

**St. Sebastian's Catholic Primary School - Tel 0151 260 9697**

15<sup>th</sup> December 2014,

Dear Parents/Guardians and Children,

Can I begin by thanking you for your support of your staff and school this term. Please continue to do this so that we can all be "the best" we can be.

**Christmas Gifts -Tuesday/Wednesday** - If you wish to make your gift then we all "thank you" in advance for your generosity. We suggest a) It is an age related gift to your child's age. Something they themselves would be delighted to receive. NOT WRAPPED PLEASE. B) Please send them in on Tuesday/Wednesday as we are hoping Everton in the Community will collect. Parents have asked can they do a child's gift as well as to their teacher. ALL STAFF have agreed that any personal gifts will be donated to our named charities. So PLEASE just a gift for a child this Christmas. C) We understand children parent want to say THANK YOU and Happy Christmas so a card either homemade or an inexpensive card would be FANTASTIC.

**Our Charity Collections: thank you all** - Mother Tereas Nuns - we will take any "food" you may wish to donate. **Marie Curie** - Many of you know that we sadly lost one of our mums after a long fight against cancer. We also lost our school cook earlier in the year, again to cancer. Both (as many others have) received excellent care and advice that the families really appreciated. We have already made a collection at the Panto and intend to make final collections on the school yard as many parents have asked us to do.

**Panto - Fantastic** - by our year 5 and year 6 children, written and directed by Mrs McCormick and of course Miss Davies. First a thanks to all who helped with makeup, costumes, scenery, music and lighting. This type of activity truly show when we pull together we can produce excellence. This is what the audience felt on the 2 nights giving the performances standing ovations. The children were wonderful and so talented considering that many were "unsure" of acting in front of an audience but they nailed it in true Panto tradition. Well done children you can be justly proud of yourselves because we are so proud of you. Now use this to continue to perform in all you do for the rest of the year and remember when you put your mind to it "everything is possible."

**PTA News-** Christmas Fayre - The final accounts were presented to the PTA meeting which is always the first Thursday of the Month. A fantastic profit £1500 was realised. They thank all who donated, went to shops, helped before, during and after the event. Christmas Bingo - A packed hall with parents and children playing together. A fantastic atmosphere. It is events like this that the help from parents is essential - from selling raffle tickets, bingo books, refreshments and tidying up. Breakfast with Santa - What great occasions on both mornings with Fr Christmas making an appearance. Again parent help is essential! So please think of the pleasure your child had and think about helping your PTA.

Can I thank those parents who have generously offered to join our PTA this year. St. Sebs tradition goes back over 30 years raising over half a million pounds. This is due to our enthusiastic parents and the school has an excellent reputational locally and nationally. The new parents have helped to reaffirm the value of all parents being supportive to our children and school alike. This is in contradiction to some parents who over the last few years have spoken and written "untrue and slanderous" remarks. Of course, they have never refused what the PTA

offered either to them or their children but never offered to help even to lift a chair. So for our new parents to come forward and to say we are PROUD of our children and school and want to help makes it even better and is very brave in the face of these detractors. With parents like this helping and supporting the aims and ethos of our school I am sure we will go on from strength the strength. But the need to attend meetings for ideas, offers of help is essential. I truly believe that you parents are vital for your children's well being, success and happiness, and together we can give all children who join our school OPPORTUNITIES that they may never have had. I am extremely proud of all the parent who have helped the PTA over all these years and have made St. Sebastian's a school to come to and enjoy - thank you!

We hope to Welcome you this week (See Calendar of events sent our last week) also listed on the school website. There are many occasions that parents are invited into school. You are welcome to any of the Christmas Events even if your child is not in that class. The very powerful and religious Christmas message is a celebration that God became a man to save us all and tell us to "Love One Another." Because children have a way of tell it their way I am sure you will enjoy it.

**Fantastic News St Sebastian's have hit the National and local Papers-** In fact friends from Blackpool rang and said congratulations because the schools were in the Daily Telegraph highlighted for doing so well. St. Sebastian's were the second best for Level 4's in Liverpool BUT for the gold mark "4b's" the school was the BEST. On Merseyside St. Sebs were placed third out of 450 primary schools on this criteria. The leading Local Authority School Improvement Officer sought me out to congratulate the children, teachers, support staff and parents. St Sebastian's were also in the top 1000 schools out of 16000 primary schools nationally. So well done to last year's Year 6 children on one of best results in Key Stage 2 SATS - a fine example to follow.

**School Finishes 2.30pm Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014  
School re opens Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015.**

Mr Dennis Hardiman  
**Executive Head Teacher.**