

— St —
WINIFRED'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Committed to Safeguarding

Newsletter No 16

Nursery through to Year 6
Newstead Road,
Lee,
London
SE12 0SJ

Tel: 0208 857 8792

Headteacher: Ms Claire Gillespie

Deputy: Mrs Michelle Carey
Assistant: Ms Annette Gordon

Email: admin@swcps.lewisham.sch.uk

Web site: <http://www.swcps.lewisham.sch.uk>

12th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year. It was lovely to welcome the children back after the holidays and hear all about the wonderful things they did. They all returned to school full of energy and excitement, ready for the new term to begin.

Again, I'd like to extend our thanks to all the families who gave us gifts before Christmas. It was very kind and generous of you to do so. As I have said before, it is very much appreciated but not expected.

Christmas Hampers

Family Hampers

I'd like to thank all the volunteers, who created 23 Christmas hampers for families within our school. The hampers were thoughtfully put together with Christmas treats and specific gifts for the children in those families. The volunteers do this annually and anonymously. So, on behalf of the school and those families who received such thoughtful hampers, thank you ever so much.



Festive Hamper Bags

Just before the Christmas holidays, Karen McLaren (one of our parent governors) of Virtual Executive Support and in partnership with Sci4Us, used our school to prepare 168 festive hamper bags. On the day the goods were delivered to school, there were so many items that two vans were needed and we had to enlist the Year 6 children to help us move it all from the reception area!

This initiative aims to address period poverty and dental health, and encourage enthusiasm for Science by providing children STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) kits to use at home. They also included some football boots, clothes, hats, and bags to enrich these hampers further. These additions, together with the essential food items, reflected the collaborative effort of all their partners. 30 of these hampers were given to St Winifred's to distribute them to families from the school. The other bags were shared at local schools, reaching the wider community in Lewisham and in neighbouring boroughs.

A huge thank you to Karen McLaren and her colleagues for including us in this initiative. We were able to distribute all the hampers and they were very gratefully received.

January:

- 15th – 26th: St Martin Swimming
- 18th: Coffee Morning
- 25th: Coffee Morning
- 26th: Reception trip to Manor Park
- 30th: Big Schools Climate Event

February:

- 1st: Coffee Morning
- 5th – 9th: Children's Mental Health Week
- 6th : safer Internet Day
- 6th: Parents' Evening
- 8th: Coffee Morning
- 8th: Parents' Evening

Half term: 12th – 16th

- 19th: return to school
- 22nd: Coffee Morning
- 29th : Coffee Morning

March:

- 4th: Year 2 trip to Hornimans
- 7th: World Book Day
- 7th : Coffee Morning
- 8th : Early Years Mothers' Day



Coffee Mornings

On Thursday, we held our first coffee morning. These will be held every Thursday morning. On a Thursday, once you have dropped your child to school, come in to the small hall and have a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit with other parents. Thank you to all the parents who attended this week and to Mrs Philpot, who made us her special banana bread for us to enjoy.

School Calendar

Please note that on School Ping, you have access to the school calendar. I have updated for this term and have included all the dates that you find here in the newsletter.

Class Assemblies

As always, you are invited to attend your child's class assembly. This term we are going to trial a new time for Early Years and KS1 assemblies. These assemblies will be at 2:45pm on Thursdays. The rationale behind this change is that we have observed that many of our younger children become very upset when saying goodbye to their parents/carers after the morning assembly. Our aim, by having it at the end of the day, is that they will not have to say goodbye, they will be able to go home with the adult who has come to watch.

Therefore, if you are coming to a KS2 assembly, you may enter through the main gate and wait under the canopy after bringing your child to school in the morning. At 8:45am you will then be invited into the main hall for an 8:50am start. If you are attending an assembly in the afternoon, you will come through the main reception and be escorted to the hall for the 2:45pm start.

January		March	
Wednesday 8:50am	Thursday 2:45pm	Wednesday 8:50am	Thursday 2:45pm
	25 th : St James the Great	6 th : St Paul Miki	7 th : St John the Baptist
31 st St Kateri		13 th : St Francis	14 th : St Joseph
February		20 th : St Bernadette	
Wednesday 8:50am	Thursday 2:45pm		
	1 st : St Veronica		
7 th : St Martin	8 th : St Elizabeth		
21 st : Year 6			
28 th : St Josephine	29 th : St Mary		

Gold Award – Transport for Life

**WE HAVE
ACHIEVED**



Children in the school council were excited to receive a certificate for the efforts the school community has made to be active travellers to school. Transport for London run the Transport for Life programme that recognises how much effort schools are making to encourage journeys that improve air quality, raise fitness and make our streets safer. Based on activities happening in class and around the school, such as Dr Bike, the school has been awarded Gold. The school council is made up of children from Year 1 classes up to Year 6. They run activities to make the school a better place.

Feedback

Thank you to everyone who responded to the school survey. I really do reflect on the comments made and try to develop the school's practice where possible. Please find the summary of the feedback attached.



Spring Term Menu

Please find attached the school dinner menu for this term.

Reception 2024:

If you have a child who will be starting school in September 2024 (born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020) or know someone who does, I hope that St Winifred's is your first choice! The application deadline is **this Monday, the 15th January 2024**. [Applications for Reception Class](#) places for September 2024 can now be made on line.

Admissions Policy 2025/26 Consultation

You should have received the proposed Admissions Policy for September 2025. The policy has been written following the Diocesan model policy. Consultation will last until the 31st January. Please contact us if you have any comments regarding the proposal.

Swimming:



Being able to swim is a vital life skill and due to this, it is on the curriculum. This year we have managed to book into the Glass Mill in Lewisham. Like last year, the lessons will be delivered in intensive blocks, as they are more effective. Last year we really saw our non-swimmers swimming by the end of the 2 weeks. These blocks consist of 10 consecutive hourly lessons, over two weeks. The children in Year 4 will go swimming in the spring term and Year 5 will go in the summer term in the afternoon. Parents/carers will receive letters regarding their child's swimming lessons a few weeks before their block of lessons commence.

Spring 1: Year 4	Spring 2: Year 4
15 th – 26 th January: St Martin	4 th -15 th March: St Kateri

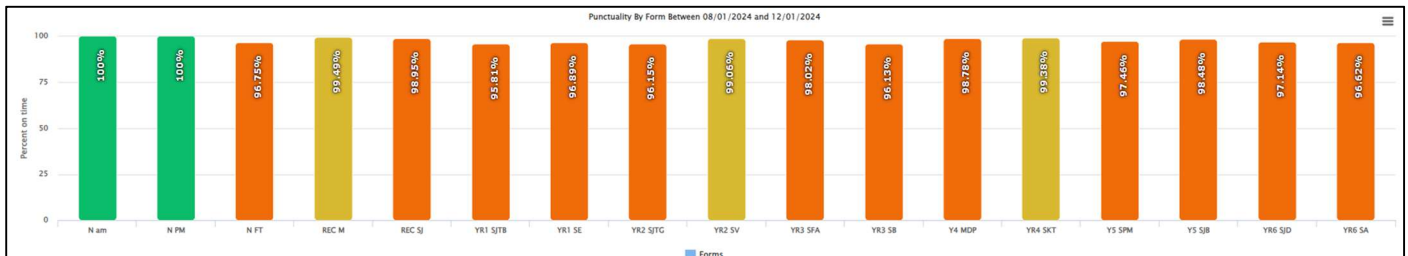
Wednesday Word

Please see the [link](#) to this wonderful resource to share with your child, to support them in understanding the Mass Readings for the coming weekend.

Punctuality and Attendance

School attendance this year so far: 94.99% (DfE expects 95%)

Punctuality is ever so important, the aim is for 97% or above. Please continue to support us by getting the children to school on time!



This week's winners are Nursery a.m. and p.m with 100%, followed by St Mary, St Veronica and St Kateri on 99%! Everyone else is above 96%! Let's try for everyone above 97% next week!

School Ping

Thank you to everyone who has started using this app, 87% of parents have downloaded the app. If you haven't yet, you should have received an email regarding School Ping. SchoolPing is a free app which sends instant messages straight to your smartphone, wherever you are, please remember to turn on your notifications. If you do not have access to a smartphone, you can also receive messages via email or by logging in to your account on the web. Whether you're at work, at home or on the go, all you need is an internet connection to stay up to date with all of the school's news. Moving forward, all communication from the school will be via this app. From feedback, we could see that not all parents were receiving our emails and the current ScholarPack App does not have the same functionality. Please make sure the school has your current email address.



Social Media:

Just to remind you, follow us on:



St Winifred's Catholic Primary School



St_winifreds_lee



@stwinifredslee

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter.

Claire Gillespie