



St Sebastian's Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Holly Road, Fairfield, Liverpool, L7 0LH

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Only my best will do; Be kind to one another

15th February 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians

Now that half term is here, I do like to reflect back as it is the half way point of the year across the Federation, but especially of our school of St Sebastian's.

Half-Yearly assessment and parent/pupil/teacher meeting: Interim assessments have now been completed. Parents' Evening will be after half term (Wednesday 20th March). There will be no written report but an opportunity to talk to your child's teacher about their progress, targets, behaviour and attendance. In addition we will share successes and information that will make your child's school experience the best it can be for them and you as parents.

Some brilliant news to share with you all: Congratulations on a National Education Outcomes Award (SSAT). For the 4th consecutive year, this is every year since this award has been given for SATs performance nationally in primary schools. What an achievement!! Children's attainment in the top 20%. A quote from the letter we received- "This means that your school has enabled pupil's attainment at both expected and higher standards at Key Stage 2 in reading, writing and maths to be in the top 20% of all schools nationally. This follows on from the successes locally, regionally and nationally reported in The Liverpool Echo and The Times.

We are extremely proud of the achievements of our school and our children as follows:

DfE: Department of Health: Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. *"In recognition of the outstanding success of schools (such as yours) we introduced the PLATINUM AWARD to acknowledge nationally your commitment to health, wellbeing and wide breadth of sports and opportunities. You are in an ELITE group of around 120 schools which have achieved this honour TWICE."*

We receive many appreciative comments about what we do as an example of exemplary practice not only locally but nationally. We can all feel very proud that this has been recognised by Ministers of Government and MPs. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated staff, who not only go the extra 100 miles but at times do have to deal with challenging behaviour and comments from pupils and parents. They do this to enable the vast majority of our pupils and parents to interact together to let our children shine and prove they are as good as anyone anywhere no excuses for not being the best they can be.

Some more Good News: We are delighted to tell you that this week we heard that Miss Devine, our Assistant Head Teacher had given birth to a handsome baby boy Owen 6lb 3oz. Parents and baby are all doing well. Mrs Lunt (Miss O'Callaghan) our SENCO co-ordinator based at St Cuthbert's has also given birth to a beautiful baby girl Emily 7lb 13oz, again parents and baby our doing well. We



have sent them all our good wishes and congratulations from the children, staff, parents and governors.

Many thanks to our PTA past and present: For the many events you organise- the bingo last night, a great example to raise money that the school does not have. They have committed £15000 towards a replacement astro-turf. This is about a third of the cost of the quotes we have received. It is 15 years old and certainly the most popular of areas for both curriculum and play activities so much so it has to have a 'rota' for use. We are struggling to find the rest of the money (£30,000) so any sponsors or ideas to raise this money would be appreciated.

A reminder to all our parents "Use of Internet": What a world this has opened up BUT so much misuse of it that we do have to be 'vigilant' both at home and school. We will continue to 'police' and act upon how our pupils use or more importantly misuse social media etc. The arrival and the acceptance of 'mobile phones' has brought a whole new dimension to what they are used for and the purpose of such young children having phones. I MUST EMPHASISE ONCE AGAIN TO PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, CHILDREN: MOBILE PHONES MUST BE SWITCHED OFF ON OUR SITES MAIN SCHOOL AND FIELD OF DREAMS. You demand of the school that we protect your children THEN PLEASE follow this rule. I have been to a number of Child Protection courses where the use of mobile phones to transfer images of children (some doctored) has horrified the 200 people in the room. Please do not say you are using it to just listen to music or check the time. Switch it off. I imagine the majority of parents are as disgusted as I am. Having, with the Site Manager, patrolled the car parking before and after school and writing a letter about it regarding how your children are at risk, then when we are not there, some parents think they can do it again!! I have to say this 'immaturity' baffles and disappoints me. If an accident to a child or parent happens because of ignoring our SAFETY CODE, the governors will take the case to the highest 'legal' level. Please again do not ignore or respond aggressively to myself or my staff, as I have had to do a few times, as you will be invited to take your child out of school. May I emphasise to all parents IF you ask someone else to collect your child they also must understand our rules and that is your responsibility to make them aware. Also, if you have a taxi dropping you off they must adhere to the rules and laws to protect your children. I have reported illegal dropping off and waiting to the police and provided registration numbers. They have no more right to park on school marking than parents have at designated times.

Reminder for our children: Full school uniform and sensible shoes. No extreme haircuts (shaven heads/colouring in) if hair is collar length or longer it must be tied back boy or girl. No make-up including nail varnish. No earrings to be worn in school. PE Kit and trainers to be in school to do PE. I don't know why but truly if your child is fit to be in school they are fit to do PE. There are exceptions eg severe medical reasons, broken bones etc but certainly not colds.

Good news for St Cuthbert's: The builders are setting up their site on part of the old fruit and veg market. So now the 4.42 million that the DfE has given to the Archdiocese at the beginning of February actioned the start of the building of the new school for our federation and parish. The school has lost all of its playgrounds. Also all of its parking space as we have to have outdoor areas to allow the children to get some fresh air. I am looking for old picnic tables to create an area for the children to read and play board games, draw, colour in etc. If you have any unwanted ones of know of others please let me know. With grateful thanks from the children of St Cuthbert's.

Sporting Activities and Achievement: This half term children from year 1 to year 6 have been representing this school and federation mostly indoor but with some outdoor football. We are delighted with the high standards we always display. In Indoor Athletics, we were 2nd in the city for

year 5 and year 6 and also for year 3 and year 4. The footballers have done really well and like the indoor athletics children our girls football have been asked to represent Liverpool at the Merseyside Youth Games a tremendous achievement well done girls we are very proud of you.

After half-term, we are fully involved in Year 5&6 Football, Cross-County, Netball, Indoor Athletics, Hockey and much more including Choir and Speech Choir Festivals. I am so proud of our children who represent our school and are proud to do so as a team. We are only as good with everyone contributing. Our first event is right after half-term- 28th February Cross- Country at Sefton Park.

School returns after the Half Term break Monday 25th February normal time.

Dennis Hardiman M.B.E

Jacqui Mulligan

Executive Head Teacher

Head of School

Term Dates for Next Academic Year 2019/2020:

Autumn Term 2019

- **Starts:** Monday 2nd September (Inset day for pupils)
- **Ends:** Friday 20th December
- **Half Term:** Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November

Spring Term 2020

- **Starts:** Monday 6th January
- **Ends:** Friday 3rd April
- **Half term:** Monday 17th to Friday 21st February

Summer Term 2020

- **Starts:** Monday 20th April
- **Ends:** Monday 20th July (Inset day for pupils)
- **May Day Holiday:** Monday 4th May
- **Half Term:** Monday 25th to Friday 29th May