



St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Aviemore Road, Liverpool, L13 3BB

Executive Head teacher Dennis Hardiman

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In Love with Christ: Be the Best I Can. Be kind to one another.

November 2016

Dear Parents & Carers

This letter is NOT a joint newsletter but one just for your child's school as there are several issues I need to address with you:

Attendance & Punctuality: Getting better thank you!!

I am delighted our children enjoyed their reward for reaching the attendance target and they were so well behaved in the cinema, well done to you all. There were in total only 20 out of 194 children not eligible for this visit.

Unfortunately there are some children/families who keep our attendance LOWER than I would want. As our partner school in CHONQING in China couldn't understand and asked us "WHY would parents **NOT** send their children into school it is their opportunity to achieve". Absences in their school of over 1200 primary children is minimal and was shown on TV this week. Some of our children are 80% to 90% this means they lose at least HALF A DAY every week this again means they lose 10 FULL SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR. If this pattern continues for their 7 years at primary school they lose **nearly HALF A YEAR'S SCHOOLING**. This is what all the fuss is about we know your child being in school has the best chances in life **AFTER** school.

The next "incentive" is a visit to the ICE SKATING again this is for a least 96% attendance pupils. This is taken from the HALF TERM or the whole year whatever is the BEST figure. We will continue to insist all of our children have every opportunity to attend school. This is the BEST way that they can live the school motto "Be The Best I Can, Be Kind To One Another". So Mrs F Turner who was based in the office but is now our Attendance Officer and our Child Protection & Safeguarding Personnel will be doing her best to track and support all our of children as her recent letter explained.

E-Safety and Message from our Community Police Office – PC Chris Cruise

We have just completed Anti-Bullying Week. **FACT** this has increased **frighteningly** since Social Media sites have been used by children to communicate with others. Our School Community Police Officer Chris Cruise has said quite clearly that "primary school children" **should not** be using *Facebook, SnapChat, Instagram or other such chat sites*, in fact it is **illegal** as the terms and conditions of use clearly state aged 13+ years. Giving false information is a crime. **IF** films are given an 18+ years certificate you would be FURIOUS if an 8-10 year old was allowed to watch it. It has got to such an epidemic level that school, who are dealing with "Cyber-Bullying" have strict guidance to follow. We will, with **PARENTS** try to protect our children and we will act. Last year across the Federation I excluded several children and asked parents maybe to look for another school as "permanent exclusion" would be the next step, your children's safety is both our priority and duty as parents and teachers.





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Use of PHONES on SCHOOL SITE NOT PERMITTED (except in a designated room inside of school)

Once you cross onto school property then PHONES should be SWITCHED OFF. This is for **YOUR** child's protection. I **KNOW** parents and teachers would be **HORRIFIED** if one of our children were photographed and posted on the internet, especially an inappropriate site. I have attended a course recently and I was stunned and distressed by what some people had put on the internet using children's images.

I need to know as you do that the school is doing **EVERYTHING** to keep your child on the school site SAFE. So I hope you will help me "POLICE our school" by asking those who ignore the No phone signs to calmly/gently say they are **NOT** allowed on site.

Good Behaviour for ALL who come into school

Recently school staff have had to deal with difficult situations with Parents/Adults who have an issue that they want to be sorted or children who feel they can act inappropriately. This is **not** acceptable. Staff and parents: should not be the subject of abuse, aggressive body language, hitting or verbal insults, (shouting or loud voices). We have experienced this from parents and children recently. **IF** there is an issue we will try to deal with it together. Often there is not only another side to a story, there are **several**. Certainly I wouldn't expect to hear bad or abusive language including swearing or name calling by parents or children. Staff have been told that **if** a meeting isn't working to **stop it** and to ask parents to leave and try to rearrange. I tell children not to call anyone names I do expect adults to demonstrate the same restraint.

Please remember we are a fantastic school and the children by and large are such a credit to their families **but** several of you have been distressed by situations as outlined above. I have recently had to follow our school Behaviour Policy and exclude children from certain parts of their school life as they have shown total disrespect to staff of the school, used racist comments, left classrooms or been disruptive. We try to be understanding **but** children and parents do have to make choices and decide do they want to follow the "ethos" of our school. If they or their children don't want to, then probably this isn't the school for them.

FINALLY:

I don't apologise for my views, which I know the vast majority of our children and parents agree with because they want a brilliant school and they help to make it brilliant. So the small minority both adults and children need to conduct themselves in line with school regulations both adults and children. ALL I can promise is that the next newsletter will be full of the great things happening at St Cuthbert's.

Yours faithfully

Mr Dennis Hardiman
Executive Headteacher

