



ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs C Fenna B.Ed.

7th September 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year. It is a pleasure to see all the children. They are a credit to you and all look very smart in their school uniforms. As you know, Mrs Brice is now on maternity leave. The great news is that she is now the mother to a beautiful daughter and both are doing very well. In Mrs Brice's absence, Mrs Finlay will take the role of Deputy Headteacher.

Below you will find information about events happening in school in the near future.

Mass

We had a lovely whole school celebration at Mass today. The children led the readings, bidding prayers and singing beautifully. Our first Family Mass of the year is on Sunday 24th September at 9.30 in the church. This is an enrolment Mass for all children who will be making their First Holy Communion this year.

After School Clubs

Our extra-curricular clubs start next week. There are a varied number of groups meeting, run by our own staff or by Premier Sports. A letter detailing clubs will follow soon. If you sign up your child for a club, please ensure that they attend every week. This not only gives the children a sense of commitment and resilience but also helps staff with planning and resources.

Messy Time

Our very popular Messy Time sessions start again next week **Thursday 14th September 1.30 – 2.30 Please note the change of day and time.** This is open to all mums and their children 0 – 5 years old. Please bring a change of clothes or old clothes for your child. Please contact the school office for more information.

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival Mass will take place on Thursday 12th October at 9.15 in the church. All families are invited to attend. Children can bring in foodstuffs for the harvest which will then be displayed in the church. Sunday 15th October will be a Family Mass and will also take the theme of Harvest. Sunday Mass starts at 9.30 and again everyone is welcome to attend.

Parents' Evenings

Our first Parents' Evening will be on Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th October.

PE

PE kit is a white t shirt, black shorts and black pumps. Please ensure all items are marked with your child's name and in an easily identifiable bag. PE lessons are as follows:

Monday – Foundation, Yr 1/2
Tuesday – Year 5/6
Wednesday - Pre-school Twos (kit not needed)
Friday – Year 3/4 and Year 5/6

Homework

Children should be reading daily at home as well as practising tables and spelling. They will be given reading record books to be completed by parents. In the case of Year 5 and Year 6 children can complete the reading record themselves. All children from Year 1 to Year 6 will receive homework on a Friday and Year 5/6 will also receive homework on a Wednesday. Please ensure your child completes their homework on time.

Attendance

Our target for attendance is 95%. Children who have an attendance rate of below 90% are classed as persistent absentees. Children should only be absent from school if they are not well enough to attend. All absences must be explained either by letter, telephone call or in person to a member of staff otherwise they appear in the register as unauthorised. Holidays should not be taken in term time and will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Remember:-

- **95% attendance is good.**
- **90% attendance is equivalent to missing one afternoon off school each week or 4 weeks off school each year or 28 weeks over the time spent in primary school.**
- **Only 35% of students with attendance of 90% or below obtain 5 GCSEs with grades A to C.**

Secondary school may seem a long way off but it is vital to get the children into good habits in terms of attendance so that they can reach their full potential at every stage of their school journey.

I look forward to working with you all this year and to welcoming you to the many events we have planned.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Fenna
Headteacher