



Newsletter

We see Jesus in everything we do

8th February 2018

office@secfs.org.uk

[@StEdwardsFirst](https://twitter.com/StEdwardsFirst)

www.stewardscatholicfirstschool.co.uk

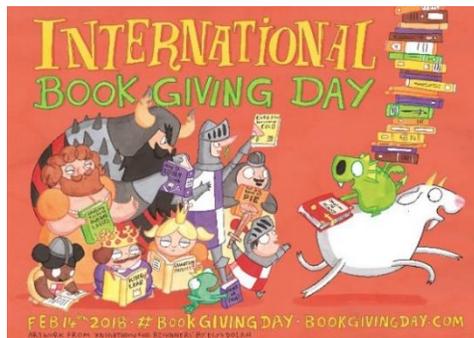
Dear Parents

After what seems to have been a whirlwind of a half term we have reached the half way point. The children have been very busy this half term and I think they are all ready for rest. The staff are certainly equally ready for well-earned break! School will begin again on **Monday 19th February** and the children will have some exciting mathematical opportunities, linked to the Winter Olympics, to enjoy as we celebrate Maths Week. Huge thanks to Mrs Adams, the school Maths Co-ordinator, for organising the events for this week. We will keep you posted!

HCPT

A reminder that the children are invited to come to school **tomorrow, Friday**, dressed as a Superhero of their choice – I know that the staff have various different disguises planned – I am just praying that none of them involve large red pants . . . ! Please remember that this is a fund raiser in aid of the HCPT. **The children are asked to bring in a minimum donation of £1.00 to contribute to the charity** that is supporting two of our own this year. It is sometimes disappointing on these days when the children remember their dress up clothes but forget the reason we are doing it. There will be donation buckets on both gates in the morning and afternoon, or the children can hand their contribution to their class teacher if they prefer.

International Book Giving Day



Several parents have very kindly offered us large quantities of books for this very worthy event. However, each box of books has a strict weight limit of 20kg and will cost the school £7 in courier charges. We will therefore only be able to collect one book per child on the day, as we cannot afford to pay for any more boxes than one per class. If you have a larger quantity of books you would like to donate, we will happily add them to our collection if you are prepared to pay the £7 box collection charge. Please email Mrs McAllister so we can ensure that the courier is aware of how many boxes will need collecting. Alternatively, you could contact the charity yourself at:

https://books2africa.org/donate/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIv6Exvzc2AIV7rvtCh3CKgPLEAAYBCAAEgJTbfD_BwE

. . . . or pick another charity of your choice!

A reminder that every child is asked to bring in a good quality book (used is fine) that they would like to donate to another child.

Our book giving event will be held on Wednesday 28th February; please do not send in books before this date.

Book Bags

Could I please request that the children in EYFS and KS1 have school book bags to bring in their things in the morning? The cloakrooms are very small and we are getting more and more big bags and backpacks instead of the book bags. The children then struggle to hang both their PE bag, bag and coat on their pegs and everything ends up on the floor, causing an unsightly mess and a trip hazard! The children are also more able to manage getting their books in and out of the book bags without teacher assistance. Each class has a trolley for lunch boxes/bags so there is no need for these to fit inside the book bags.

KS2 do have a little more room for their belongings but some of their bags are also very large – we are beginning to feel like a Smiggle showroom!! Please try and ensure that your child's bag is of a reasonable size and appreciate that each class needs to accommodate all 30 children's possessions! Many thanks.

PE and PE Kits

The children should have their PE kits in school every day. Although every class has timetabled days and times for PE, it is sometimes necessary for us to alter this for various reasons. If the children could bring their PE bags in on a Monday and leave them on their pegs for at least the week, then it will ensure that they never have to miss a PE lesson. If for any reason their kit gets very muddy or dirty we will make sure that we send it home for washing, otherwise please leave it in school.

Julia Donaldson...and Axel Scheffler

We are still awaiting a date from Julia Donaldson's agent for her visit to school. An initial date was put in the diary but then cancelled by the publisher because Axel Scheffler was unable to attend on that day. We were not aware that we had them both coming so our disappointment at the cancellation was assuaged by the news that, when she does come, the illustrator will be with her. We are all very excited and have lots of plans for when the date is actually confirmed. We will let you know as soon as we do!

Happy School Bag – Second Collection

Thank you all so much for making our first collection so successful. We collected 787kg of bags, which raised an outstanding **£511.55!** Our next collection will take place on **Thursday 8th March**. This is a great opportunity to have that spring clean and get your wardrobes and toy cupboards tidy! You will receive a Happy School Bag in your child's book bag tomorrow, so you can start having a clear out during half term! More details to follow.

Lots of Lovely News!

I am delighted to be able to share lots of good news with you this week.

A Wedding!

Miss Turver will be getting married over the half term holiday and will return to school after the holiday as Mrs Laurel. We are all delighted for her and wish both her and Mr Laurel many years of happiness.

New Babies!

Both Mrs Adams and Mrs Shaw are expecting babies in the summer – we are beginning to think there may be something in the water on the upper floor of the new block! 😊

Mrs Shaw's baby is due in July and she will therefore be leaving us shortly before the end of the summer term. Mrs Adams' baby is due in August and she is hopeful that she will make it to the end of the academic year. We are delighted for both teachers and eagerly await news of the new arrivals.

I will advise you all nearer the time of the maternity cover arrangements for both classes. In the meantime, please remember them, and all their families, in your prayers during these very exciting times.

Sarah Matthews
Head Teacher