



ST. JOHN BOSCO CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Green Lane, Maghull, L31 8BW Telephone 0151-520-2628
Website www.stjohnboscoprimary.co.uk Email admin.stjohnbosco@schools.sefton.gov.uk
Headteacher - Mr D MacAreavy
Chair of Governors—Mr J Thompson

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Dear Parents,

What an exciting occasion, as this is officially the first ever school newsletter I have had to write as the 'Acting Headteacher' of St John Bosco. Please have your green pens at the ready and feel free to mark me down for any spelling, punctuation or grammar mistakes! Any more than three mistakes and I promise to stay in at break time in order to complete this piece of work again. 😊

Homework Policy

On to more important matters, I am pleased to inform you that after consultation with teachers and children, we have decided to update our school homework policy. We felt like we needed to review this policy and our whole school approach to homework in order to ensure that any homework completed was meaningful and manageable. We felt it was important to recognise that as more opportunities for online homework increased, our homework policy reflected this, whilst also taking into account the wellbeing of the children in our school.

While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

Essentially, for the vast majority of our classes, the amount of homework given has reduced and we feel there is now a clearer program for what is given. For full details of this policy, please visit our school website where you will find it in the policies and documents section.

SATS—KS1 & KS2

We are now at the time of year when our children in Year 2 and Year 6 are due to take their end of key stage assessment tests. Our Year 2 children began their formal assessment tests this week and I know how much you appreciate the hard work that Mrs Meehan, Mrs Stockwell and Mrs Kata have put in to the children's learning throughout this year. As a school, we have one aim and that is that the children should try their best in all that they do and celebrate their own progress and development. Can I thank you on behalf of the teachers for the support and encouragement that you give to your children, particularly in supporting their reading which has a significant impact on everything that they do in school. The children have actually enjoyed their assessments to date which is encouraging when there are national concerns about children's happiness and wellbeing.

Our children in Year 6 have completed their preparations for their tests which will take place next week. Again, Mrs Bretherton and Ms Parkinson have worked tirelessly to support the children and we have been pleased that a number of our teachers have been able to support small groups of children in after school support groups. We have also been fortunate to have support from our school nurse and staff who have provided the children with useful advice about how they can prepare themselves physically and emotionally for these tests and the message is again a simple one. Do your best! The children have been well prepared and practice tests have shown that our children are making good progress and achieving well. This is an important time for them as they prepare for arguably the biggest transitional change in their education. Thank you for the support you have given and I am confident that your children will be well prepared to take on the challenges as they move on to their High Schools in September.

Bible Reading Competition

A final reminder for the bible reading competition. We have had a fantastic number of children participating in the annual Bible Reading Competition. The school has an enviable reputation and it is good to see new children wanting to continue this. Your children should have received their reading and time and the competition will take place at St Gregory's School **not Church** on Saturday 18th May.

Fundraising

I am delighted to inform you of some fantastic fundraising which different children in our school have decided they wanted to support.

Reegan Jones, in Year 2, has been raising money for The Whitechapel Centre. The Whitechapel Centre is the leading homeless and housing charity for the Liverpool region who work with people who are sleeping rough, living in hostels or struggling to manage their accommodation. Reegan and his family 'slept out' for the night in the Cathedral, building their own shelters in the process, and managed to raise an amazing £620.00 for this incredibly worthwhile cause. Well done Reegan! Our whole school are extremely proud of you!

In Year 6 and in Year 2, sisters Isabel and Phoebe Thompson decided to take it upon themselves to raise money for bowel cancer—a cause which is particularly close to our hearts after Mr MacAreavy's recent cancer diagnosis. Isabel and Phoebe took part in a triathlon event and were able to raise £142.00 for this hugely worthwhile cause.

Following on from this, I have been made aware that another of our children, Mia Potts in Year 1, has decided to raise money in support of Mr MacAreavy. On Sunday 26th May 2019, Mia will run the '1 mile Rock 'n' Roll Race' and raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support, which is Mr MacAreavy's charity of choice.

With the support of her family, Mia has set up her own 'JustGiving' page and would like as many people to donate to her page and support this worthwhile cause. As a school, we have also been collecting money which we intended to donate to a charity for Mr MacAreavy and this money has now been donated to Mia's JustGiving page. Mia would also like any of her friends or anyone at St John Bosco to join her by completing this race which is easily booked onto through their webpage (www.runrocknroll.com/en/Events/Liverpool/The-Races/1-Mile).

If anyone would also like to donate to Mia's JustGiving page with a generous donation towards Mr MacAreavy's charity of choice, you can do this by simply visiting the following weblink:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/miapotts123

Parentmail Payments/Cheque Payments

Can we politely remind everyone that Parentmail payments for dinners and breakfast club should still be paid in advance not in arrears. Dinner payments should be made on a Friday for the following week—on a Monday morning your child's account should be in credit of £10.50 and by Friday have a balance of £0.00, if you pay on a weekly basis. Breakfast Club payments should be paid on Monday morning for the following week and again your child's account should be in credit and have a £0.00 balance on Fridays once all days have been input. Please ensure that you pay for dinners, £2.10 per session and Breakfast Club £3.30 per session. Dinners weekly payment is £10.50, fortnightly £21.00, monthly £42.00 for reconciliation purposes on Sefton's accounts.

Most trip and items in school can be paid for using Parentmail. This system is safe and easy to account for monies coming into school. Can I ask that you consider paying for items in school by either cash or Parentmail rather than by cheque, as eventually cheques will be phased out. Thank you for your help and continued support.

Holidays

Can we also politely remind everyone that 'Family Holidays' are not classed as exceptional circumstances when requesting term-time pupils leave of absence. An above average amount of requests have been made recently, particularly relating to family holidays, and in these circumstances the requests will be declined and marked as an unauthorised holiday.

Half-term date and School Mufti-Day

Can I finally remind everyone that school will close for half term on **Thursday 23rd May 2019** due to a staff training day which has been scheduled for the following day. It is our intention to hold a School Mufti-day on this final Thursday where children can come to school in their own clothes for a £1.00 donation.