# Spring 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

First, may I start with a heartfelt thank you for all the kind wishes and gifts that the staff and I received from the parent community over the Christmas period. The Advent period and Christmas preparations in school were a wonderful time for us all and the children’s performances at the many events we held were truly joyful. Thanks must also go to the PTA for beginning Advent with the Fair and to Father Francis for closing the term with an uplifting celebration of mass.

**Our Catholic Life and Celebrations:** On the 9th January we celebrated the Feast of St Adrian with an assembly in school. The children sang a rousing chorus of “We are the Children of St Adrian’s” and left school with a small packet of sweets. I hope we will celebrate our Patron Saint’s Feast Day again next year and I would like to hear from the pupil community how we might make the day even more special.

Our new year term was ushered in with a mass celebrated in school on 18th January. It was again a joy to see Fr Francis in school and the children welcomed him with their usual excellent behaviour, confident reading and beautiful singing accompanied by our instrumentalists. Thanks to those adults who are able to attend our masses and please extend the invitation to your wider family and parishioners.

Prayer Friday – we held another successful prayer on Friday 25th January. I was delighted to see so many pupils bring their parents into school and pray with them. Thank you to the families who have supported these events. The school will continue to provide opportunities for this to happen.

On the afternoon of 29th January, our Chaplaincy Team joined other local Catholic primary schools in a liturgy at St Vincent’s Church in Potters Bar. The event was organised by Pope Paul Catholic School and involved pupils sharing how different Chaplaincy teams supported their school before Fr Sean conducted an exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

**Staffing:** Unfortunately, Mrs Teixeira and Mrs Alderton have decided to leave St Adrian’s. Mrs Alderton left on 31st January for personal reasons and Mrs Teixeria will leave at Easter. She has accepted a post closer to home after over a year of round trips to Suffolk every day. We wish both of them every success in the future. Mr Nathan has been covering Nursery in a supply teacher capacity. We would have dearly liked to keep him but unfortunately he is moving with his family to Kent. We will seek the best appointments for the vacant Nursery and Year 1 posts. Madame Dembek is recovering well from a serious operation on her eyes and Mrs May visited the school with her new baby Ava.

**Achievements:**

Painting Competition - Congratulations to Alice Healy who has made it through to the KSC National Final to be held in Glasgow. We wish her luck.

**Indoor athletics** - St Adrian’ took part in the St Albans Indoor Athletics events and qualified for the finals on 25th February. Congratulations to all the children who were involved and to Ms Bowen for all her hard work.

**Maths team** – Explore Learning visited an assembly in January to award certificates to our Maths Team who qualified for the 2nd round of a National Competition. Unfortunately, the team didn’t make it through to the next round but we are extremely proud of their achievements.

**E-safety:** Mr King organised an ‘e-safety’ and ‘stranger danger’ day in school on the 7th February and children received a visit from Marilyn Hawes of the Freedom from Abuse charity. Marilyn spent time throughout the day with each class in Key Stage 2 and in the evening she delivered an information session for parents. Thank you for the strong turn out in the evening session. It’s a tough message to hear but so important if we are to keep our children safe.

**Snow day:** I was disappointed to close the school on February 1st but in the light of the very clear warnings from the Met Office I took the decision in consultation with other local heads. As it turned out the heavy snow forecast for throughout the day did not materialise and we probably could have opened.

**The PTA** have been hard at work and I would like to express my thanks to all the members and the helpers who made the Christmas Fair such an enjoyable event and wonderful success. Thank you also to everyone who came along to support the fair and contributed to raising £3,500 - an outstanding result. The atmosphere in school during the event showed a great community spirit. Thank you all for your generosity of time and money.

The PTA are now busy organising The Spring Ball for parents, teachers and the extended school family. It promises to be an enjoyable night. Early bird tickets are £55 per person for those buying tickets before midnight 28th February. This includes a glass of fizz on arrival, 3-course dinner with 1/2 bottle of wine, a live band and dancing. Check the PTA area of our school website for more details and links to the ticket purchasing system.

**Absences:** May I remind you that children’s attendance is monitored termly by an attendance officer and we are accountable for our attendance figures, both authorised and unauthorised absences. Unfortunately, some families continue to take holidays in term time or take children out for long weekends away which has a significant impact on our attendance figures as well as on children’s learning and progress. Please avoid booking holidays in school time as they will not be authorised.

**Safeguarding:** Once again I am going to remind parents and carers that, in the interests of safeguarding, should adults need to visit the school office their entry to the school should be through the main entrance.

I would also remind parents and carers that the school car park is for staff only. We have stopped cars from parking along the grass verge in our car park for the safety of the Nursery parents and children who use the carpark to exit the school at midday and those who leave after-school clubs. The increased visibility should increase safety, however, I would ask parents to keep their children close to them as delivery vehicles do occasionally enter the car park at these times.

**School closes** for half-term break at 1:30pm on Friday 15th Februaryand reopens on Monday 25th February 2019.

**World Book Day** is on 8th March 2019. This year we will not be dressing up as we have other non-uniform days planned. Instead we will be celebrating reading with events in school. More information will be given nearer the time.

**Future dates for your diary:**

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| March 1st 2019 – Year 1 Cake Sale  March 6th 2019 – Ash Wednesday mass at St Barts  March 8th 2019 – World Book Day  March 8th 2019 – Sharing Friday  March 15th 2019 – Red Nose Day | March 21st - World Down Syndrome Day  March 22nd 2019 – Prayer Friday  March 28th 2019 – Mother’s Day Assembly  April 5th 2019 – End of term |

Thank you for your continued support of all we do at St. Adrian’s. Have a safe and restful half-term break.