



St. Paul's RC Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs C Fenna B.Ed.

8th September 2015

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year. It was a pleasure to see all the children. They are a credit to you and all look very smart in their school uniforms. As well as some new children we welcome Mrs Brice as our new Deputy Headteacher. Mrs Brice will be teaching in Year 3/4 and will join Mrs Finlay, Mrs Kearns and myself as part of the Senior Management Team in the school.

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

Mass

We will be celebrating together with a whole school Mass on Thursday 10th September at 9.15 in the church. Please do come along and support the children. They will be leading with the readings, bidding prayers and singing.

After School Clubs

Our extra curricular clubs start this week. There are a varied number of groups meeting, run by our own staff or by Premier Sports. A letter detailing sports clubs has already gone out. 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.

First Aid Training

We submitted a bid and were successful in obtaining free first aid training for the whole school. This will take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week. Wednesday afternoon (16th September) is reserved for parent training. More details about this will follow early next week.

Trips

Year 1 and 2 will be visiting the beach and the woods as part of their topic work on Monday 14th and Monday 21st September. They will leave school after lunch travelling by mini bus to and from the venue and arriving back at school in time for the end of the school day. Year 5 and Year 6 will be visiting the World Museum on 16th September and the Maritime Museum on 3rd November. Details about all these trips will follow shortly. Trips for Year 3/4 and for Foundation are also being planned.

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival Mass will take place on Thursday 1st October at 9.15 in the church. All families are invited to attend. Sunday 4th October will be our first Family Mass of the school year 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 12th October for KS1 and Tuesday 13th October for KS2.

Swimming

Year 6 will be going swimming every afternoon in the week beginning 19th October. Please ensure your child has the correct swimwear – one piece suit for girls and trunks not knee length shorts for boys.

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 – FS
Thursday – Year 3/4 and Year 1/2
Friday – Year 5 and Year 6

Homework

Children should be reading daily at home. They have reading record books to be completed by parents. In the case of Year 5 and Year 6 they can complete the reading record themselves. In Year 1 and 2 books will be changed Monday, Wednesday and Friday. All children from Year 1 to Year 6 receive homework on a Friday and Year 6 will also receive homework on a Wednesday. Please ensure your child completes their homework on time.

Attendance

Our target for attendance is 95%. As stated in my last newsletter, from September 2015 the persistent absentee rate will move up from 85% to 90%. This means that children who have an attendance rate of below 90% will be classed as persistent absentees. Children should only be absent from school if they are not well enough to attend and 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