



**St Sebastian's
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31st March 2015

Dear Parents,

I would like to inform you all in both schools that we have sadly accepted the resignation of two staff members who have worked across the Federation for many years particularly with the youngest of our children.

Liz Fitzsimmons:- Liz came to us as a young teacher 6 years ago. She was the lead architect of the Early Years garden at St Cuthbert's which is visited by many teachers both from our city and outside. Certainly Liz spent much of her early teaching years at St Cuthbert's, in recent years much more based at St Sebastian's where she brought her Irish charm and good humour and her love of children to give them "the best chances" she could. Always one who would want to share news with others, always with her warm smile but totally professional and conscientious about giving her best. She has found recently that juggling her growing family with the needs of the children in her care was becoming increasingly harder. So Liz will remain as a great teacher but will be able to choose when she works. She has always been loyal and hardworking on our behalf over the federation and we shall always be grateful for the care she gave your children. We all wish her the very best in the future.

Louise Bridges:- I find it difficult to remember a time without Louise, who has been with us for 16 years. She has again worked with our younger children and most recently with Foundation 1 (Nursery class). She has always given her best to our schools. Always professional and with the children's interest at heart. She was given "leave of absence" and went to work abroad for a year BUT missed us so much had to return. Over recent years she has had the joy of motherhood and has tried so hard to give the very best to both and I have to say successfully that our children and parents wouldn't have been aware of how difficult this was for her. Louise has taken the decision to decide when she teaches and dedicate more time to her family. We shall

always be so grateful for her kindness, patience and teaching of our children both in and out of the classroom. She has been through many Ofsted inspections with the schools, the last being judged in the Early Years as outstanding. We wish her luck for the future and she should know she will always be welcomed back for a cup of tea. Staff will miss her in school and on staff nights out, we all remember how Louise would never let her standards slip! Her outfits and shoes always made a statement. “Louise how did you manage a full day’s work in those heels?!!”

As Early Years lead across the Federation, Angela Brough’s responsibility is to ensure that every child in our Early Years setting receives the highest quality provision as they start and continue their learning journey with us. Angela’s responsibility extends to implementing a smooth transition from Foundation Stage into Key Stage One; making sure children are fully equipped for their next stage of learning and are “school ready”.

As Angela and the Foundation teams from St Cuthbert’s and St Sebastian’s bid Liz Fitzsimmons and Louise Bridges a fond farewell, we wish them all the very best for their future and sincerely thank them both for their fantastic contribution towards the children’s lives over the years. We also wish Kate McMahon all the very best as she awaits the arrival of her first child. Whilst we understand that Liz, Louise and Kate will be a sad loss from our Foundation Unit at St Sebastian’s we have carefully selected new staff members to continue to provide the highest quality teaching for your children. We are delighted to welcome Sarah Cairns who will be covering Kate’s maternity leave. Sarah has taught in Canada, London and here in Liverpool over the past 6 years and is looking forward to joining our dedicated team.

We are also pleased to welcome Aimee Ankrah into St Sebastian’s Foundation Unit. Aimee has worked in St Cuthbert’s as the Foundation 1 teacher for the past 3 years and will be moving over to our Foundation 1 at St Sebastian’s after Easter. We thank Aimee for all her fantastic work as St Cuthbert’s Foundation 1 teacher and her contribution across our federation. We also warmly welcome Michelle Williams who will be our Foundation 1 teacher at St Cuthbert’s from after Easter. Michelle has thirteen years teaching experience in Early Years, she has spent many years teaching on the Wirral and is excited to continue her good practice here at St Cuthbert’s.

We are aware that there are several changes to our Foundation Units, however all members of our federation are keen to ensure that our high quality provision continues to be upheld across St Sebastian’s and St Cuthbert’s. I’m sure that children, staff and parents join me in thanking our staff members for the work they do across the federation and will warmly welcome the new members of staff to our teams.

A further Newsletter will follow tomorrow. School will close usual time tomorrow for the Easter break.

Dennis Hardiman
Executive Headteacher