



ST. ALBAN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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September 8th 2017 Newsletter

Dear parents

Welcome back to a new school year. It has been wonderful to be back with your children this week. I hope you found the break a restful one. As always, I have an open door policy- please do not hesitate to contact me if you need to speak to me. Thank you all for your continued support- it is greatly appreciated.

There is quite a lot of information in our 1st newsletter of the school year.

As we begin the school year I would like to focus on the importance of excellent attendance. We are proud of our attendance figures which are above the national average for schools which is 96.1%.

Why is good attendance important?

Good attendance and punctuality are vital for success at school, and to establish positive life habits that are necessary for future success.

Through regular attendance, pupils can:

- Build friendships and develop social groups.
- Develop life skills.
- Engage in essential learning and other school social events.
- Achieve to their full potential.
- Minimise the risk of engaging in anti-social behaviour and becoming victims or perpetrators of crime.

Attendance matters!

Don't underestimate the importance of 100 percent attendance. Even one day missed can have an effect on learning:

- 98 percent attendance means four school days missed
- 95 percent attendance means 10 school days missed
- 90 percent attendance means 19 school days missed
- 80 percent attendance means 38 school days missed
- Five minutes late each day means three school days missed

The governing body and headteacher decide which absences are granted as authorised. Authorised absences are only permitted for valid reasons, e.g.:

- Illness
- Medical or dental appointments
- Religious observances

- Family bereavement

Wherever possible, parents should always try to arrange medical and dental appointments during school holidays or after school hours.

What are unauthorised absences?

Unauthorised absences are those which the school does not consider essential or reasonable.

Unauthorised absences can include:

- Forgetting school term dates
- Oversleeping
- Absences which have not been explained
- Arriving at school after the register has closed
- Leaving school for no reason during the day
- Truancy before or during the school day
- Keeping pupils off school unnecessarily or without explanation
- Day trips or family outings
- Problems with uniform/clothing
- Birthdays and holidays

Holidays during term time

- The school **cannot** authorise an absence for a holiday during term time.
- Taking holidays during term time means that pupils miss important school time – both educationally and for other school activities. It will be difficult for pupils to catch up on work when they return to school.
- You could be fined if you take your child on holiday during term time.

Lateness

Good attendance doesn't just involve being present in school – it also involves punctuality. You also have a responsibility to ensure that your child arrives to school on time, and stays in school during the day.

All pupils are expected to be in their classrooms at 8:55am every day. If pupils are not in their classrooms by 9:05am, they receive a late mark – this is an unauthorised absence.

How can I help?

You can help in many ways:

- Encourage good attendance by making sure your child goes to school regularly.
- Take an interest in your child's school work.
- Make sure your child understands that you do not approve of absence from school.
- Support our school in our efforts to control inappropriate behaviour.
- Inform us on the first day of your child's absence, and keep us updated throughout the absence period.
- Cooperate with our school to make sure your child overcomes any attendance problems.
- Discuss planned absences with the headteacher and apply for permission well in advance.
- Only take your child out of school during term time where the absence has been **authorised**.

School Uniform

The children have returned to school looking very smart in their uniforms. The slight changes to our school uniform this year have been commented on by a number of people this week including our visitors, the NSPCC, who said that the children's appearance and behaviour in the school hall was excellent.

Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Parent Governor

There are two vacancies for parents to serve on the Governing Body as Parent Governors. A letter will be sent home next week with the details.

After School Clubs

A variety of after school clubs are available.

Monday	Drama 3:45pm until 4:45 pm, starts Monday, September 11 th .
Wednesday	Dodgeball
Thursday	Central Soccer

Club forms are attached. Plus details of a mini rugby club.

Information on Netball, Football and Gardening clubs will be sent out later in the half term.

Come and See

This term we will be studying the three themes of Family, Baptism and Belonging. More details are in the attachment.

Health & Safety

It is good to see so many of the children cycling and scooting to school. However, just a little reminder that when on school grounds, children need to dismount and push their cycle/scooter. It is so busy at the start and end of each day and so easy to collide with pedestrians.

On the same note, could you remind your child that the items in the cycle store belong to individuals and are not communal playthings. No child should be playing in the cycle store at any time.

Open Days

Y6 parents may like to note that both Catholic Secondary schools in our area, are holding their Open Days this month. This gives you and your child, a chance to look around the schools and meet some of the staff and help you in making the very important decision of where your child will continue their academic career from Y7.

St John Houghton are holding their Open Day on Thursday, September 21st. Visits are welcome from parents, and their Y6 child, during the school day.

Saint Benedict Catholic Academy are welcoming visits on Thursday, September 28th from 5pm onwards.

Tempest Photographs

Individual photographs will be taken on Thursday, November 9th. If you have more than one child in school, a photograph of siblings together will be taken. If you wish your children to be photographed individually, you must inform the school office. If you wish to have a family photograph to include younger siblings not in nursery or school, you may go to the Infant Hall at 3:40 pm. Please do not arrive at any other time for a family photograph.

Homework

Homework will start next week. There will be letter in the Learning Logs explaining the changes.

Prayer Group

Prayer Group meets on Thursdays at 8:30am until 8:45am in the Junior Library.

Finally, today we celebrate the birth of Mary.
Dear God, the birth of Mary's son Jesus, gave each of us the promise of salvation. Help us live the faith that
Mary taught in accepting your will. May we have the strength to face all that discipleship requires.
Amen.

Mr Monaghan

*Please inform the school office of any changes of address, email or mobile
telephone number*

Thank you

Key Dates for the term

DAY	DATE	EVENT	TIME
<i>Wednesday</i>	September 13 th	Whole School Mass	9:30am
<i>Monday</i>	September 18 th	Y6 Mrs Muldoon's Class Assembly	3:00 Infant Hall
<i>Thursday</i>	September 21 st	St John Houghton Open Day re Y7 Y5 PGL Residential Meeting	6:00pm
<i>Monday</i>	September 25 th	Y5/6 Mr Blurton's Class Assembly	3:00 Infant Hall
<i>Wednesday</i>	September 27 th	RSE Meeting for Y5 parents	9:00am
<i>Thursday</i>	September 28 th	St Benedict Open Evening re Y7	5pm onwards
<i>Monday</i>	October 2 nd	Y3/4 Miss Burton's Class Assembly	3:00 Infant Hall
<i>Thursday</i>	October 5 th	Harvest Festival	School only
<i>Monday</i>	October 9 th	Y5 Miss Handley's Class Assembly	3:00 Infant Hall
<i>Sunday</i>	October 15 th	Y5 Parish Mass at church	10:30am St Alban's Church
<i>Monday</i>	October 16 th	Y3 Mrs Morris's Class Assembly	3:00 Infant Hall

<i>Wednesday</i>	October 18 th	Y6 Class Mass	9:30 am
<i>Tuesday</i> <i>Wednesday</i> <i>Thursday</i>	October 17 th 18 th 19 th	Parent's Evening	Time to be confirmed
<i>Wednesday</i>	November 1 st	Whole School Mass –feast of All Saints	9:30 am
<i>Monday</i>	November 6 th	FS2 Assembly	3:00 Infant Hall
<i>Thursday</i>	November 9 th	Tempest Individual Photographs	
<i>Monday</i>	November 13 th	Y4 Mrs Ruston-Donald's Class Assembly	3:00 Infant Hall
<i>Wednesday</i>	November 15 th	Y5/6 Mr Blurton's Class Mass	9:30 am
<i>Monday</i>	November 20 th	Y1/2 Miss Liddane's Class Assembly	3:00 Infant Hall
<i>Friday</i>	November 24 th	INSET DAY School closed	
<i>Sunday</i>	November 26 th	Y4 Parish Mass at church	10:30am St Alban's Church
<i>Monday</i>	November 27 th	Y1 Miss Leatham's Class Assembly	3:00 Infant Hall

<i>Monday</i>	December 4 th	Y2 Mrs Leatherland's Class Assembly	3:00 Infant Hall
<i>Wednesday</i>	December 6 th	'Flu Immunisation for FS2, Y1 Y2 Y3 and Y4 Y3 and Y4 Christingle	9:30 am
<i>Monday</i>	December 10 th	Foundation Stage Production	2:00pm
<i>Tuesday</i>	December 12 th	Foundation Stage Production	9:30 am
<i>Wednesday</i>	December 13 th	Y5 Class Mass KS1 Production	9:30 am 2:00 pm
<i>Thursday</i>	December 14 th	KS1 Production	9:30am
<i>Wednesday</i>	December 20 th	Christmas Lunch	
<i>Thursday</i>	December 21 st	Carols & Readings to Parish Y5 and Y6	St Alban's Church
<i>Friday</i>	December 22 nd	Carol Service Break up for Christmas	2:00pm
<i>Monday</i>	January 8 th 2018	Back to school	