



St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary
& Nursery School
Aviemore Road
Liverpool
L13 3BB

Telephone No/Fax: 0151 228 4137
Cuthberts-ao@st-cuthberts.liverpool.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr D Hardiman

16th May 2016

Dear Parents, Guardians and Children,

This newsletter contains important information regarding attendance. Please keep it safe so that you can refer to it in future.

Term dates up to July 2017 are printed on the back of this newsletter.

Attendance targets:

We need your help. The attendance target for all schools in Liverpool is 96.2% for this school year. We are currently achieving 95.5%. As you can see we are falling short of the target. Please make sure that you only keep your children off when they are genuinely too ill to attend. If your child is going to be off it is your responsibility to contact school and inform us of the reason for absence. It is the published policy of the school to ask for medical evidence for each absence especially any absence that is for 4 or more days. This evidence can be a prescription, sight of a prescribed medicine bottle, proof of attendance at a walk-in centre or a stamped appointment card from a doctors surgery. We are not asking you to obtain doctors notes or letters from doctors unless the absence is lengthy. We have been advised by the Education Welfare Officer that we should be robust in challenging frequent absence.

Holidays in term time:

As we have stated many times since September 2013 – the school can only grant time off in term time in exceptional circumstances. Holidays will never be considered to be exceptional circumstances and so can never be authorised. This rule has been made by the government and is backed up by the Local Authority and adhered to by the governors of this federation. If a child is taken on holiday in term time this will be reported to the Education Welfare Officer, a penalty notice will be issued and a fine will follow. You as parents are responsible for ensuring your children attend school every day that they are well enough to do so and so if relatives or friends surprise you with a holiday for your family in term time it is you that will receive the fine not them. If you would like to discuss this further please contact Mrs Turner in the office at St Cuthbert's.

If you take your child on holiday for two weeks you may think this is okay but what if your child then catches chickenpox and/or tonsillitis during the year? It is easy to fall into the Persistent Absence category if they have already had a holiday. When they return to school the teacher has to make sure they are able to catch up with any work missed and that they understand and are ready to build on their knowledge. What if several children in a class take holidays at different times? This means even more disruption to the class. If a child has two weeks absence in September it will take them until April/May before they climb out of the Persistent Absence category and this is assuming they are not ill in the meantime. Any child who has 90% and less attendance for the school year is considered to be a Persistent Absentee.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CHILD AND YOUR SCHOOL, HELP US TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THE EDUCATION THEY ARE ENTITLED TO - **DO NOT TAKE HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME.**





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Term dates May 2016 to July 2017

Summer Term 2016

Friday 27th May – Inset day staff only to attend
Half Term - Monday 30th to Friday 3rd June
Term ends 21st July 2016

New School Year

Autumn 2016

Monday, 5 September to Wednesday, 21 December 2016
Half Term – Monday, 24 to Friday, 28 October 2016

Spring 2017

Wednesday, 4 January to Friday, 7 April 2017
Half term – Monday, 20 to Friday, 24 February

Summer 2017

Monday, 24 April to Friday, 21 July 2017
May Day – Monday, 1 May 2017
Half Term – Monday, 29 May to Friday, 2 June 2017

Please note:

There will also be 5 Inservice Days of training for teachers when children do not attend school. These dates will be published as soon as they are set.

