

# Newsletter

## Growing Together to Flourish in God's World

### Mother's Wish Every Child Matters Our 'Hand on Hearts Campaign'

As a school we have been inspired by a mothers wish and are determined to see this project come to fruition. We think that Joanne and George's story is so amazing that as a school we are calling this our 'Hands on Hearts Campaign'!

#### Joanne and George with family!

George is one of our children at our school and he is now like all the other children. To us, every child does matter. We have a Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) at our school which is well established, and functions well to make improvements. We always put the safety of our children first. We were approached by Joanne, George's mother to see whether we would consider fundraising to acquire Automatic External Defibrillators for the school. We are all passionate about this campaign and are determined to see this succeed.



#### George with the 'Hands on Hearts' Team!

As a school, having reviewed the literature relating to this topic we feel that having these life saving devices on site is of paramount importance. We are determined to make the campaign successful for our school, and hope to follow Liverpool's lead by setting an example and getting other schools in the locality to follow our example. Our PTA is an active organisation and we are already organising several fund raising events to accumulate funds for our 'Hand on Heart Campaign'.



We are organising a balloon race (23<sup>rd</sup> May). As part of this, we hope to acquire heart shaped balloons. We think this to be a poignant metaphoric gesture which symbolises the resuscitation process during a cardiac arrest situation. It will be educational for the children and also an enjoyable interactive experience. In addition to this we have other fund raising events such as a 'Stars in their eyes evenings, and discos throughout the year.

Our school is split into two buildings. Given that speed is of paramount importance in emergency situations, we as a school have decided that logistically for us it would be best to acquire two devices.

We will raise sufficient funds from the various events to fund for training and one AED device with all the set up costs, equating to £1100. We hope to be considered by the charity SADS to support us by providing the second device and the parts necessary for its setup.

The following is Joanne and George's story which has been our inspiration for our 'Hand on Heart Campaign'.

#### 'Our Story' by Joanne, George's Mum

*The news that something was wrong with our baby was at a routine thirty week scan. This was the day my family's life changed forever. Within days we were told our baby's heart was broken and he would need to have open heart surgery. I cried for weeks as I became engulfed with thinking the worst. My husband was very strong and supportive but I'm sure at times his eyes became glazed. Our other children didn't understand why mummy kept crying I blamed onions a lot but the truth was we were so scared that we would lose him!*

*George was born on 14.8.2007 with a complex congenital heart defect in which the two large arteries that carry blood out of the heart are connected to the heart abnormally: This is called 'Transposition of the great arteries'. Our baby was the most beautiful baby in the world and he appeared so normal I was sure the doctors had got it wrong. So when they said he was to be sent straight away to Alder Hey Children's hospital in Liverpool, we were devastated. The two days I was separated from him, as I recovered from my caesarean section, felt like weeks or even years, and all the time I was questioning. Is this happening? Are you sure the doctors haven't got it wrong?*

## Mother's Wish Every Child Matters continued.....

### Hard Times; wires everywhere!

*On day five I had a sudden frightful realisation that they hadn't!!!! Our darling baby had a cardiac arrest and we nearly lost him. For a moment we did! On day seven, we put our baby's life into the hands of angels and for twelve long hours we agonised and prayed for a miracle. The care was first-rate, extremely caring, sympathetic, skilled, intelligent and dedicated. We couldn't have asked for anybody better to leave our baby with.*

*One of the most difficult experiences was to see George after his operation. He was so swollen and heavily sedated. His chest was still open to allow for the swelling to go down and covered in bandages. His tiny heart was there, fighting for all to see. The incision ran the length of his chest. And when we kissed him he felt cold. We couldn't even hold him. He was hooked up to so many things; wires, tubes and computer screens everywhere with alarms that made me miss a beat!*

*But over the next seven days, George miraculously improved and we were able to hold him again. We needed to hold him as much as he needed to be held and I was also able to breastfeed him for the first time.*

*The recovery was a roller coaster ride especially when he was overcome with infection and we nearly lost him again. However against the odds the day came when we were told we could go home. We couldn't believe our luck. We hugged our new friends and home we went.*



### 'I want to be Spiderman when I grow up'!

*That was six years ago, but yet I still remember every minute of it as if it were yesterday. Our George has thrived. He is a very happy, cheeky, boisterous and sometimes naughty little boy who states that when he grows up he wants to be Spiderman. He is very aware that he was born with a 'broken heart' and he sometimes tells me it hurts him. But lots of cuddles and love seem to make the pain go away. We continue to have regular checkups and although he was fixed he still has a leaky aortic valve and narrowing of the lung arteries which means his heart rate runs lower than normal. This affects his everyday life in the sense that he can't run for as long. He gets very tired, but his friends don't seem to mind. George is an inspirational little boy and the thought of losing him has never gone away. As a mother I will do anything I can to fight for my child's heart to keep beating and that fight starts by getting a much needed defibrillator in school. We need your help not only for George but for any child who needs it.*



Our campaign is gaining momentum and we will be contacting local media to improve awareness of our campaign. We are certain that you will agree that this is a worthy cause and look forward to working in partnership with you to facilitate making our campaign a success.

Don't forget to purchase your balloon race tickets from the office. Tickets are on sale for £2 per balloon (there is no limit to the amount of balloons you can purchase). On the day of the balloon race the PTA will inflate the balloons and attach tags with the schools telephone number. All balloons will be put into the football cage in the playground under a net and all released at the same time. Prizes are available for the 3 balloons that travel the furthest (locations will be plotted on a map) Prizes are as follows – 1<sup>st</sup> prize £30, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize £20, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize £10.



## Fashion Show

The PTA will be holding a Fashion Show and Sale in St Anne's School Hall on Saturday 17th May 2014. Ticket price £3 Time 7.30pm Payment on the night by cash or cheque & cheque guarantee card only for items purchased. Tickets are now available from a PTA representative or from the school office.





# BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

Remember we are closed this Monday (5<sup>th</sup> May) for May Bank holiday. We hope you have a safe and restful long weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

## Lates

Please can we remind you that children who arrive late at school (after 9.00am) should report to the main school office to complete a late slip? Arrival at school must be on time to be counted as present. Late arrivals to school all add up to the loss of valuable learning time. Where persistent lateness gives cause for concern a referral to the Education Attendance Service could result in a Penalty Notice which could result in a fine. If your child is late to school you will receive notification on the day from the office.



## Uniform Survey

As you know we pride ourselves on wearing a smart uniform here at St Anne's. We also aim to give choice of stockists to parents in the purchase of uniform items at reasonable prices. We will be sending out a survey on school uniform that we would be grateful if you could complete and return to the school office as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your assistance on this.



## PARENT GOVERNOR NOMINATIONS

Please remember that all Parent Governor nominations must be received by the office by the latest **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014.**



## PLANNED EVENTS

Event	Class	Time	Date/Days	Event	Class	Time	Date/Days
Zumba Class	KS2	3.15-4.15pm	Mondays	Half Term Holidays	All		27/05/14-30/05/14
Sports Club	KS2	3.15-4.15pm	Thursdays	Secret Father's Day			TBC June
Football	KS2	3.15-4.15pm	Wednesdays	PTA Meeting (6.30 Mothers Room)			03/06/2014
STARs Auditions		Time TBC	03/05/14 <b>NEW DATE</b>	Parent Asthma Drop in clinic	All		04/06/2014
May Day Bank Holiday	All		05/05/2014	Class Assembly	Blue Class (Yr2)	9.15am	04/06/14
PTA Meeting (6.30 Mothers Room)			06/05/2014	Y3 Castleshaw	Year 3	During the School Day	04/06/2014
Class Assembly	Pink Class (Yr4/5)	9.15am	07/05/2014	Y3/4 Castleshaw	Y3/4	During the School Day	05/06/2014
PTS School Disco		18.30	16/05/2014	Stars Dress Rehearsal			06/06/2014
PTA Fashion Show		19.30	17/05/2014	Stars Grand Final			07/06/2014
SATS Week	Year 6	During the School Day	12/05/14-16/05/14	Class Assembly	Green Class (Yr1/2)	9.15am	11/06/2014
STARs Rehearsals			18/05/2014	Y3 Linking Project at St Aidens	Year 3	During the School Day	16/06/2014
Class Assembly	Lime Class (Yr3/4)	9.15am	21/05/14	York Trip	Year 6		19/06/14-20/06/14
School Closed for Election Day	All		22/05/2014	Class Assembly	Orange Class (Yr3)	9.15am	18/06/14
Balloon Race			23/05/2014				
Bank Holiday	All		26/05/2014				

The above dates and times and events may on occasion need to be amended. It is regrettable and we will aim to give you as much notice as possible in the event of any change.