



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year

I hope that you all had a restful, happy Christmas. We welcome our new family to St Amand's.

The term has started well and children have returned to school with enthusiasm for the new term. Fr Andrew celebrated Mass in school today on the Feast of the Epiphany; children were exceptionally well behaved and reverent. Thank you to all parents who joined us.

Please see your child's class webpage for details of the topics this term. KS2 will be studying *World War 2* and will be going on a trip to the **Steam Museum** in Swindon on 24 January. Debbie will send out details next week. Owls and Rabbits topic is Transport; they will be visiting the **Oxford Bus Museum** in Long Hanborough in term 4 (date to be confirmed). The Parent in Partnership calendar will be attached. As the term progresses more dates may be added. Information can also be found on the calendar on our Home Page on the website.

Information about **KS2 homework** this term is attached for parents of children in Hedgehogs, Squirrels and Red Kites classes.

Mrs Darlison BEM

Mrs Darlison received an honour in the Queen's New Year's honours list. The British Empire Medal was awarded for her great contribution for services to children with special educational needs and disabilities. Mrs Darlison has volunteered for over 30 years in many capacities including chairing the PTA at St. Amand's and Fitzwaryn School, running the Summer Playscheme at Fitzwaryn School and is a committee member at Home Farm Trust. We are very proud of her achievements.

New House Saints names

We are beginning the year with four new House Groups and children in Key Stage 2 will elect House Captains from Year 6 next week, following their presentation in assembly. Staff, governors and children have chosen four saints from living memory as the new house names. They are as follows: St John Paul II, St Mother Teresa of Calcutta, St Padre Pio and St Josephine Bakhita. There will be a new display board with photos of the saints and information about them in the hall. House captains will lead House Collective Worship throughout the year as part of their important role. All children will be told and will learn to which house they belong. Teachers will also display a copy on their class doors for your information.

Non-emergency, dental appointments please try to make these appointments after school or in the school holidays. Please bring proof of hospital appointments to the office.

Debbie emailed details of a TA vacancy in KS2 earlier this week. Please contact the office for details and an application form if you or anyone you know is interested in the vacancy. Some experience of working with children with Special Needs is preferable but not essential.

Help needed

Is there anyone who may have an hour to spare occasionally? We are always looking for help with general admin jobs in classes.

Best wishes
Mrs H Ellery

PTA News

The next PTA meeting is to be held at school on Monday 9th Jan at 7pm – everyone is welcome.

We are desperate for new members and people with fresh ideas. If you would like to join our very friendly committee please come along to the meeting. If you would like to know more please contact Julie on osullj1234@gmail.com.

Diary Dates:

- Tues 10 Jan - Yenworthy meeting for Yr 6 children and parents. 6.00pm in school
Magical Maths club starts, 3.20-4.20pm
- Weds 11 Jan - Netball club begins, 3.15-4.15pm
- Thurs 12 Jan - Sewing Club begins, 3.15-4.15
- Mon 16 Jan - Football Coaching begins, 3.30-4.30pm
- Tues 24 Jan - Hedgehogs, Squirrels and Red Kites Classes trip to the STEAM Museum, Swindon
Further details will be sent home on Monday.

