



**St Sebastian's
Catholic Primary School**

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**St. Cuthbert's
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28th April 2017

Dear Parents / Guardians and Children,

Attendance Newsletter

I am writing to ask for your help over the course of the next term in school. I am sure you will be aware that we have had several bouts of illness in both schools ranging from chicken pox and scarlet fever to tummy bugs and throat infections. The result of this is that the overall attendance levels have dropped significantly. We have been set challenging attendance targets by the Local Authority and we must do our best to strive to achieve them. This means that children should only be kept off school when they are genuinely too ill to attend and holidays in term time should not be taken under any circumstances.

You may believe that a holiday is only one or two weeks out of school for your child and it won't have any long term effect. This is not true and it affects the whole class because your child needs extra help if they are going to catch up on work missed. Also, what would happen if all thirty children in the class took two weeks holiday in term time? Please support your school in our attempt to help your children to achieve their full potential – send them to school every day.

Traffic Light Letters

All children have received their spring term "traffic light letters". If you would like to discuss this please contact me through the school office.

Truancy Watch by Police and Local Authority Officers

A new protocol has been introduced by the Local Authority in partnership with Merseyside Police in relation to children being out of school during the school day. If your child has a medical appointment during school hours you should show the appointment letter or card at the school office and you will be issued with an authorisation pass which shows that your child has permission to be out of school and also shows the time they are expected to return. The police and Education Welfare Officers will be stopping children that they come across on their patrols (children on their own AND those accompanied by an adult) and they will ask to see their authorisation pass. If an authorisation pass cannot be produced the child / children may be returned to school by the officers.

Yours sincerely, Mrs F Turner Attendance officer

