



Spring Term Newsletter

Number 295 – 5th February 2016



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Dear Parents

Welcome to this week's newsletter. This week is an unusual newsletter as we are devoting it to our ideas for celebrating the Year of Mercy. As you know, Pope Francis declared an Extraordinary Jubilee which began on December 8th 2015 and will end on November 20th 2016.

But what does this mean for us exactly? The clue to the aim of the Year of Mercy is in its name: *it's a time for the Church itself and for Catholics everywhere to show mercy and compassion, in thought and in deed, and focus on forgiveness, reconciliation and doing good in concrete ways for the needs and those on the margins of society.*

The Year of Mercy has sparked real interest among the staff here at St Margaret's. Why? Because, without sounding too clichéd, we want to try to make a difference. Like us, how many times have you witnessed a homeless person on the street with no food or shelter from the cold and thought, 'What can I do to help?' How many times have you seen a global disaster unfold before your very eyes on the TV or in the newspaper and thought, 'But how can I change this?' And how many times have you walked on past or turned off the TV or closed the newspaper, not because you don't care but simply because you feel helpless and don't know what to do?

We have all admitted to feeling powerless as to how we can effect change. But this Year of Mercy has given us an opportunity to do something about that. We can start in small ways by helping others within our local community.

Our Tree of Life

If you walk through our hall throughout this Year of Mercy, you will notice our Tree of Life which is situated next to our Golden Doors: the symbol of the Jubilee.

Our tree is bare at present - it's in winter. But as the months pass and we move towards spring and summer, we hope our tree will be covered in hearts - hearts that our school community will provide. Every heart will represent an Act of Mercy. Your children are already coming up with ways in which they can help others.

We have made links with the local charity, Brent Foodbank, in Willesden, and we are asking children to bring in non-perishable goods each Friday in Lent. At Easter time, we will assemble food boxes to be distributed to those in need. Please see overleaf for the details of the foods we are collecting.

Overnight vigil

Lent is a special time of the year almsgiving; for giving to those in need. Lent is also the time for prayer and abstinence – for going without some of the luxuries in life we take for granted – so a number of staff at St. Margaret's will be participating in an outdoor, all night vigil of prayer and meditation. This will take place on **Saturday 5th March**. The vigil will be done with those less fortunate than ourselves being especially in our thoughts and prayers.

We would very much appreciate both parents and parishioners' generosity in sponsoring staff. All the money raised will be given to English Martyrs SVP society for them to distribute as they see fit - to those in our community who are in need. Please see sponsorship details overleaf.

This Year of Mercy is all about working together as a community. I would like to thank you for always being so supportive. We are a wonderful school community and I am looking forward to working with you during this Year of Mercy.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs McSperrin (Headteacher)

School website address is as follows:-

www.clitherow.brent.sch.uk

**Children who have been awarded certificates
Week commencing 11/01/16 & 18/01/16**

R Maja, Milosz, William, Lara

1 Joel, Ashleigh, Zuzanna

2 Lexi, Amelia K, Kacper, Oliwier,

3 Solange, Kaizia, Angelica, David

4 Megan, Oliver, Donnel, Angel

5 Ajahni, Caren, Adam, Declan

6 Oliwier, Cristian, Gosia, Renae
Badges: Piareen, Nicole, Ben, Oliwier, Alek,
Sebastian, Renae

Y6 Badges: Piareen, Nicole, Ben, Oliwier,
Alek, Sebastian, Renae

Year of Mercy Quote

“Not all of us can do great things. But we
can do small things with great love”
Mother Teresa



Some of the children’s ideas:

- Donate clothes
- Charity concert
- Cake sale
- Soup kitchen
- Sing to the homeless at a shelter or church
- Organise an art show or write a song to raise awareness of important issues
- Litter patrol

If you have any ideas on how we can begin to ‘clothe’ our tree we would love to hear them. Or if you have an Act of Mercy you have done and would like to place a heart on our tree, you are very welcome. (You can do this anonymously if you would prefer). The more hearts the better!

A useful website:

www.volunteerteam.longon.gov.uk

How to sponsor our overnight vigil

If you would like to sponsor staff who are participating in the Vigil, please put your donation in a sealed envelope marked ‘**Vigil**’ and place it in the money box in the school office. Thank you very much!

Please note:

We are very conscious of how hard times have become so if you know of anyone who might benefit from a food parcel, please let us know.

We can arrange for you to collect a food parcel on their behalf. This will all be done in the strictest of confidence.

FORTHCOMING DATES

10 March	Reconciliation Service at English Martyrs
----------	---

Food Bank Fridays

These foods will be collected on the following days:

- 12.2.16** – Tinned fruit & vegetables
- 26.2.16** – Tinned meat & Fish
- 04.3.16** – Rice & pasta
- 11.3.16** – Teabags, coffee & sugar
- 18.3.16** - Toiletries