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**St. Cuthbert's
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Executive Head Teacher: Dennis Hardiman M.B.E.

Dear Parents,

As we close the schools for half term, I felt it important to share some of the events of the past few weeks.

Our thoughts are with Manchester and the devastated families:

Like all of us in school I realise our families feel the same at the indiscriminate murder of innocent lives in Manchester. Several parents, including myself, have spoken and thought about how they or their children could have been there. I attended a special mass at our Cathedral celebrated by the Archbishop and eight other priests on Tuesday evening to pray for the victims and families especially those who had died or were injured some still critical. I signed the Book of Condolence on behalf of all of our school and families. We will remember them in our prayers and have joined the nation in a moment of respect at 11am today. May they rest in peace.

Congratulations:

To all our children and staff who have completed national tests called SATs in Year 6 and Year 2. Several other groups will also be tested nationally. I am sure about assessment (testing) but I am equally convinced successive governments have got it wrong. I just ask myself why over the past few years "Children's Well Being" has hit the headlines, there are various reasons for this including feeling under pressure about tests/exams.

Isn't it lovely?.....But protect your children:

Certainly the good weather is a welcome sight BUT please protect our children's delicate skin by applying sun cream before they come into school (we can't do this) and provide suitable head wear, remember it is not an Easter Bonnet Parade. Please make sure that all belongings are labelled.

General Elections:

The school has been informed by Martyn Brougham, Senior Electoral Assistant that, “Unfortunately by law we can use any school within the Liverpool City Council boundary so we will be using the schools as Polling Stations on the 8th June.”

So unfortunately, St Cuthbert’s Foundation Unit Only will be closed to our children and will be a Polling Station from early morning until late at night.

St Sebastian’s Foundation Unit will remain open as it was for the local election as a suitable secure and big enough room, taking into consideration Child Protection issues with having strangers on site, has been accepted by the Liverpool City Council.

Education Issues in the General Election:

There are MASSIVE fears that the Government has identified that over the next three years it intends to make savings in Education. The talk is that they want to save £3 BILLION. All teaching unions feel this will be disastrous with many schools losing staff (already happening) and increases in class sizes. The argument of the Government is that education has never had as much money as it does now factually true BUT this has meant, as with public sector workers a freeze on wages, no real and sustainable budget increases to support effective opportunities for learning. Services, which in the past were paid for by educational systems, now need to be paid for by schools themselves. To set a budget, our governors have had to go into our reserves to provide the education we know both you and the schools believe is their right. We will not have reserves as other schools next year.

Next half term:

Next half term will prove to be very busy indeed, with a packed timetable of events, transition meetings and school activities for all year groups. We will be sending out a list of confirmed events.

Forthcoming Inset Days:

The following Inset Days for the Autumn Term, have been confirmed:

Monday 4th September 2017

Friday 22nd September 2017

Friday 20th October 2017

Dennis Hardiman M.B.E.

Executive Head Teacher