**St. Ignatius News**

**‘Safe in God’s hands, we share our PEARL values’** 22nd March 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

Last week was a busy week, which ended with a lovely assembly by 1W, who retold the story of Jesus being in the desert for 40 days. The children spoke very well and we were treated to a lovely performance of the children singing along to ‘Our God is a great big God’. As we move closer to Easter, we think about Lent as a time of change and how each new day is an opportunity for us to change.

**Spring Term Family Learning Conference Day – Friday 5th April 2019**

Our Family Learning Conferences will take place throughout the day of **Friday 5th April 2019.**

A time will be set during the day for your child to attend with you and meet both the teacher and members of support staff who work with your child. Letters will go out on Monday 25th March 2019 to book an appointment time. Please note there will be no school on this day. Parents and pupils, you are requested to come to school only for your FLC appointment allocated to you by your child’s teacher.

**OurPact APP**

Following on from our Internet Safety Week we would like to again highlight the importance of helping your child to stay safe online. Please take the time to also talk to your child about the sensible use of social media on devices at home. If your child uses Whatsapp, it is very important that you check what they are posting/writing online to their friends. It is advised that you check their phones regularly and that you monitor their use of social media apps. One app that can help you with this is ‘OurPact’. It can help you with locating your child through their phone and will help you to manage the amount of screen time that they have. It allows you to monitor up to 20 devices at a time and you can block texting etc at family mealtimes or when your child is supposed to be doing their homework.

**Reading**

At St Ignatius the expectation is that children should read at home up to 5 x per week. Your child should bring home a reading record that you sign and make comments in each week. There should be 5 signatures in each week. If your child has 5 signatures in their reading diary they win dojo points for their achievement record, so please ensure you complete the reading diary and send in each week. We can not emphasise strongly enough the importance of reading with your child regularly. Those children who read regularly at home will have better comprehension skills and a wider vocabulary, meaning they will become more confident, fluent readers able to apply these skills in time to their writing.

**Science Week**

Last week was Science Week at St Ignatius. The theme this year was ‘Journeys’ and each class was asked to carry out two experiments during the week, showcasing one of the experiments at the Science Fair on Friday 15th March. This proved to be a messy but fun day with each class getting the chance to find out and have a go at how the experiments worked. One of the highlights was the volcano experiment carried out by children in upper KS2 and one of our governors, Andrew Dickson, came along to support the children and take some photographs of the event.

**Term times**

Our Spring Term finishes on Friday 5th April 2019 and we resume for the Summer Term on Tuesday 23rd April 2019. Please ensure that you do not take your child out of school days before we break up or days after we return. We will not authorise absences during term time unless your child has an excellent attendance record or in the case of exceptional circumstances.

**Trips**

Last week two years groups went out on trips. Year 1 went to Markfield Park as part of their topic study and Year 2 went to Railway Fields on Green Lanes. Our focus for our topic unit this half term is art and so we are trying to give the children lots of lovely experiences to observe and draw/paint nature and/or our local environment. This Friday Year 5 will be showcasing their art work by creating an art gallery in the hall for parents to come and enjoy.

**Dates for your Diary - Upcoming Events**

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| Monday 25th March  | Y3 | Trip to Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood |
| Wednesday 27th March  | 2L | Trip to Railway Fields  |
| Monday 1st April - Friday 5th April  | Y5 | Residental trip to Pendarren in Wales  |
| Thursday 4th April  | Whole School | After school Easter event |
| Friday 5th April | Whole School | Family Learning Conference Day |

**Mobile Phones**

Reminder: Please be aware that children are only allowed mobile phones in school if you have requested (written) and been granted permission by the Headteacher. These phones should NOT be smart phones, but phones that children can just make simple calls from. This is part of our policy at St Ignatius and must be followed. Thank you.

**Easter event – Thursday 4th April 2019**

This Easter we will be selling raffle tickets to win a giant Easter Egg. Tickets will go on sale in the playground from Monday 1st April, please buy as many as possible, so we can raise some money for the school. We will also be having an Easter bake sale, so please donate some cakes for us to sell. Details to follow.

**Term times**

Our Spring Term finishes on Friday 5th April 2019.

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| Summer Term 1 Starts  | Tuesday 23rd April 2019 |
|  Ends | Friday 24th May 2019 |
| Half Term holidays  | Monday 27th – 31st May 2019 |
| Summer Term 2 Starts  | Monday 3rd June 2019 |
|  Ends | Friday 19th July 2019 |

 **Parentmail**

Over the past weeks, we have been sending several messages via Parentmail to all our parents as well as specific classes from Nursery to Y6. If you have not received any of these messages, please let us know as soon as possible, via the school office. We need to ensure we have the correct details for you and resolve the problem with communicating with you in this way.

**Plus pay**

The vast majority of schools now operate as ‘cashless schools’. This means that all payments are made electronically and not by giving cash to the office or to staff at school. We are asking ALL parents to use +Pay on Parentmail, our online payment system, please see the office for details.

**Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for your patient care for us. Show us where we need to change- to grow more in our love for you and for each other. Amen**