

Here we are at the halfway point of our academic year. Hopefully next term will see warmer weather with brighter mornings and lighter evenings. We have had a very happy term. We were inspected by Ofsted on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January. Mr Michael Reeves was our inspector. We found the experience to be very positive. We are delighted to say that the outcome was that we remain judged as a GOOD school. A highlight of the report was the comment that, "All in the school have high expectations for pupils' academic and personal development." The hard work and dedication of all staff was highlighted during the inspection and the children made us very proud. Everyone gave the inspector an insight into normal life here at St Teresa's. We certainly have lots to celebrate! A huge thanks to everyone!



### Website

Our new website is finally up and running! It is a work in progress and we hope to be able to use it as a means of celebrating all that is good about our school – watch out for videos of the children!

### Safeguarding

Keeping our children safe is of paramount importance. If any of you have any concerns about a child please speak to our designated safeguarding officers – Mrs Strachan, Mrs Lindsay or Mrs Sutton.

### Welcome to Miss Copland

You will have noticed that Mrs Faulkner is missing from the front office, there is no need to panic – Mrs Faulkner is still working very hard as our dedicated school secretary, in fact she works so hard that we felt she needed an assistant, which is Miss Copland's role!

### Congratulations to Mrs Brown

Mrs Brown's sheer dedication to sport has been recognised at an awards evening, she was presented with an award to recognise her service to sport for under 17's. We are very proud to have her as a member of our school family!



### Sporting Success!!

Our athletic team won bronze at the Darlington School Festival.

Some of our year 4 children participated in the Darlington Schools' Dance Festival with a fantastic dance from The Lion King.

Big thanks to the children involved for representing us so well and to the staff who accompanied them.

### School closure

School will be closed on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May due to the building being used as a polling station



### Lent

Lent began on Wednesday, this is a time to prepare ourselves to celebrate Easter Sunday. It is tradition at school to use this time to support the 'Good Shepherd Appeal'. Children are asked to support this charity by bringing in 5p coins to school on a Friday.

### Reconciliation

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January the children in Year 3 made their First Confessions in church with Fr. Greg and then came back to school to celebrate with a tea party. Fr. Greg commented on how well the children behaved and had been prepared allowing the afternoon to run very smoothly. When we talked to the children about their reconciliation experience they all agreed that tea was the best part! Renee commented, "Well it wasn't that bad. I thought it would be scary but it wasn't." Julia added, "Fr. Greg was really nice." Over the next few weeks in school we will begin our First Holy Communion preparation so please pray for us.

### YEAR 6 SATS WEEK –

MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY

All year 6 children MUST be in school this week.



St Teresa's – Doing the little things well!

### Attendance

The school attendance figure for this term is currently **92%** the government expects at least **95%** minimum attendance. Children are being awarded for attendance. Every week the class with the highest attendance figure is given extra playtime. We work closely with the Family Liaison Officers to monitor the attendance of every child.

**Remember £1 a percent – children need to be in school for a chance of winning it!!!**

### Email Service

In addition to our texting service we are trialling an email service. We are hoping that this will cut down on the amount of paper that we use as well as ensuring that important letters do not get lost in children's bags etc!

### Church carpark

After half term the pedestrian gate to church will be locked on a morning. The car park is only to be used by staff or for disabled access. This is for the safety of everyone.

### PTA

We are eager to set up a very active friends of the school group. If you are interested in being part of this group then please let the office staff know!

### Staffing

As a school we try our best to ensure consistency for our children. If staff are unable to attend school due to illness, and particularly if this illness is long term, we may make the decision to move permanent members of staff to ensure that our children have a consistent teacher who is familiar to our children. When we do have to use supply teachers we do our best to ensure that they are familiar to the children and staff.

### Dates for Diaries

- Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> Feb – 9.30am Class 9 Mass
- Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Feb – Parents' evening
- Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Class 4 Parents' evening
- Tues 8<sup>th</sup> March – 9.30am Class 7 Mass
- 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March – Year 6 residential
- Wed 16<sup>th</sup> March – 9am Class 2 Collective Worship
- Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> March – 9.30am End of Term Mass followed by hot cross buns in school.
- Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> March – End of term
- Mon 11<sup>th</sup> April – Back to school

## Sainsbury's



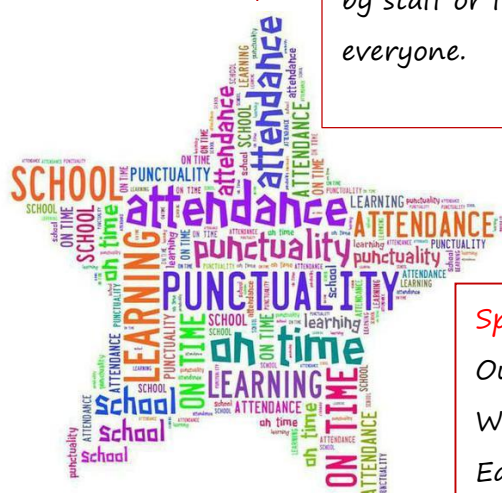
Sainsbury's active kids!  
Please send any vouchers to school!

### Support your local school

#### Our School Prayer

This is our school,  
may we all live here happily together,  
May our school be full of Joy.  
May love dwell here among us every day.  
Love of one another,  
love of all people everywhere,  
love of life itself and love of God.  
Let us all remember that,  
as many hands build a house  
so every child can make this school  
a lovely place.

Amen



### Spring Fayre

Our Spring Fayre will take place on Monday March 21<sup>st</sup> at 3.15pm. We would be grateful for donations of;  
Easter eggs – as soon as possible  
Raffle prizes – as soon as possible  
Bottles for the bottle tombola – as soon as possible  
Donations of homemade cakes – on the morning of the Fayre



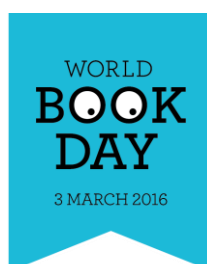
### Parking

We have had several concerns from local residents about parking and damage to grass verges. We also had a near miss incident involving a child, which concerns me greatly. I urge all of you to consider walking to school and if you need to drive please park with consideration for the safety of others and our neighbours.

### World Book Day...

will take place this year on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The Scholastic Book Fair will be in school week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> February to give your child/children the opportunity to purchase a number of new titles. To celebrate World Book Day, we are inviting children to come to school dressed in their pyjamas/onesie bringing with them their favourite bedtime story. Throughout the day, they will be given the opportunity to share their favourite bedtime story with the children in their class. Towards the end of the day, teachers will share with them their favourite children's bedtime story while the children enjoy hot chocolate and marshmallows or milk and cookies!

If your child has an allergy the school is not already aware of, please let their class teacher know in preparation for this event.



### A few reminders

There are no earrings to be worn in school.  
Children should be wearing black formal school shoes – several children are wearing trainers / heeled shoes and boots. Please ensure that after half term all children are wearing appropriate footwear for school.