



# Newsletter

We see Jesus in everything we do

19<sup>th</sup> January 2018

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Dear Parents

It is hard to believe that we have already finished two weeks of this term – how time literally flies! The children and staff have all settled really quickly into the school routine and already I have had some super pieces of work brought to me by children proud of all their achievements.

## HCPT

Early last year I was approached by Pat Burke, one of St Edward's parishioners, to ask if there were any children in school who might benefit from a trip to Lourdes with HCPT at Easter this year. I am delighted to let you know that Sophia (Doves) and Monty (Nightingales) will be attending the Pilgrimage with Pat and Group 128. We look forward to hearing all about it when they return!

To say thank you, we have decided to raise some money for the HCPT and will be organising some fun fundraising activities over the next term. We will begin with a Superhero dress up day on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**.

Sophia and Monty have also got some fundraising ideas of their own up their sleeves! Watch this space!

You can find out more about the HCPT by following the link below:

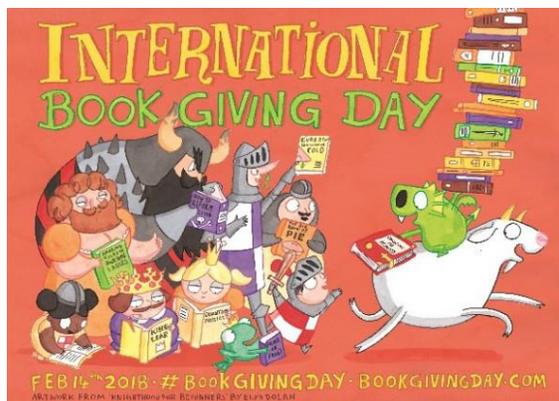
<https://www.hcpt.org.uk/>

## ScoPay: More Haste - Less Speed!

We are encountering more and more incorrect payments using the online payment system. Please ensure that you pay the correct amount into the

correct place. Sorting out stray payments or refunding incorrect ones is taking more and more of our time. Several schools make a charge for this refund or correction service – I'd rather not become one of them!

## International Book Giving Day



We have decided to support the above event this year. The idea is that every child brings in a book to donate to another child. We are collecting books to support Books 2 Africa, a charity which delivers books to children in the poorest parts of Africa to enable them to learn to read.

[https://books2africa.org/donate/?gclid=EAlaIqobChMlvv6Exvzc2AIV7rvtCh3CKgPLEAAYBCAAEgJTbfD\\_BwE](https://books2africa.org/donate/?gclid=EAlaIqobChMlvv6Exvzc2AIV7rvtCh3CKgPLEAAYBCAAEgJTbfD_BwE)

As International Book Giving Day falls during half term this year, we have postponed our event until **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**.

All you need to do to participate is to ask your child to help you select a good quality book (used is fine) that they would like to share with another child. We will



then package up all the books and send them off to the charity for shipment and distribution. If you have more books that you are happy to part with, please feel free to bring them in on the day.

The charity will charge us £7 to collect each box of books we collect, to cover the cost of the courier. If you felt inclined to help us cover the cost of one or more of these boxes, we would be delighted. Please feel free to send the money into the office, either cash or cheque made payable to Books2Africa. Thank you.

### **Ever Thought About Fostering?**

I have been asked by RBWM to pass this message on to you:

Have you ever thought about fostering? The Family Placement Team at the Royal Borough is keen to speak to anyone with any type of experience with children or time in their life to foster or offer respite to carers.

We have a number of coffee mornings/evenings coming up if you would like to come and find out more and speak to Foster Carers.

[https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200146/adoption\\_and\\_fostering/844/fostering\\_information\\_evenings](https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200146/adoption_and_fostering/844/fostering_information_evenings)

Alternatively, please call Rebecca Curley on 01628 636376 or email

[fostering@thecornerstonepartnership.com](mailto:fostering@thecornerstonepartnership.com)

The Cornerstone Partnership is a social enterprise organisation based in Maidenhead working with the Royal Borough Family Placement Team to raise awareness.

### **Swimming**

I have had a few questions regarding swimming. Swimming is a compulsory part of the school curriculum and all children must partake in swimming lessons during either KS1 or KS2. It is our opinion that children should learn to swim sooner rather than later,

hence us taking the children in KS1 for their set of lessons. This is not a voluntary activity and all children MUST participate unless they have a certificate of exemption from their GP.

Obviously, in order to provide this swimming activity, we need to take the children to a pool, which incurs a cost. It is this cost that The Friends so kindly subsidise for every child. The remaining cost is covered by your voluntary contributions, which are explained in the letter accompanying this newsletter.

The children undertake a 5-week span of high quality lessons provided by the Leisure Centre, which is a 20 minute walk away. We are lucky to have a facility close enough for us to walk to - the cost would be much higher if we had to bus them there. The staff accompanying the children take care to make sure that the children are all dry and suitably wrapped up for the walk to and from the pool; however, walking at a brisk pace keeps them warm anyway. 😊

Swimming is not compulsory in EYFS but we feel that the children benefit hugely from early lessons, hence the reason we offer this as a voluntary activity to the Fledglings in the Summer Term.

I hope this answers your questions.

### **Thank You!**

A huge thank you to all to those of you who paid for your child's Panto ticket even though they were not in school on the day. We were left having to cover the cost of just one ticket in the end – a huge relief for our school budget and our ability to offer these experiences to your children. I know it is a cliché but every little really does help in these austere times for schools and your kindness really does make a difference!

Sarah Matthews

Headteacher