



St Mary
Magdalene
Academy

Primary School Newsletter

10 March 2017

Year 6 visit to Neasden Temple

Year 6 continue their inquiry into the similarities between religions and how religion affects people's lives with a visit to the Hindu Temple in Neasden. As well as appreciating the breath-taking architecture and incredible story behind the Temple's construction, the children were also able to participate in The Arti Ceremony which is practiced by Hindus on a daily basis.



Assembly themes

In this week's assemblies, the **sixth formers** visited the school and spoke about different types of discrimination and how we can stand up to them. It was great to have the eldest pupils in the academy engaging with and teaching the youngest pupils how to tackle a really important issue. In **Rev April's** assembly, we explored the story of The Prodigal Son. We looked especially at how difficult it can feel if, like the older brother, we are doing the right thing when others have been making poor choices. We thought about how we should delight in how God's love is for all.

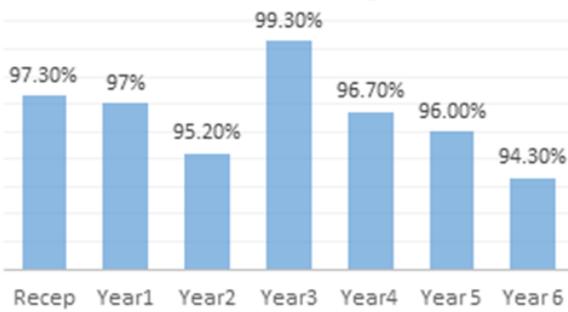
Request

We've had a few issues with some of our younger pupils attempting organise buying and selling of things such as toys from each other. While we admire their entrepreneurial spirit, we would ask that you support us in asking children not to do so as exchanging money and goods between each other informally like this can cause issues in the classroom and the playground. Thank you for your support.

Letter for Shakespeare

Just a reminder that a letter explaining arrangements for Shakespeare performance, tickets and costumes went out this week. The children have been working really hard on this and it promises to be a fantastic performance. Tickets are now on sale in the primary office, £2.00 per ticket.

Last week's attendance figures



Remember – everyday counts!

Reception Class Assembly will be on Friday 17 March at 2.45pm. All welcome to attend their first school assembly!

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Parent lunches

The first round of parent lunches have been a popular event and we had some really pleasing feedback which encourages us to make this a more regular fixture in the school year. We have also had some feedback to take onboard and will address this in next week's newsletter. Parent lunches for KS2 classes will take place in the first half of Summer term.

Meals looked healthy. Was good to see the children so independent.



I had so much fun. I was able to sit with other parents and talk and get to know each other. This was a fantastic idea! I hope to attend more in the future. Keep going SMMA. .

Phonics workshops

On Wednesday, Miss Barbor and Miss Eastlake delivered workshops to parents in EYFS and KS1 about the phonics scheme the school are using. Many thanks to all those who attended. We will repeat this workshop in the new academic year.

CAMHS parenting workshops.

Parenting workshops continue. The next one has moved time and day to Monday 13 March in the hall at 9.15. Apologies for the very late notice.

Year 1 Assembly

Year 1 delighted us last Friday with their action packed assembly on how people's homes change over time. Well done Year 1.

Reminder – measles, chicken pox and shingles

One of our pupils is receiving medical treatment which puts them at risk if they are exposed to measles, chicken pox or shingles. If your child is suspected of having these illnesses, please let us know immediately. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Year 3 trip to Science Museum

Y3 went to the Science Museum to explore the theme of their Unit of Inquiry 'Light is a form of energy that is part of our everyday lives'. At the museum they watched and took part in 'Flash, Bang, Wallop', a show about explosions and then explored the new Wonderlab gallery where they had lots of hands-on fun with the interactive exhibits.



Message from Islington – National Funding Formula

This week we received a letter from the Leader of Islington council, Cllr Richard Watts, about the huge cost pressures facing schools with the National Funding Formula. 'Research by London Councils has estimated that in Islington funding per pupil will fall by £430 between 2016/17 and 2018/19, after allowing for reductions in funding from the NFF and allowing for unfunded cost pressures that all schools are experiencing.' Islington are working hard to raise the profile of this issue, but wanted to ensure that parents and carers have awareness of this and have a voice in responding to the consultation of the National Funding Formula which closes on 22 March 2017. Islington provided details of a parent led campaign at www.fairfundingforallschools.org which may be of interest.

Message from Islington - After school and holiday childcare for over fives

'Due to cuts in government funding, subsidies for after school and holiday childcare will end after summer 2017. We want to hear the view of parents, carers and childcare staff about actions the council is taking to reduce the impact of the cuts. You can also find out more about the funding situation and what options there may be for families. Please complete the short on-line survey by 30 March 2017 at www.islington.gov/consultations'
At the back of this newsletter is a factsheet from the Islington Family Information Service called 'Help with childcare cost'