



## Start your day with a prayer!

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February we are holding another Parents' Prayer Breakfast in the school hall at 9:00 a.m.

This is a lovely way to start the day – a few prayers, some thought-provoking images, and time for reflection, followed by croissants and a cuppa, and an opportunity to socialise.

Everyone is welcome – just turn up on the day.

## Arethusa

If you have a child in Unicorns' Class, then you will be aware that it's very nearly time for the trip to Arethusa.

If you've lost the notes with the **kit list** on it, here it is again:

The following is a suggested kit list for the trip. **Please remember that for an activity visit like this old clothing is the most appropriate! Fashion is not the priority, particularly if the clothes/trainers in question were expensive and are much loved . . .**

2 pairs Jeans/trousers  
1 x Track suit  
2 x Warm jumper  
Several pairs of socks  
Several shirts/T-shirts  
Several sets of underclothes  
1 pair indoor shoes/slippers/plimsolls

1 pair trainers  
1 pair Wellington boots  
1 x waterproof anorak or similar hooded jacket  
1 x swimming costume  
1 set washing gear (soap, shampoo, flannel, toothbrush, hand towel, in a washbag)  
2 x large towels (for swimming and washing)  
1 set hat, scarf and gloves if it's cold!

- Please note that spray deodorants are not allowed.
- Mobile 'phones are not allowed (staff will have a mobile 'phone for use in emergencies)
- If the children have ear-rings they must be able to remove and replace them by themselves. Small studs are preferred and tape should be brought to cover them during activities.
- VALUABLE ITEMS SHOULD NOT BE BROUGHT TO THE CENTRE!

The children should not wear their school uniform on the trip – it's just another thing to look after at the centre, and we will want to get straight on with the activities when we arrive rather than changing our clothes.



One other important thing to remember concerns bedding:

- The children will need to bring their own bedding. This can be in the form of a sleeping bag or a single duvet cover and pillow case (the duvets and pillows will be provided).

If you want them to bring their own duvet, that's fine, but please remember that they must be able to carry it themselves, and that it needs to be a single duvet.

## Parents' Coffee Morning

You are all invited to a Coffee Morning on **25<sup>th</sup> January (next Wednesday)** in the school hall.

There will be cake and a cuppa, and an opportunity to talk to staff and visitors to the school about a range of topics of interest to parents, including:

- Special Needs
- Maths
- Healthy Eating
- The School Nursing Service
- E-Safety

We are hoping that lots of parents come along to support this event – it's really important that the school works in partnership with parents if we are to provide the best possible care and education for your children.

## Ash Wednesday

This year Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is on **1<sup>st</sup> March**. We will be taking the children down to the Parish Church in Guildhall Street to celebrate Mass at 10 a.m. and everyone in the school community is invited to come and join us.

The children will be doing the readings and the bidding prayers, and we will all be joining in with the singing.



During Lent we will be helping the children to prepare for the Easter season – and, as always, we will be encouraging them to support our Lenten charity, since ‘alms giving’ is traditionally one of the ways in which the Church has observed Lent.

One date for your diary is **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**, when we will be holding our **Lent Breakfast and Pyjama day!**

## Dates for your diary

Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Parents' Coffee Morning at 9:00 a.m. in the school hall
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Unicorns' Class to Arethusa
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' Prayer Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. in the school hall
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Break up for Half Term
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	School closed – INSET day
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Back to school
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	School closed – INSET day
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Book Week
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Ash Wednesday – Mass and distribution of ashes at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, at 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' Evenings
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Lent Breakfast and Pyjama Day
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Break up for Easter at 2:30 p.m.
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Back to school



## Our Young Voices at the O2 arena

Oh what a night!

Our school choir had a fantastic day on 17<sup>th</sup> January when they travelled up to the O2 Arena in London for the 2017 Young Voices concert – and the parents who came to watch also had a great time.

Singing as part of a choir of 7,295 school children, they were the stars of the show – but they also enjoyed headline performances by some amazing artistes, including the Urban Strides dancers and Beatbox Collective.

If you want to see what all the fuss is about, there is a video you can watch at:

<http://www.youngvoices.co.uk/young-voices-for-parents/>

The choir is taking a well-earned rest until after half term – our next practice will be on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** after school.

## INSET Days

Please remember that there are **two** INSET days in February, when the school will be closed for staff training.

The first of these is on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February** – the day after half term, so the children return to school on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February**.

The second is a week later, on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February**.

The final INSET day of the school year will be on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June**.

## News from the School Council

### WET PLAY

The School Council is organising a ‘games room’ for days when we have wet play. If you have any *complete* jigsaw puzzles or board games that you are able to donate, they would be very happy to take them.

Please send them in for the attention of the School Council, c/o Miss Dickenson or Mrs Truett.

### JUNIOR DISCO

They are also organising a Disco for children in Hobbits, Dragons, Griffins and Unicorns classes.

This will be on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February from 5 to 7 p.m.**

Tickets cost £3.50 per child, which will include light refreshments, and are available from Mrs Archibald’s office at break times.