



**St Sebastian's  
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**St. Cuthbert's  
Catholic Primary School**  
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**Executive Headteacher : Dennis Hardiman MBE**

8 September 2017

Good Attendance is ESSENTIAL for Good Achievement both in and out of the classroom.

I do hope you all agree to this. This is why as a Federation we have a member of staff Mrs Turner, dedicated to ensuring your child has their legal entitlement to 100% educational opportunity. She does work with our teachers, EWO, legal advisors and governors to help our parents fulfil this LEGAL REQUIREMENT and importantly give all of our children the opportunity to be a success in their future.

There were children who missed out from achieving a target pass or exceptional pass for either SATS or end of year exams. Those marks probably could have been achieved if they hadn't been off during the year. Poor attendance has also impacted on sport and residential.

- 1) Missing out on the opportunity to play 7 a-side at Anfield
- 2) Opportunity to a Merseyside Champions at Cross Country
- 3) Not getting to other finals in netball, hockey, matball, athletics both indoor and outdoor, cross country, swimming, water polo
- 4) Not going to events such as skiing, Colomendy

Children who were off either ill, not wanting to be in or taking holidays in school time, missed once in a life time opportunities BUT in some circumstances so did the rest of the team so other children suffered also.

The Government actually judge how OUTSTANDING a school community is by saying an outstanding school will have outstanding attendance because the children and parents WANT to be in school. This is really when parents are judged as it is their responsibility to ensure their child is in, NOT to make excuses why they are not.

If your child is genuinely too ill to come in to school it is your responsibility to make contact with the school office by 9:30am. You will be asked to provide medical evidence for the absence to be authorised. We did not meet our attendance target last school year and this was because of holidays taken in term time and children being kept off for longer than necessary "just to make sure". If your child is well they can return to school and we can give medication if necessary. Holidays in term time will not be authorised under any circumstances. The Education Welfare officer will be informed and a fine will be issued.

Attendance prizes, traffic light letters and attendance trips will all be affected by absences (whatever the reason). Please be aware that the rules governing these areas have been set by governors and are non-negotiable.

Your child should arrive at school in time to come in off the yard with the rest of their class. This sets them up for a good day and allows them to fully participate in the work of the class. 5 minutes may seem nothing to you but the effect on your child can be substantial. All children arriving late **MUST** be accompanied to the office by an adult and give a reason for lateness.

If you would like to discuss any of the above or anything else regarding attendance please contact Freda Turn via the school offices.

Yours sincerely

Mr Dennis Hardiman MBE  
Executive Headteacher

## TERM DATES & INSET DAYS

### AUTUMN TERM 2017

Monday 4 September - Thursday 21 December 2017

*(Half term Monday 23 October to Friday 27 October 2017)*

### SPRING TERM 2018

Monday 8 January - Friday 23 March 2018

*(Half term Monday 12 to Friday 16 February 2018)*

### SUMMER TERM 2018

Monday 9 April - Tuesday 24 July 2018

*(Half term Monday 28 May to Friday 1 June 2018)*

**MAY DAY MONDAY 7 MAY 2018**

### INSET DAYS

Monday 4 September 2017

Friday 22 September 2017

Friday 20 October 2017

Monday 23 July 2018

Tuesday 24 July 2018