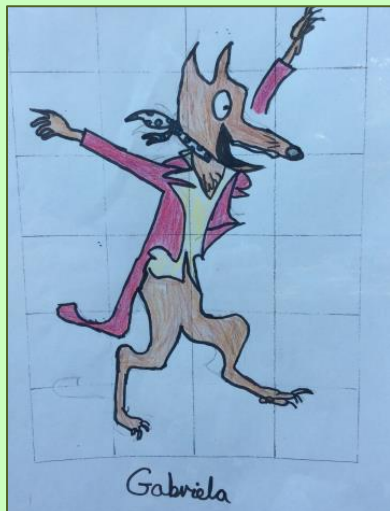
Year 6 Secondary Transfer Meeting

Thank you for such a fantastic turnout on Thursday evening to go through the upcoming challenge of choosing and applying for a secondary school for your child. It was great to see so many secondary schools represented in person; as I said at the meeting, our pupils are well-behaved, respectful, hardworking and able students, and any secondary school would be fortunate to have them. If you have ANY questions or concerns between now and application deadline day (and beyond), please make an appointment and we will be glad to assist in any way we can. Good luck!

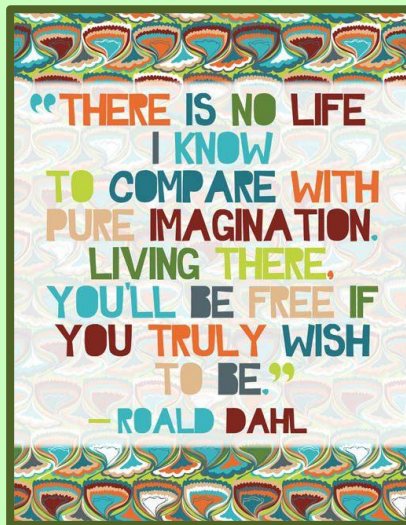
CELEBRATING ROALD DAHL 100

On Tuesday this week, we celebrated the 100th Birthday of one of the world's best story tellers – our very own Roald Dahl. Storytelling is at the heart of everything we do in education, and it was both important, and a pleasure, to celebrate the life of this great man.

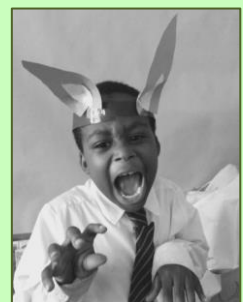
Classes chose their own way to mark the day, and all were treated to the scrumdiddlyumptious James and the Giant Peach Cake'!



Amazing artwork – Class 6



Fantastic Foxes – Class 3



What would YOUR name be if YOU were a Roald Dahl character?



Change to Friday Assembly Times: We had an excellent turn out from parents last Friday for our Friday assembly, which will now be held at 9am, rather than 10am, so thank you all managed to make it.



I would like to stress, however, that you are still welcome to have a coffee and a catch up in the Parents' Room **after** the assembly – this is a lovely tradition and it would be good to keep that going, so please – once assembly is over, feel free to stay.



Wet Mornings: In order to improve the comfort and safety for all on wet mornings, we will be asking parents to **drop their children at the entrance to the school hall at 8:45am**, rather than all convening in the hall itself. The children will make their way straight to class to engage with quiet activities until registration.

Vomiting and Diahorrea : Children who become ill with vomiting or diahorrea must remain at home for TWO DAYS after the onset of their illness in order to fully recover and to restrict the possibility of infecting others.

Attendance : All children are expected to attend school every day unless they are ill or there are exceptional circumstances. If your child is absent from school you will need to telephone the school office to explain the absence, preferably **before 8.45am**. When your child returns to school after absence you need to send a note explaining why he/she has been away.

Time off outside of school holidays **WILL NOT be authorised**, except in the most exceptional of circumstances. I ask you to please understand the position of the school in this sometimes delicate matter.

Punctuality : Please make every effort to ensure that your child is ready to start the day, promptly at **9.00am**. Latecomers miss out on important information and unsettle the other children. A child who arrives after the register has been started will receive a late mark in the register and those arriving after 9.30am will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Frequent lateness will be followed up by me and may be referred to the Educational Welfare Officer.

Children should not be sent into school **before 8.50am** and need to be collected promptly at the end of the day as staff are not available to supervise them. We are, of course, always happy to support parents/carers if there are difficulties due to unforeseen circumstances or emergency situations.

School Meals:

- **JUNIORS:** The cost of a school meal remains at £2.40 per day, £12.00 each week. Please make cheques payable to 'St. John Vianney School'. If you would like to pay in advance for the half term, the total cost will be £79.20 (plus/less any arrears/overpayments). Please note that a week's written notice is required if you wish to change your child's meal arrangements. If you do not let us know, you will be liable for any costs that arise.
- **INFANTS:** All children from Reception Class to Year 2 are entitled to a free hot meal every day. However, if you are on a low income and in receipt of benefits, we would strongly advise you to apply for Free School Meals. If you are eligible for Free School Meals, the Government provides additional funding for your child and helps the school in many ways. We are very concerned that in the light of the free meals for infant children this funding will be reduced. Please see Mrs Alfonso if you think you are eligible.
- **PACKED LUNCHES:** Do ensure that there are no nuts and nut products in foods. Remember to include a small ice pack to keep food cool. Do not include sweets or drinks. Please try to ensure that your child always has some fresh fruit and that foods with high salt, sugar and fat content are kept to a minimum. Lunches should be packed into a sturdy, clearly labelled, plastic container so that they can be stored easily. Do not send in bags or rucksacks.

NUT ALLERGIES ~ A number of children in the school are allergic to nuts and products which contain traces of nuts. Reactions can be very severe and can result in death. We need to keep these children safe. Please check the contents of packed lunches for nuts and nut products and do NOT send any other food into school.

After School Club: A number of parents have been enquiring about the possibility of an afterschool club to support working families.

In the recent questionnaire, a good number indicated that they would either 'definitely' or 'probably' be interested in such a facility. Accordingly, I will be discussing the possibility with the school Governors, and will investigate options, costings, staffing and premises challenges before reporting back. You will appreciate that to cater for a medium to large number of families, much thought and planning needs to be carried out, and that in the immediate short term, we will be unable to provide after school care.

