

Friday 27th April

Dear Families

Cooler this week but still not much rain!

God Bless

Gary

St. Boniface said of St. Bede that 'he shone forth like a lantern.'



The Lantern

Summer Term Assessment Weeks

We have decided that this term's assessments will take place in reading and maths in the last week of this half-term. This will come round quickly. Tests in grammar, punctuation and spelling will take place in the middle of our first week back following half-term (week commencing 4th June).

These assessments will be the last formal ones of the current school year. Teachers will use them to inform pupil annual reports and next year's teachers will use them to set children in September into ability groups.

Dates for The Diary

Thursday 3rd May 6.00pm

Y3 Maths Parents' Workshop

Friday 4th May 2.45

Class 1M Assembly

3.20 Ice Pop Friday

Monday 7th May

School Closure for Bank Holiday

Thursday 10th May 10.45am

Ascension Mass in Church

Friday 11th May 2.45 pm

Class RM Assembly

Monday 14th May

Y6 SATS begin

SATS in Y2 and Y6

These government exams will take place in May. Y6 tests have to be taken in the week beginning 14th May; the government decides which tests are taken on what days. If a child misses a test, it counts as a failure. Not our rules, but those of the government! Y2 children take their tests towards the end of the month of May. The results are used to inform teacher assessments of the children's capabilities. In Y6 it is the test score that is reported to parents and secondary schools. In Y2, it is the teachers' own assessment of the child that is reported, not the test result. Quite a difference in approach. But again, these are the government's rules, not those of the school.

Be aware, we have had two reported cases this past week of parents from other local schools having mobiles stolen by youths on mopeds.

Thought for The Week

Black History Month

I received a very well thought through letter this week from a number of parents asking us to reinstate Black History Month in October. The letter was polite in tone and put a very persuasive case forward. We are a listening school and as such like to respond to parents' suggestions where we can. So we will reinstate Black History Month. I include for you below two excerpts from the letter, written by parents:

'Celebrating black history month and highlighting the contributions made to science, culture, economics, literature and many more will allow our children to appreciate that the hip hop image of today is not their future. They too can be black, cultured and educated, contributing meaningfully to the society.'

Sarah Okwese-Ayodele and Oluwafemi Ayodele, Emmanuel's parents

'Sadly, many don't know the reason for and the significance of such celebrations in our society today. We mistake it to be some sort of 'attention seeking' or mere dress up and talking a little about what 'some black people' have contributed in the past. This is all true but it's far and goes beyond these. It's also about helping our younger ones to realise the sacrifices and the contributions our predecessors have made under some horrific conditions and how they can also follow suit considering that racism, bullying and discrimination is still very much present in our societies today.'

Doris Kwarteng, Nana and Krystal's parent

The letter helped deepen by own appreciation of the significance of Black History Month and I am grateful to the parents who took the time to contribute to it.

We look forward to October when our history and geography leader will guide us through some thought provoking activities in history lessons. As Mrs Kwarteng so succinctly put it, 'All cultures should be celebrated, but black children should not be growing up feeling they don't belong here.'

Lantern Certificates—Very Well Done!

Chelsea Adeoye; Michael Dino; Ciara Garcia Diaz; Mosiah Spencer; Corinne Desbonnes; Fiona Jimmy; Riona D'Souza; Kamila Gawron; Diya Gill; Cordell Ibidapo; Riya Jacob; Airidas Leskinas; Edosa Ogbeide-Ihama; Erin Oye; Akarsh Shyju; Ronald Anjeh; Krystal Baidoo; Jennifer Mburu; Beatrice Saliendra; Jaden Chukwuma; Abigail Akpey; Tia Elliston-Melville; Marian Jardeleza

Shine like a lantern, in the presence of the Lord.