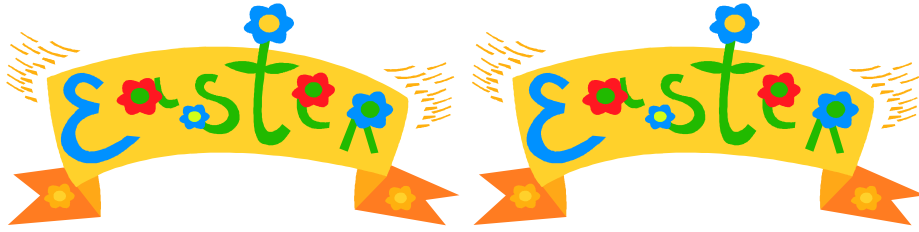


HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

No 13 2008-09



Dear Parents & Guardians

International Links

We have just waved goodbye to our Irish visitors from Castleblaney, County Monaghan. The 10 girls and two members of staff really enjoyed their time with us here at Holy Trinity. They spent time in the classrooms to experience a typical day in an English school, joined our celebration of the "Passover" and a whole school assembly where they sang a beautiful song for us in Irish, walked with F2 children on a spring walk, toured Newark town where they were really impressed with the castle and town! On Wednesday evening they and some of our year 6 children went bowling, then we had a lovely meal in the 'Atrium' (my thanks to Mr & Mrs McCann, parents of Ciara, for their support) and then they went off to the cinema. So our visitors packed an awful lot into their two days. They slept very well in our Community Centre and thank you to those parents who donated blow up beds for the visit (please now reclaim them from school). A lovely breakfast each day was prepared and cooked by Mrs Julie Kelly (mother of Dominic and Alex) and her mother Martha. Thank you so much ladies - I really enjoyed my fried egg roll! A fish and chip supper was also enjoyed from the Victoria Fish & Chip shop owned by Mr and Mrs Kisin (parents of Susan). I would also like to thank the Community centre's committee for their great support by giving us use of the centre for our visitors. It was a great experience indeed for all concerned. Our children were great ambassadors and certainly made our visitors most welcome.

We hope to take a small group of children (possibly from Years 4, 5 & 6) to Ireland for a short visit in June. I will have further information after the Easter holidays.

We have 10 brand new sleeping bags and pillows (bought for this visit) for sale as we have no room for storage. The sleeping bags will only need a wash. The bags are £6 each and pillows £1.





Our Holy Week

We celebrated our Holy Week this week. The children drew pictures of the 'Stations of the Cross' and they were displayed throughout school. We celebrated the Passover as a whole school, eating lamb, flat bread, fruit and herbs just as Jesus did at his very last Passover meal – the Last Supper. Jews still celebrate this festival each year around this time. On Thursday Years 4, 5 & 6 celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation with Father Michael and Fathers Lynch and Dolan.

42 Children celebrated their First Reconciliation last night in church with their families. Year 5 will of course enact the Passion of Christ at our 'Here I am' assembly today. They will also enact the Gospel on Sunday at the 10 a.m. Mass. As I mentioned in my last newsletter, I would like all children to attend this Mass throughout the school (in uniform please) if at all possible. Please could Year 5 children be at school no later than 9.40 a.m. on Sunday. Thank you.

I am pleased to inform parents of children preparing for their First Holy Communion in June that their choice of date (either Saturday 6 June or Sunday 7 June) will be honoured as we have a more or less equal split between the two days.

The Holy Week

Easter is certainly the most important celebration of our Christian faith and Father Michael invites you all to celebrate the wonderful services during Holy Week. Please do come along with your family. Times of services are as follows:

Monday 6 th April	9.15 a.m.	Requiem Mass
Tuesday 7 th April	9.30 a.m.	Mass followed by Confession
Wednesday 8 th April	7.30 p.m.	Mass of Reconciliation followed by Confession
Thursday 9 th April	8.00 p.m.	Mass of the Lord's Supper Watching at the Altar of Repose until midnight
Friday 10 th April	3.00 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	The Passion of the Cross Stations of the Cross
Saturday 11 th April	11.00 a.m. 8.00 p.m.	Blessing of Polish food (Swiecenie pokarmow) Easter Vigil Mass
Sunday 12 th April	10.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Easter Mass Easter Mass

Netball Tournament

Our girls took part in the annual local schools' spring tournament at Barnby Road a few weeks ago, on a lovely spring Saturday morning. They easily won their league and lost their only match in the semi final against Chuter Ede School. The girls played really good netball. Very well done Lucy Naphine, Hattie Blundell, Lucy Duckmanton, Georgia Braithwaite, Alice Walton, Phoebe Jenkins and Kenya Watson! My thanks to Mrs Waters and Mrs Gibbons for coaching the girls and to parents for their great support.

Football Tournament

The boys played in their spring tournament on a very cold day last Saturday. They too easily won their league and lost their only game in the semi finals to John Blow Primary School. They have had a great season! They needed only to win their last match this week to be joint champions of the league with Bishop Alexander School. Unfortunately they lost to Farndon school last night so alas no trophy this year. The boys as always gave of their best so very well done to Dominic Kelly, George Woodman, Jonathan Campion, Morgan Raynor, Matthew Buckley, Jonathan Scott, James Newman, Max Mayfield and Henry Ellis. My thanks to Mr Short and also to parents for their loyal support!

Gardening Club

Last Saturday morning was bitterly cold but that didn't deter our hardy volunteers who laid a gravel path through our flower garden and erected a pergola. Thank you so much - it really has enhanced our garden! Thanks to Olivia and Vivian Enever (parents of Francesca and Cassian), Sharon and Simon Favill (parents of Victoria and William) and Sharon's parents Brian and Ann Thompson, Kevin Thompson (father of Orla and Aidan), Haddon and Christine Smith (parents of George and Tom), and Danusia Murray (mother of Benedict).

Tudor Day

As I write this newsletter I am dressed as a monk of the Tudor times so "Dominus vobiscum". Year 3 have been studying the Tudor times as part of their cross-curricular topic this term! They decided they would have a 'history in action day'. I am so impressed with the handiwork skills that their parents and grandparents have shown - nearly every child came dressed as a character of the period. The children learned songs and nursery rhymes of the times, they danced, played card games and made toys. They brought their Tudor lunch wrapped in a towel or hankie, eating simple cheese, bread and fruit, and they also tried writing with quills. Year 3 has learned so much this term about this time in history and it was a great finish to the term. Very well done children and parents, and a special thank you to Mrs Moss and Mrs Waters who planned and organised the day. Thank you to Mrs Norris Holmshaw (mother of Sophie) who spent a lot of time making costumes. Thanks also to Teresa Miller (mother of James and Jessica) of the "Curtain Mill" shop who supplied some of the material.

Round the World Day

Mrs Gibbons and Mrs Easton's classes also had a very special day two weeks ago. Each child came dressed to school in a costume from a different country in the world. The children tasted many different foods and learned much of other cultures. They invited special guests to speak to the children, mainly parents, to talk about their city or country of birth or somewhere they had visited. Thanks therefore to Mrs Brown (Dublin), Mr McCann (Ireland), Mr Kennett (New Zealand), Mrs Dorrell (America), Mrs Freeman (Chester), Mr Rabon (Mexico), and Mr Barber (Director of the YMCA, Lincoln – Romania). The children also researched about a particular country for their homework and they were then able to inform their classmates about their chosen country. Another magical topic day! Thank you Mrs Gibbons and Mrs Easton who planned and organised the day, and also the rest of the KS1 team Mrs Hayes, Mrs Prime, Mrs Allen and Mrs Browne.

The Big Read

We were part of 70 schools and community groups who took part in the Big Read Book Collection. Over 50,000 books were collected in total. The books have been sent to Sierra Leone and will mean so much, and have such an ongoing impact on, for example, the community in Waterloo. Schools currently teach without any printed materials and classes consist of writing on a blackboard. Thanks to people's

generosity the children will have access to books for the first time. This will progress to using them to learn to read for both education and pleasure. Thank you so much.

DARE (Drugs Awareness Resistant Education) Graduation

Parents and most of the school witnessed Year 6's DARE graduation on Monday. The children have followed a 10 week programme led by PC John Graham. The children have really enjoyed it and certainly have learned life long lessons that we hope will help steer them away from the evils of drugs etc.

Community Web Site

A group of us are working on a community web site at the moment that will serve school, church and community centre. We hope to launch it in the near future.

Friends of Holy Trinity

The magic show was a real success (I hope you enjoyed it), and FHT made a profit of £155. There are still a few t-towels left for sale. The Smarties draw will take place today. The cinema nights were a great success raising £415. Work hopefully on the new amphitheatre site will take place during the Easter holidays. Watch out for new developments around the playground next term!

What fantastic work FHT does for our school. Thank you so much FHT, and of course thank you to you parents for supporting their organised events.

Nits

Please, PLEASE check your child's head over the Easter holidays and treat them with your nit comb and conditioner, or any other non-chemical treatment that is on the market. It is vital that all heads are treated to stop the constant infestations that occur regularly in all schools – but EVERYONE must be vigilant and consistent, thank you.

Theatre Group

We have received a special offer from a theatre company who will come into school early next term and perform 'Pack up Your Troubles'. Through the use of original songs, puppet sequences and live action the story is aimed at 5-11 year olds and based on World War II. It is described as 'a nostalgic return to war time Britain from a child's perspective'. I understand there will even be a sing-song at the end for the pupils to enjoy. I am asking for a £1 voluntary donation towards the cost of this production please and school will subsidise the rest. Thank you.

Easter Holidays

School closes today and will reopen on Monday 20th April. On behalf of my staff and governors I wish you and your family a Happy and Holy Easter.

Barry P Doran

Head Teacher

