



SATs

We are very proud of the effort that our year 6 children put into their SAT tests last week. They remained level-headed and focussed throughout the six tests that they had to take. I have heard tales from other schools where not just the children but the teachers were in tears after some of the tests. Thankfully we had no scenes like that and the children enjoyed ice-cream and a trip to the park at the end of the tests. The test papers have been sent off for external marking and we have a long wait now until the results come out in early July.

The children in years 1 & 2 are also facing assessment tasks this term. These will not be in the same high pressure environment that year 6 faced last week. Year 2 will sit papers in maths and reading which will be marked internally and will inform Mrs Spry's overall assessment rather than decide it. Year 1 are used to sitting down with Mrs Way and going through their sounds for phonics and their 'test' day will be just like all of the other times they have done it.

SPORTS DAY

A meeting has been called for senior staff in all CAST schools to attend. Unfortunately the date clashes with our Sports Day. We have decided to postpone Sports Day so that it will no longer be held on 16th June but will instead be on the reserve date of 30th June. I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause you, although it will give you a couple of extra weeks of training for the adults' races!

PE Kit

At this time of year we like to be able to take every opportunity to use our outdoor environment for learning. This can include extra PE sessions. Please make sure that your child has their own (named) PE kit in school every day. There are a number of children who continually ask to borrow PE kit and often we do not have enough spare kit (especially footwear) to help every child.

May Procession

The weather was not kind for our May procession today but it did not take away from the wonderful liturgy, prepared by Class 5 children, or the display of flowers. Thank you very much to all of the families who donated flowers, please feel free to pop in to the hall to see them for yourselves.

First Holy Communion

St Joseph's church was packed out on Sunday 7th May for the seven boys who made their First Holy Communion. It was a lovely occasion which was the culmination of five months of preparation by the boys and Mrs Norton, who instructed the boys and arranged the service that went so well. Well done all of you.

Summer Fair

Work towards organising the Summer Fair on June 23rd has already begun but it is not too late for you to become involved. There will be a meeting after school on Tuesday 16th May for all parents who feel they could offer something towards making a success of the Friends of St Joseph's biggest event of the year.

Attendance

The attendance percentage of a school is deciding factor in the Ofsted judgement on personal development, behaviour and welfare. Since our inspection earlier this year our overall percentage has slipped below the 96% figure which relates to a 'good' judgement. Many children have a very good attendance record and all of those who were at 99% or above enjoyed a '99 club' ice cream at the end of last term. However 21 children are now in the Persistent Absentee group whose attendance is below 90%.

Last year only 1 child finished the year in that group. Later this week all children will take home an attendance record sheet so you can see if your child is one of the lowest 21 children and to see how your child's attendance compares to the minimum target of 96%.

Breakfast Club

On average we have 11 or 12 children who attend the Breakfast Club. This is not enough to cover our costs however the governors have decided that they will continue to subsidise the club. Our parental questionnaire included very positive comments from parents who do send their children to the club. Why not give it a go?