

St Sebastian's Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Holly Road, Fairfield, Liverpool, L7 0LH

Head teacher Dennis Hardiman

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Only my best will do; Be kind to one another

23rd 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 **nearl**y 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 "Only my best will do; 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 of our children as her recent letter explained.

E-Safety and Message from our Community Police Office –

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 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.

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.





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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 from ALL who use our school including picking up or dropping off (parking).

Recently "school staff" have had to deal with difficult situations with parents / adults who have an issue they want to be sorted out (either in person or on the phone) who feel they can act in a certain inappropriate way by being loud, shouting, using inappropriate language, being totally disrespectful to staff. This cannot and will not be tolerated. Sadly, this has been seen as "abusive" and shown itself in name calling by parent to parent, child to child and parent to child and the other way round. We have children who feel they can also say inappropriate things to other children and staff. This is seen in name calling which on a very few occasions have been of a racist nature, shouting and hitting staff as well as refusing to follow instructions and running away, again TOTALLY unacceptable behaviour. We have a "wonderful school" that the vast majority of our parents and children with the staff have created, we must protect this reputation by NOT being afraid to point out those who would try to spoil it. I have to repeat that "other" people who come to our school think the children are "brilliant" as I do.

Sadly, our "Crossing Person", other parents and children have experienced "PARKING RAGE" that again is NOT acceptable. When dropping off or picking up WHATEVER the weather there is NO parking by ANYONE, including drivers with disability badges or taxis, on the ZIG ZAG lines. Those in a taxi MUST tell the driver NOT to park on these. The car park for the Field of Dreams can be used by Badge Holders to drop off IF necessary. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure whoever uses a car to pick up knows the rules.

We do not want any sort of accident to happen to our children or parents coming to school and we certainly don't want the horror of a fatality which is the "message" of the "Bobby Campaign" about road safety around schools especially at the beginning and end of the day.

FINALLY I don't apologise for pointing out these issues to you as the majority of you will totally agree with me and the Governors to ensure "A SAFE, WELCOMING AND FAMILY/COMMUNITY SCHOOL" that we are proud of and long may this continue.

All I can promise is that the next newsletter will report all the great things happening at St Sebastian's.

Dennis Hardiman

Executive Headteacher

