

Newsletter



Issue 8 – Weeks 14 & 15

www.oliverhouse.org.uk

14th January 2015

FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful break. On behalf of all the staff, thank you for all your cards, gifts and good wishes from the end of last term.

Liturgically the Christmas season ended last Sunday with the Baptism of Jesus. Over the past few weeks through various feasts the Church has asked us to focus on the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and so as we look back on the season just ended I thought it would be worthwhile reflecting on what we can learn from the Holy Family as we endeavour to raise our own families in the year ahead.

Firstly the home of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph was a peaceful, harmonious home, full of joy and simplicity of life. It was an environment where mutual love and respect was a priority. This is the template which we should try to follow. From such stable environments come well adjusted children who make the transition into adulthood with a firm sense of who they are, and the confidence to seek out what it is they are to do. In the end good families are the best way of ensuring that our young people become healthy, virtuous, civil adults of good character.

I am always concerned by those households where everyone is so busy “doing,” where the environment is fast paced and cluttered with activity, anxiety, pressure, excessive entertainment, etc. There is a place for these things, but we must be careful that the home environment does not become counter-productive.

We don't know if Jesus was ever awarded a merit badge for achievements at school, or if He won awards in sports or some other area. But we do know that He led a humble, simple life. For me the message of the New Year is the message which the Holy Family gives us following the Nativity – the importance of peace and serenity within the home based on high ideals, love and self giving.

I would also encourage you to pray for all the families of the world as the Pope has asked us to. In a letter to families last year he asked for our prayers in relation to the Extraordinary General assembly of the Synod of Bishops which was held in October 2014 and also for the Ordinary assembly to be held in October 2015. The theme of how families can face the challenges of the present age with the light and strength that comes from the Gospels was and is at the heart of these two important events.

These assemblies which bring together all the bishops of the world are important for the universal church and I would invite you to pray especially for the success of the Synod later this year. At Oliver House we will be placing an important emphasis on the family through various talks and even encouraging children to pray for the family with a special prayer at each assembly. Please find attached details of a talk on the Synod which will take place at The Laurels on **Thursday 5th March at 7pm to 8pm**. Having attended a similar talk a few months ago I can assure parents that the talk is well worth going to.

From a school perspective the new year is a good opportunity to renew our commitment to a number of working practices. I thought I would comment on two important ones:

a) Firstly, punctuality. For all the reasons mentioned at the Information Evening, I am very keen to implement a snappy start to the day. Lessons start at 9.00am and so could I please ask all parents to ensure that their children arrive at school on time at 8.50am. Coming in late affects pupils' learning, so please ensure you arrive to school on time.

b) Secondly, homework. This is also an important part of children's learning and there are many lessons to be learnt by doing homework well: self-discipline, pride in one's own independent work and a reinforcement of concepts taught in school. Given the partnership that exists between parents and teachers at Oliver House, homework is generally done very well. So your continued support in this area would be greatly appreciated.

Finally I have been discussing many of the issues raised by the Parental Survey with our CEO Matthew Sherwood and I hope to provide you with some detailed feedback in the next month or so, once I have discussed any issues with staff. At this stage I can tell you that there has been very strong support for the work carried out at our school and I am very grateful to all the parents who participated.

Mr Ciro Candia
Headmaster

DEPUTY HEAD'S CORNER

How to introduce maths into everyday life (Part II continued from 5th December 2014)



Whenever possible, talk about maths at home and try to put in a real context: "What time is it now?" "Could you weigh the cake ingredients, please?"

Let your child know that everyone can learn maths and that maths is important in whatever job you do as an adult. You can explain how maths is important for the different members of the family, and how it is used in everyday jobs around the house.

Play games and do puzzles that involve maths (eg dominoes, playing cards, dice). Praise your child for their efforts and persistence, especially if a problem has been difficult. Whenever possible, have maths tools available to help (eg scales, measuring cups, analogue and digital clocks, rulers and maps.)

Talking to your child about maths and helping them to reason is important. In this way, most children will realise that you think maths is important and they will respond positively.

At all stages of development from four to 11 years old, you can help by being enthusiastic and encouraging different activities, whether that is four year olds setting a table with the correct number of places or older children making graphs and charts. For example, they could make a weather chart, or a fruit chart that records the bananas and apples eaten each day for a month.

Follow your child's interests - and exploit any maths opportunities. For example, use time and measuring when making a model, or when answering 'How long until I can go out on my bike?'

Whatever you are doing, try not to show frustration or get cross if your child gets stuck. Leave whatever it is you're doing and think of something different and return later. A problem always looks different when approached the next day. Your child may have had a busy day and be tired or fed up (and so may you).

For further details – email tim.worth@oliverhouse.org.uk

Mr Tim Worth
Deputy Head - Academic

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

The Holy Father has declared this year the Year of the family and invited us all to deepen in our sense of family and pray for the unity of the family. A letter of Pope St John Paul II to families reads:

"The celebration of the Year of the family gives me a welcome opportunity to knock at the door of your home, eager to greet you with deep affection and to spend time with you". This is what Pope Francis is now doing with all families.

In Oliver House we put together this prayer and will be saying it every night with the children. It is included here in the hope that many Oliver House families will pray it throughout the year asking for protection for their families and the grace to value a bit more every day, the sense of the family unit as the foundation of society.

Miss Sam Pleasants
Deputy Head - Personal Development

Thank you, my God, for the family you have given me. Please do not allow anyone or anything to separate us from you or from each other. We entrust all families of the world to Mary, Queen of the family and ask her to protect and help families who are in need or who have been hurt, so that they may find comfort and healing. Holy Family of Nazareth, please hear my prayer.

Amen



BIRTHDAY CAKE 'PROTOCOL'

If your child's birthday falls on a school day, please note that we are unable to cut and give out slices of birthday cake in school. This includes pre-cut cakes in serviettes or party bags, and parents are asked not to send in boxes of chocolates or tins of biscuits/sweets for teachers to hand out. If you wish to send in a treat for the class, please provide either individually sealed, store-wrapped cakes (eg. mini rolls) or individual mini bags of sweets (eg. haribos). In this way, treats can be put into children's bags at the end of the day and parents can decide if and when they are eaten.

BURGER COMPETITION (Holroyd Howe)

IMS of Smithfield are teaming up with Holroyd Howe to find the most quirky, funkiest original burger and we need the help of Oliver House pupils. A list of ingredients will be distributed for the children to choose what they would like to have in their burgers. Our chef will select the best three.

On the burger day, our meat supplier will come in and make the selected three burgers and we will all have a taste and choose the winning burger, which will be included in the following week's menu with their name. The promotion date is **Thursday 29th January**.

CELEBRATION OF WORK EVENING

Please note that this term's parent/teacher meetings will be replaced with a 'Celebration of Work' evening on **Tuesday 3rd March between 4 & 6.30pm**. The aim of the evening is to provide parents with an opportunity to look at work across the curriculum and to celebrate their children's progress and achievements since September. Further details about all these arrangements will be provided separately in a few weeks time.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

Clubs have started this week, except Karate, which starts next week (**Monday 19th January**). Please note that clubs run for different lengths in the term and they do not always finish at the same time, so please check with individual providers or see the form which you completed.

INSTRUMENT GRADES

Congratulations to Bea Y6 in achieving Grade 1 in Violin and to Nicholas M in achieving Grade 2 in Flute. Well done!

NURSERY 2015 APPLICATIONS

A reminder that application forms and deposits for Nursery 2015 are now due. If you haven't already done so, please submit these to Mrs Howell as soon as possible, together with your deposit.

PUNCTUALITY CUP

The Punctuality Cup was awarded to **Nursery Penguins, Years 1T, 2B and 3W**, as the classes with the best record, achieving 100% punctuality. The Cup will visit each class over the next two weeks.

SEVERE WEATHER

As the first months of the New Year can bring severe weather, the following alerts may apply.

RED Alert, AMBER Alert & GREEN Alert.

Please visit the website www.oliverhouse.org.uk and refer to the Parents Area for further information.

SPORTS NEWS

Sports covered this term include tag rugby, hockey and cross country running. Year 3 children will start swimming lessons this term. For Year 3-6 Hockey for girls, a mouth guard and shin pads are required, no exceptions! Year 5 & 6 boys will need a mouth guard for the second half of this term, when contact rugby will be introduced; without one, they will not be permitted to participate in the contact sessions. Please be assured that sufficient notice will be given when these are due to start.

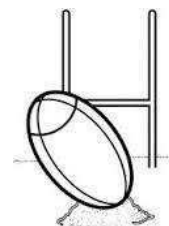
All children should ensure that they have their full PE kit in school (particularly those items which will keep them warm during the cold winter months) - Joggers & Jumpers! Boys must have suitable footwear, both for outdoors and indoors.

Year 3-6 children can order the Oliver House water proof jacket. This can be ordered directly from Tacklebag and costs £24.50

<http://shop.tacklebag.co.uk/oliver-house-14-zip-rain-jacket-junior/>

Year 5 & 6 will continue to have their PE lessons at Tooting Leisure Centre and Year 3 & 4 will have their PE lessons at Battersea Sports Centre.

Our first Rugby fixture for this term kicks off on **Tuesday 20th January at 2.15pm** with the U11 rugby match vs Eaton House (Away). A team of girls are also playing Hockey vs Garden House (Away) on **Thursday 22nd January at 2.15pm**. Parents are always welcome to go along and support the school in these matches.



TERM DATES FOR 2015-16

The term dates for the next academic year are:

Autumn 2015:

Thur 3/9 - Thur 17/12 (half term 19-30/10)

Spring 2016:

Thur 17/1 - Wed 23/3 (half term 15-19/2)

Summer 2016:

Tue 12/4 - Thur 7/7 (half term 30/5-3/6)

WINNERS OF LINE-UP COMPETITION

Wednesday 14th January 2015

Prep: 4C & 4D

Pre-Prep: IT

SEMINAR ON THE SYNOD AT THE LAURELS

The media have reported that the Synod of Bishops has been a confrontation between conservative and progressive forces in the Catholic Church. Is this a correct interpretation? Jack Valero, founding member of Catholic Voices will answer this and many questions about the recent Synod of Bishops on the family at a seminar at The Laurels School, Clapham on **Thursday 5 March at 7.00pm**. All parents are welcome to attend. If you would like further details, please contact Lara McMahon at administration@thelaurelsschool.org.uk.

TALKS FOR FATHERS

Father Frank will give talks to Fathers on **Thursday 22nd January, Thursday 5th February, Thursday 7th May & Thursday 4th June at 7.15pm for 7.30pm** in the Prep building. The overall topic is Walking with your child.

TALKS FOR MOTHERS

Dates to be advised.

TEA WITH THE HEAD

The next Merit Badge Winners Tea with the Head is next **Wednesday 21st January 2015** for those pupils who were awarded Merit Badges last week and this week.



EARLY YEARS - NURSERY PENGUINS

We would like to welcome five new children, Alfie, Maxime and Matias, Leo and Matias; they have all settled in well and are beginning to make new friends.



Our project this term is traditional tales. Our role play area is the Ginger Bread bakery and the children already had fun "selling" cakes.



As this year is the Year of the Family, we have been drawing pictures of our families and have, of course, added our new children to our class family tree.



EARLY YEARS - NURSERY PUFFINS

On the theme of Transport the Puffins have been on a 'Welly walk' where they had to find landmarks in our local area. The children were given pictures and had to use their observation and mark-making skills.



Mr Lakhani came to the classroom to talk to the children about transport. We were able to see on the iPad what transport used to be like and what it is like today. We learnt about airplanes and listened to a story about Topsy and Tim's experiences when they went away on an airplane.



EARLY YEARS - RECEPTION

In addition to the email communicated last week, a quick note to update you...

We have booked our trip to the Museum of Childhood on **Tuesday 24th February**. If any parents are available to accompany us please let us know as soon as possible, we require 7 parents / guardians. Our project work over the next few weeks is going to be learning about the different continents and looking some of the countries the children visited in the past. We would welcome any parents that would like to talk to the children or do an activity related to a specific country. Please contact me to arrange a suitable date.

YEAR 1T

We would like to welcome Sophie, sister of Matias and Maxime who have joined Nursery Penguins.

YEAR 2

The Grand Cayman Islands

Children in Year 2 have recently finished studying the topic *An Island Home*. Dylan, who has lived in the Grand Cayman Islands gave a wonderful presentation to the class about these islands. He showed us some pictures and described the climate and the nature there. He also talked to us about his daily routine when he lived there. Thank you very much Dylan for enriching our Geography topic.



Ice Cube Experiment

In Science, Year 2 have been learning about different materials and how they can change. On **Monday 12th January**, Year 2B children carried out an ice cubes experiment to find out which is the warmest area in our classroom. We placed the same size ice cubes in different places in our classroom and found out that the hottest zone is by the radiator. It took 42 minutes for the ice cube to melt there. The children really enjoyed this experiment which helped them learn investigating skills and deepen their understanding of what is a fair test .



Birthday Corner JANUARY 2015

Sunday 3rd	Otto
	Sofia
Monday 4th	India
Friday 8th	Nicholas
Sunday 10th	Teresa
Thursday 15th	Christopher
Saturday 17th	Sarah
Sunday 18th	Dylan
Monday 19th	Zara
Sunday 25th	Michael
Monday 26th	Elena
Wednesday 28th	George
	Beatriz
Friday 30th	Justin
	Maia
Saturday 31st	Daniel
	Iris



MERIT BADGE WINNERS

	<u>Fri 9th Jan</u>	<u>Wed 14th Jan</u>
Rec A :	N/A	Jessica
Rec M :	N/A	Lola
Y1N :	Rodrigo	James
Y1T :	Joshua	Camille
Y2B :	Carmen	Isabella
Y2W :	Antonio	David
Y3M :	N/A	Blair
Y3W :	N/A	Beltran
Y4C :	N/A	Pascal
Y4D :	N/A	Sofia
Y5 :	N/A	Nirel
Y6 :	N/A	Oliver A

SAVE THE DATES

JANUARY

Tuesday 20th January 2.15pm

Rugby Yrs 4-6) v Eaton House (Away)

Monday 22nd January 7.30pm

Father Frank's Talk for Fathers

Monday 26th January 9.00am

Coffee with the Head (Years 1 & 2)

Wednesday 28th January 7.00pm

Verse Speaking Competition at SFX

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 3rd February 2.15pm

Rugby Yrs 3&4 v Eaton House (Home)

Wednesday 4th February 9.00am

Instrumental Assembly Y6 & Ensemble

Thursday 5th February 7.30pm

Father Frank's Talk for Fathers

Friday 6th February 9.00am

Instrumental Assembly Y4 & Ukelele

Tuesday 10th February

Y2 Trip to Florence Nightingale Museum

Friday 13th February 9.00am

Instrumental Assembly Y3

Half Term - Mon 16th to Fri 20th Feb 2015

Wednesday 18th February

Ash Wednesday (during half-term)

**All Term Dates for the academic year
can be found on the website**

www.oliverhouse.org.uk

SYNOD OF BISHOPS
PASTORAL CHALLENGES TO
THE FAMILY IN THE CONTEXT
OF EVANGELIZATION

Thursday 5th March
7pm – 8pm

A seminar on the Synod
at The Laurels
126 Atkins Road
London SW12 0AN



The media have reported that this Synod has been a confrontation between conservative and progressive forces in the Catholic Church, between bishops who value clarity of doctrine above all else and bishops who want to bring the Catholic Church in line with the modern world, adapting doctrines as necessary. Is this a correct interpretation? Has the Pope really been thwarted in his reforming plans by rigorist bishops? Is the faith compromised by seeking out new avenues to reach out to the “lost sheep”? And what has all this got to do with ordinary Catholics around the world?

Jack Valero, founding member of Catholic Voices, will answer these and many other questions about the recent Synod of Bishops on the Family.