

ST GEORGE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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The Mount
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Headteacher: Mr Peter Hanratty

11 January 2017

Dear Parents

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2017 and the new term started with a Wow provided by Mr G's Science Day. I'm sure your child has told you about all the exciting details of the day which opened our science focused project for this half-term. All the children have returned having enjoyed the excitement of Christmas and have settled back in to their learning mindset. This term we will be introducing our House System with four Houses named Lourdes, Rome, Walsingham and Glastonbury. Named after centres of pilgrimage and suggested by a number of children we will use the Houses during sports activities and our reward systems. I am sure it will add an extra incentive to school life.

This term we will be asking you to return a questionnaire on your views of the school and in particular we would like your views on homework. A separate letter will be sent home for this. Please look out for it.

With winter upon us the weather can change very quickly. One day it is mild and the next it can be extremely cold. Please check that your child's name is clearly marked in all hats, gloves and scarves. Should we get any snow (the children are all wishing for it and I'm not!) boots or Wellingtons will be needed to play outside but school shoes needed for inside to keep the school dry and clean. Rest assured I won't let them out in the snow in their good school shoes. If we do receive a severe patch of snowy weather the procedures for announcing a school closure are on the reverse of this letter.

Dates:

- Friday 20th January - Farewell to Fr. Alan at 2.50 p.m. - Golden Book Assembly
- Monday 6th February, 5.30 to 7.30 p.m. - Teacher & Parent meetings
- Tuesday 7th February, 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. - Teacher & Parent meetings
- Week beginning Monday 13th February - HALF-TERM HOLIDAY, SCHOOL CLOSED
- Wednesday 1st March - Ash Wednesday, Key Stage 2 will go to the 9.30 a.m. mass in church and Key Stage 1 will receive ashes at a service in school later
- Thursday 2nd March - World Book Day (details to follow)
- Friday 3rd March - Women's World Day of Prayer
- Wednesday 29th March, 9.30 a.m. - Stations of the Cross in school
- Thursday 30th March, 9.30 a.m. - Mass in school
- Monday 3rd April - SCHOOL CLOSED for the Easter holidays
- Tuesday 18th April - SCHOOL CLOSED for in-service training
- Wednesday 19th April - Summer term begins

Yours sincerely

Peter Hanratty
Headteacher

<p>ONLINE SAFETY CHECK: Are you aware of the level of privacy settings on your child's online devices? Are these devices in your child's bedroom at night? Is your child vulnerable to strangers online? This danger has been reported to us by a vigilant parent. Is your child safe?</p>

Emergency Procedures for Extreme Weather Conditions

PLEASE KEEP IN A SAFE PLACE

I am writing to let you know what we would do if extreme weather conditions threatened the opening of the school. In the event that severe weather caused the school to close because it prevented staff getting to school, caused the school's heating system to break down or the site became dangerous, we would firstly try to inform all parents through a letter given to the children the day before. If a problem arose overnight Somerset County Council would inform radio stations of a closure.

BBC Somerset – 95.5 FM and 1566 AM

Heart FM – 96.5FM (Taunton) & 102.6 FM

We would also do our best to man the school telephone (01823 284130) but please realise this may be very busy or we may not have staff in school to answer the telephone. Hot school meals may be affected too.

Should severe weather descend on us during the day and you become worried about travelling home it would be in order to pick your children up early to allow you extra time for your journey. If you are unable to make the journey to school because of the weather conditions it would be understandable to keep your child at home but please telephone the school so that we know the situation leaving a message if the phone is not answered.

The school also has a Twitter account and would announce any school closure on it. Take a look at our latest messages on:

www.twitter.com/StGeorgesTauntn

[NOTE: There is no 'o' in the Tauntn part at the end]

A notice would also be put on the home page of the school website:

www.st-georges-somerset.org.uk