

St Sebastian's Catholic Primary School Holly Road L7 OLH 260 9697

10/10/14

Dear Parents, Guardians and Children,

There is a lot of news to share with you all even though it is only the beginning of October. You will be delighted, I hope as we are, at the way that the majority of the children have settled with their classes, new teachers and are trying their best. I certainly hope that you all enjoyed the "Sharing Learning" books off your children and have made a comment in them. Just to remind you the "Open Evening" to talk about how we have started the beginning of the year is 23rd October from 2 till 6pm for Foundation 2 to Year 6. This is an opportunity for you and your child/children to speak to their Teacher. We look forward to seeing you all.

A BUSY TIME FOR CHILDREN AND STAFF:

The School has already been involved in lots of extra-curricular clubs that will help children to gain credits for Children's University. You should all have received a timetable of these. We have also started 'competitive' games and activities with other schools.

In Cross Country the Boys have started well by gaining 3rd place in all 3 outings. With 3 to go they just need that little extra as a team because running in a league of 22 schools you do need your best at all times. Congratulations to Macauley for winning a Gold Medal in each of these races. The Girls have been a little unlucky and they are a young team with at times only 1 Year 6 running, this makes it hard. They have a good chance if all are in and all run to their best we could get 3rd place maybe even 2nd!! The Under 10's Football have had 4 games and remain unbeaten in a tough league. The under 11's get going next week.

Indoor Athletics starts during "School time" next week. We have a tradition of "setting" high standards in all we do BUT once again without support from families and children these "high" standards suffer. I do ask that we all try to put some thought to supporting school when asked and I am grateful to those parents who allow their children to represent the school which does mean they may miss practices at swimming and dance etc and as always we wouldn't want this every time BUT without this we may as well just put out ANY team, not practice and not be bothered about the "Team" of the school.

YEAR 6 COLOMENDY VISIT:

A great trip and so beneficial in so many ways for our children across the Federation. Without "a doubt" there is a better closeness and understanding amongst themselves and the staff who will be encouraging them to "reach their potential". We go on Residentials because, A) The Government and Ofsted feel it is essential in Primary School and B) We value what it does. Again as a school we do not arrange events that we feel are not good for the overall development of the child. We need you to trust us as you did when you enrolled them into our School.

PE TIMETABLE:

This is not just sport!! Kits in EVERY DAY including trainers. This is an essential part of the Curriculum so much so that in the EYFS (Early Years Curriculum) it has a HIGHER status than English and Maths. This subject can help a child keep themselves safe, (eg water skills and how to fall safer eg Gymnastics) it also gives them NEW skills to use in life (co ordination, how to play different games and activities) and in today's "health" climate making children ACTIVE to help avoid OBESITY and HEART CONDITIONS. SO Parents feel their child can "opt" out. If a child is not fit for PE they are not fit to be in school (unless severe medical conditions like broken bones etc). The Health and Safety of your child is our first "PRIORITY", it is not up to the Admin Staff to say they can be excused from PE. A Doctor's/Hospital note is needed. IF your child is unable to do PE while in school we will make that decision as "loco parentis".

NUTS (PEANUTS ETC) ALLERGY:

We have several children who have been diagnosed with this condition so as a School Community, I do ask for your co-operation as if YOUR OWN CHILD had this condition. It can be "Life

Threatening" if a child reacts severely to CONTACT with nuts or people who have eaten nuts.

So with the agreement of the Governors:

No NUTS are to be brought into School.

No Birthday Cakes to be sent into School to be given out.

If children are having "nut" based breakfasts PLEASE wash hands afterwards.

OLIVER KING FOUNDATION-DEFIBRILATORS IN OUR SCHOOLS:

Again to acknowledge the work the Parents and the Foundation are doing to help equip our schools and public places with this apparatus which has during the past weeks saved another life.

Since their introduction seven lives have been saved, seven lives that we may have lost.

Certainly a wonderful tribute to Oliver their son as "a life saver".

POSSIBLE CHESTER ZOO TRIP: (Does not include Nursey)

As a reward, we are looking at funding a trip for Good Punctuality and Good Attendance. We want to REWARD those children and parents who do get into school. I was at a meeting recently with a HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector) who said that ATTENDANCE IN SCHOOL is a problem in LIVERPOOL compared to the rest of the country and they want to know WHY! So are schools following up on "persistent" absences and issuing Court Orders. Are schools insisting on a doctor or hospital note so children aren't just being kept off or allowed to stay at home. Her next question hurt, "Does Liverpool not value a good education and an opportunity to do better in the future??" I have to say the Liverpool Heads could not answer this with the facts in front of us that we are in the bottom group of Authority's in the Country.

SICKNESS:

We have seen lots of children being unwell and sick and these are genuine. So we have decided to look at overall attendance, at least 95% for the term so far up to 3 days before the "possible" trip. BUT in consideration of these children, we will also look at from MONDAY those who get at least 95-96% attendance until 2 days before the trip.

Attendance so far since the start of term to now per class is as follows:

Foundation 2 96.5% Year 1 97% Year 2 96.4% Year 3 97.9% Year 4 97.9% Year 5 98% Year 6 96.1%

EXTREME HAIR CUTS/STYLES:

This is in The Home School Agreement. What is this in a Primary School? Copying footballers, pop stars, celebrities etc is inappropriate for school. By all means in holidays, that is a family decision. So please this is not a new rule. Any long hair for Health and Safety reasons has to be tied up securely.

JEWELLERY: No earrings please. Only watches no other jewellery including necklaces or

bracelets whether "home made" or bought. **PAINTED NAILS:** Again not in school especially Mondays when children conveniently "forget" but this has happened on several "back" to school days.

MCMILLAN COFFEE MORNING:

A great success and an organisation which is close to many people's hearts as they do a wonderful job in support, advice and comfort. Amount of profit made to follow.

COMMITMENT TO MFL:

We are fortunate to have sent to us by the Spanish Government in Madrid as teacher to help with our CLIL Project (using Spanish as a medium to teach other subjects) her name is Senorita Maria. We welcome her. Also with the help of the British Council we have for the year the support of a "Mandarin" (Chinese) assistant. Her name is Miss Carol and we welcome her. We are also during half term sending 4 members of staff to the University of Santander in Spain to enhance their Spanish speaking skills to support our children in our school which is a "special" dedicated Spanish Speaking Primary School by the Liverpool Authority.

All this and many other curricular and extra-curricular activities have meant that Mrs Winstanley and Mrs McCormick have lead the schools to achieve the "International Schools

Award". Thank you and well done to both staff. The Assessor said many wonderful things about our schools here is one phrase "This is an absolutely outstanding Impact Evaluation in every respect and a credit to your school. Your outline displays an understanding and appreciation of the importance of international learning as an integral part of the curriculum and school ethos. You demonstrate a sound grasp of the principles and mechanisms for embedding international learning into your curriculum" International School Award Team, British Council.

OCTOBER THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY:

A month in our Church which is focused on Our Lady the Mother of God and how she can lead us closer to him. I would ask all families to talk to the children about The Rosary and maybe even get out their Holy Communion Rosary or maybe their child's and say a prayer together, maybe even the Hail Mary. I would ask you to think about the many people who are sick, some that you know, for those family members who have gone before us to Heaven particularly recently, we send our prayers and best wishes to those families. Also the Rosary was and still is seen as a prayer to help us to seek peace in our lives and in our World. Below are The Mysteries we are praying these in school with your children. If you want to know more please contact Miss Brough or Miss McMahon. All of you and your families are in our thoughts and prayers each day.

JOYFUL MYSTERIES:

Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity of Christ, Presentation of the Christ Child in the Temple, Finding of the Christ Child in the Temple.

SORROWFUL MYSTERIES:

Agony in the Garden, Scourging at the Pillar, Crowning with Thorns, Carrying of the Cross, Crucifixion.

GLORIOUS MYSTERIES:

Resurrection, Ascension, Descent of the Holy Spirit, Assumption, Coronation of Mary.

LUMINOUS MYSTERIES:

Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, Manifestation of Jesus at the Wedding in Cana, Proclamation of the Kingdom of God, Transfiguration of Jesus, Institution of the Eucharist.

These could be prayed in the following way

Sunday	Glorious
Monday	Joyful
Tuesday	Sorrowful
Wednesday	Glorious
Thursday	Luminous
Friday	Sorrowful
Saturday	Joyful

To pray eg the Glorious Mysteries say 1 "Our Father" 10 "Hail Marys" and 1 "Glory be to the Father" using your Rosary Beads for each of the 5 Glorious Mysteries.

PTA:

ST SEBASTIAN'S AGM THURSDAY 16TH OCTOBER 6-7PM, A SEPERATE LETTER WILL FOLLOW.

THE BEST SCHOOLS HAVE GREAT HOME/SCHOOL CO-OPERATION:

Over recent months I have been disturbed by the number of incidents where we have had unnecessary and aggressive parents which has resulted in shouting, threats, demanding, intimidating Staff by touching them or taking up their space, posting on the Internet inaccurate

and challenging language. This is not exclusive to staff, I know that parents feel they can "take the law" into their own hands and be the same with other parents. The Governors and myself must make it very clear THIS IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. What isn't unacceptable is that you have a concern or complaint and we wish you to make this in a reasonable way. Aggressive behaviour is indiscriminate so it doesn't matter if other parents, children or visitors are there, the behaviour continues. Please don't be offended if you are told we will do our utmost to sort the problem out. We do consider that staff are available to you from 7.15am to 6.15pm and as St Sebastian's are open later I have been contacted even later than this, a rarity in most schools. We value you our parents but inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated. On occasions sadly we have parted company with families, this is better than unhappiness on either part.

Mr D Hardiman

Executive Head Teacher