

# St Fidelis Catholic Primary School

## 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016 Newsletter



### WELCOME

Welcome back to another academic year at St Fidelis, I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer. It has been a busy summer here preparing for the new year ahead.

There have been some changes to the staffing arrangements for the coming year (the full staffing list is set out on the next page). Miss Freeman will now be teaching Reception Sparrows and Miss Phelan is joining us for the autumn term to teach in the Nursery.

Everyone in school was delighted to celebrate some good news over the summer- Miss Campbell, our Year 2 Jays class teacher, is now Mrs Campbell. We wish her and her husband every happiness in their new life together.

Mr Kinsella, our Premises Manager, took delivery of a double decker bus which we purchased over the holidays and have set up on the Key Stage 2 playground. We plan to use the bus as an additional group space for prayer, meditation and to establish a faith library.



The old wooden gazebo has been removed from the Key Stage 1 playground as it was beginning to deteriorate. Work will begin over the next few weeks installing a new group room in its place. We plan to use this space for groups of children to take part in additional interventions to support their learning.

Over the past few weeks staff have been working hard, coming into school to undertake a range of jobs to ensure that the start of the new term is a smooth one and that everything looks its very best- the office have been selling new uniform, the cleaners undertaking deep cleans, the teaching assistants putting up display boards, and the teachers arranging their classrooms and preparing activities for the first few days' learning.

This month we say goodbye to Br Charles our Parish Priest as he moves to Oxford, and thank him especially for his support of the school over the last two years. We look forward to welcoming Br Martin as Parish Administrator and working closely with him over the coming year.

### SCHOOL UNIFORM

The children all look so smart in their new school uniform. Please ensure that all items of uniform are labelled clearly with your child's name. Without this information it is impossible to reunite mislaid clothing with the correct pupil. The children always look beautifully presented at the start of each year, and I believe it says something about us as a school and the value and importance we place on education. As ever, the staff and I are dependent on and grateful for your support of our school uniform policy.

## CLASSES AND TEACHERS FOR 2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR

Year Group & Class	Teacher	Support
N Wrens	Miss Phelan	Mrs Hill, Mrs Burgess & Mrs Davies
N Doves	Miss Phelan	Mrs Hill, Mrs Burgess & Mrs Davies
R Sparrows	Miss Freeman	Mrs Cavanagh, Mrs Wilding
R Robins	Miss Finch	Mrs Russell & Ms Cullen
1 Swans	Miss Hall	Miss Carle & Mrs Sharma
1 Eagles	Mrs Kang	Mrs Morgan & Mrs Sharma
2 Swallows	Mrs Whalley Mrs Atherton	Mrs Capstick
2 Jays	Mrs Campbell	Mrs McQuillen
3 Kingfishers	Miss Manning	Mrs Paul
3 Penguins	Miss Boyle	Mrs Armstrong
4 Puffins	Mrs Sargent Mr Kennor	Mrs Allen & Mrs McArdle
4 Hawks	Mrs Ransom	Mrs Canaway
5 Kestrels	Mrs Tylee	Mrs Bates & Mrs Gamble
5 Flamingoes	Miss Cosshall	Mrs Bates & Mrs Gamble
6 Woodpeckers	Miss Wood	Mrs Lynn
6 Owls	Mr Hanna	Mrs Lynn

### SCHOOL CLUBS

Please note there are no school clubs this week, as it is the first week of term.

### SCHOOL DINNERS

School dinners will cost £2.20 per meal for children in Years 3 to 6. We ask that all school dinner payments are made via SIMS Agora as this is the easiest and most secure way for parents to track the payments they have made and amounts outstanding. For those parents who pay in advance, the 1<sup>st</sup> ½ term cost is £72.60, the 2<sup>nd</sup> ½ term cost is £83.60, bringing the total for the Autumn term to £156.20. The weekly cost will be £11.00.

## SAFEGUARDING

St Fidelis welcomes the rich cultural and ethnic diversity of families in our school. We learn a lot from each other and we embrace the opportunity to share our different backgrounds. We recognise that approaches to being a parent can vary within families, ethnic groups and communities.

British society acknowledges and affirms cultural diversity but children whatever their cultural background, always have the right to be protected from physical, emotional and psychological harm. Anything that causes harm to a child, whether part of a cultural or faith tradition, is never acceptable. Practices that may be culturally acceptable in some countries are against the law in the United Kingdom.

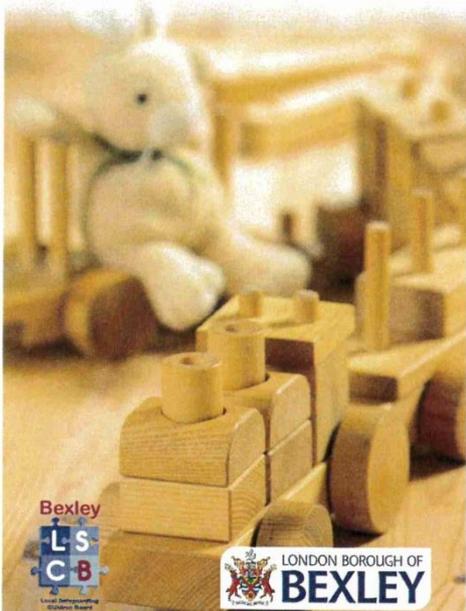
Our school is committed to safeguarding and child protection of children who are at risk of abuse or neglect. The school has a responsibility to protect and promote the welfare of children. If the school has serious concerns regarding any child's welfare, these will be referred to Social Services.

Mr Hannon and Miss Quirke share responsibility for safeguarding and child protection for all pupils. The school's policy is available to download from the school website.



## Disciplining Your Children

### A Guide For Parents



Listening to you, working for you

[www.bexley.gov.uk](http://www.bexley.gov.uk)

### Child Protection – What's it got to do with you?

Parents and carers want the best for their children. They help their children by giving clear and consistent messages about their behaviour. Sometimes parents can respond too harshly to situations and a child might suffer an injury or emotional harm as a result of the methods used. In some circumstances this may result in a referral to Children's Social Care and Police who may be called to investigate. This results in great stress for the whole family.

The aim of this leaflet is to support parents and carers to feel confident in managing their children's behaviour and to seek advice if they are having difficulties.

### The Law – how it applies to you

UK law protects every child up to the age of 18 years from cruel and abusive treatment by their parents or carer. It is against the law for a parent to use physical punishment on their child that causes marks.



### Positive Parenting

1. Have clear, simple rules and limits
2. Listen to your child
3. Lead by your own example
4. Praise and reward good behaviour
5. Be consistent
6. Reason and discuss matters with your child
7. Provide positive opportunities
8. Agree sanctions with your child
9. Criticise the behaviour you do not like, NOT your child
10. Ask for help before you feel overwhelmed



### Boundaries

We all know that children test our limits at times. We set 'boundaries' about what we expect of our children and family. If these boundaries are too loose and parents are inconsistent, children can become confused. If they are too harsh, then children do not develop their own sense of responsibility. Think about the rules in your house and explain these to your children. Give them a chance to discuss the rules and to know when things might change. For instance, during school days you may expect a fixed bedtime but at weekends this could be later or negotiated.

### Consistency

It is important that children have routine and predictability. They need to know that there are consequences for how they behave. Rewarding positive behaviour is generally more effective than punishing challenging behaviour. Praise and encouragement are powerful tools for developing good habits. However challenging your child's behaviour is, it is important to be as consistent and fair as possible.

Your children need your attention and support. Young children should never be left on their own or in the care of other children. If you need help with childcare you can ask the Family Information Service for advice (see reverse).

### Diversity

The rich cultural diversity in our community is reflected in the way families bring up their children. Approaches to being a parent can vary within families, ethnic groups and communities. British society acknowledges and affirms cultural diversity but children, whatever their cultural background, always have a right to be protected. Anything that causes harm to a child, whether part of a cultural or faith tradition, is never acceptable. Some practices that may be culturally acceptable in some countries are banned by law in the United Kingdom.

1. Get to know your child
2. Listen to your child
3. Be as positive as you can
4. Keep the rules simple
5. Be consistent
6. Reason and discuss matters with your child
7. Provide positive opportunities
8. Agree sanctions with the child
9. The behaviour is bad – not the child
10. Ask for help

If you have any questions about this leaflet or any of the issues it raises, do not hesitate to contact social workers responsible for the care of children in Bexley, both West and East Child Care Teams are currently based at the Civic Offices on 020 3045 7777.

For more information please see:

AFRUCA's Manual on Child Protection for Parents in the UK available at: <http://www.afruca.org/publications/manuals/>

NSPCC's Encouraging Better Behaviour available at: [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)



If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different format, please call 020 8303 7777 and ask for Communications/Graphics. The reference to quote is 603924/2.16



Listening to you, working for you

[www.bexley.gov.uk](http://www.bexley.gov.uk)

## FAMILY SUPPORT

Mia Weatherill (from Bexley's multi-disciplinary Early Intervention Team) is based in school this academic year every Monday morning and will be available to offer families support and advice. Several parents had either one off or several sessions with Mia early in 2016 to discuss specific concerns or worries that some families face from time to time. Please contact the School Office if you would like to make an appointment for Mia's weekly surgery. Mia is happy to discuss a wide range of issues, including parenting support or signposting to other services for additional help. Mia is looking forward to meeting more parents and carers over the coming weeks and months.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Hannon  
Head Teacher