



newsletter

2017/18 Issue 7 – 20th December 2017

Be filled
with wonder,
Be touched
by peace.

School Bus

Following on from the sad fire that destroyed our much loved school bus, we have now reached the decision that we will not be in a financial position to replace it. The Governors have not taken this decision easily and have discussed the benefits to our community at length on a number of occasions. Sadly, the bus service is not financially viable going forward.



Fundraising Totals

A huge thank you to; all the pupils, parents, staff and wider community of Stella Maris that have supported our Advent fundraising events. Money received to date is as follows:-

Advent Breakfast	£232.74
Carol Concert	£80.60
Christmas Jumper Day	£118.00
Infant Plays	£142.85
Unicorn Production	£106.10
Elves Fundraising	£28.00
Grand Total	£708.29

In addition, a huge thank you from the Sunshine Team to our school and parish community. The backwards advent calendar initiative has been another tremendous success and has given some comfort to those in need in our local town.

School Stages Terminology

For those of you using the App, we have received feedback from a small number of parents who would like an explanation of some of the terms referred to when talking about different year groups.

Foundation Stage refers to the Imps Class (also known as Year R); **Key Stage 1 (KS1)** refers to Pixies (Y1) and Elves (Y2); **Key Stage 2 (KS2)** refers to Hobbits (Y3), Dragons (Y4), Griffins (Y5) and Unicorns (Y6). You may also hear the term Infant (which includes Foundation and KS1) and Juniors (which is KS2).

Attendance Table

At Stella Maris, our attendance target is to be above 96%. The league table below shows how the children are currently fairing.

Congratulations to the Imps, who at the time of printing the newsletter, take the lead on the table!

Imps	97.31%	Pixies	96%
Elves	96.82%	Hobbits	95.59%
Dragons	96.93%	Griffins	94.31%
Unicorns	96.21%	Overall	96.15%

Ourschoolsapp

Well done to the parents that have downloaded Ourschoolsapp. Well over half of our parents have now downloaded this app. If you have not already done so, and you have the facility, please do download. This is the best way to keep in touch with the very latest news and calendar from the school. The newsletters will be less frequent going forward and will be around celebrating success rather than calendar dates. The app also has a 'tile' for the most up to date newsletter for ease of finding information.

Have you lost a purse?

A purse was found at the end of the Infant play on Monday. Please contact the school office if this could be yours!

Admissions for September 2018

Parents have until **Monday 15th January 2018** to have applied to KCC online, at www.kent.gov.uk/ola and to complete and return the Supplementary Form to school.

School Dinner Arrangements are changing

In January, the school will be undergoing changes with regards to our school dinners. Going forward, our catering will be provided by a company called Chartwells. The changes the children will see will be minimal – the dinners will be the same cost at £2.30, very similar menu choices and prepared and served by familiar faces!

Sadly, after a long service with the school, Mrs Fagan in the kitchen has decided to leave at the end of this term. She will be missed and we thank her for her dedication and commitment to our school. Good luck!

There will be changes to the way school dinners are booked and paid for. In the short term, dinner money **MUST** be paid for on the day or in advance to the school office. Longer term, parentpay will be introduced to make payments. The children will be asked on a daily basis if they are a school dinner or packed lunch. Look out in book bags at the beginning of the new term for a

Menu booklet and information sheet.

PE Kits

As the cold weather has well and truly arrived, please make sure your children come prepared – especially with regards to PE Kits. PE takes place each week and the children are expected to have a full PE kit in school. Track suit bottoms and tops should be provided during the winter months as when the weather is dry, the children do take these sessions outside.

Please remember – No Trainers for school!

Parent Parking

The school constantly face challenges with regards to our on site parking for parents. Whilst we are incredibly proud of our outside space and environment we do understand how the limited car parking spaces can prove difficult. For those of you who can, please leave your car further away from the school site and walk the rest of the way. For those that really need to bring cars to the school or to Beech Close (behind the school), please park sensibly and considerately.

Our staff has received a number of difficult complaints from other parents with pushchairs and local neighbours complaining about the inconsiderate parking by our parents – often blocking driveways. Please help us to maintain good relationships with our local

community by observing sensible parking. PLEASE, DO NOT PARK ON THE YELLOW LINES!

Highlights from Term 2 Stella Maris is an Art School

A fabulous event inspired by the Dragons' class project on Folkestone. We thank Miss Baker and all the staff and children for their tremendous effort on this event!

Parents Association

The start of this academic year has been very busy for our dedicated PA. Events such as 'The Sausage Sizzle', Christmas Gift Room and of course the Christmas Fair have resulted in much fundraising for the benefit of our children. Thank you to all and well done! Due to the past fundraising that has taken place, we are delighted to report that the outdoor learning spaces are developing well. Pictures will follow once complete!

St Edmund's School - Dover

We are delighted with the relationship between our school and St Edmunds' Dover which is beginning to flourish. Recently, the Griffins class have visited their school for a Science day, some children have attended Mass and others have taken part in a festive Carol Concert celebrating Christmas together. We would like to thank them for their on-going support – especially with transport.

Finally, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

SCHOOL RE-OPENS ON WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY