



**St Sebastian's  
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**St. Cuthbert's  
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19<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dear Parents and Children,

We have had several parents adversely affected by the change in the type of benefit that they are entitled to – those being moved on to Universal Credit. Apparently eligibility for Free School Meals is temporarily suspended while the transfer of benefit is taking place and we have been informed that you must reapply to have them reinstated – it is not automatic. Can I ask that you let me know (in confidence) if you have been affected by this.

I would like to update you on the current situation regarding attendance in both schools. You should bear in mind that the targets that have been set for each school to achieve by the end of this school year are as follows: St Cuthbert's 97% and St Sebastian's 98%. These targets have been set by the Local Authority in accordance with targets set by Central Government. We are judged in comparison with every other primary school in England.

St Cuthbert's		St Sebastian's	
F2	93.9%	F2	95.2%
Y1	95.2%	Y1	98%
Y2	96.5%	Y2	97.1%
Y3	95.3%	Y3	97.3%
Y4	96.5%	Y4	97%
Y5	97.2%	Y5	96.6%
Y6	96.3%	Y6	97.3%
Total	95.8%	Total	96.9%

As you can see from this table we are struggling to meet our targets at the moment but I am sure that we can turn this around if we all work together and make sure children are only off school when they are genuinely too ill to attend. Please let me know if there is anything stopping your child from attending school regularly – there may be something we can do to help.

It is important that all children arrive in to school on time. This gives them a good start to the day and helps them achieve their full potential. Please do not be offended

if you are met by the Attendance officer when bringing your child in late – we have a duty to promote good attendance AND punctuality and to challenge parents when necessary.

### Competition

Each child will be given a piece of paper to bring home so that they can draw a picture promoting good attendance and / or punctuality. We would also like them to think about a new slogan. The following are some examples of slogans / titles of pictures (or you can make up a new one)

*Be in line at five to nine*

Attend today, achieve tomorrow

*Be here, get there*

Every day in school matters

*It's cool to be in school everyday*

Missing school = missing out

*On time and on target*

Timing is everything – get to school on time

*Being here is half the battle.*

The pictures should be returned to class by Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January and a prize will be awarded to be best / most imaginative picture in each class.