

8th September 2017

Federation of St Cuthbert's and St Sebastian's.

Dear Parents and Children

Welcome back to a brand new school year and that buzz and excitement, was felt here in your schools. That "first day" back feeling can never be duplicated quite the same. The children have been talking "none stop" about their summer time so they, their classmates and their teachers have laughed and smiled at their stories. What a shame that even on one of the most important days of the year, we didn't have 100% attendance and I can only presume this is because some parents didn't feel it was important.

Congratulations to all our ex-pupils in their Public Exams. It is marvellous to hear from parents, ex-parents and ex-pupils relaying in school some of their good results in GCSEs and A Levels. We do hope all have done as well or better, than expected and that their hard work was rewarded with "great" news on results day. Please let us know how well you do, as we are always so proud of all our children who continue to follow the school Mission Statement of doing their best in all they do. By the way, also congratulations to a number of ex-pupils who have been awarded their Degrees from university this year.

To all in the Federation but especially parents and children of St Cuthbert's:

After a long long wait (due to national politics) the governors were informed that the EFA (Education Funding Agency) have given approval to commence the procurement process for a new school for St Cuthbert's. This is the start and I am lead to believe, can't now be stopped, of governors, teachers, children and parents linking in with Government Agencies, Local Government and most importantly the Archdiocese to build a new school for our school community. The first meeting, has already been put in the diary for next week. Exciting times ahead. So the hard work of the Federation over 10 years is rewarded (not with a closure notice that we received all those years ago), but with the Government and Archdiocese investing money (millions) to build a new school and we will want it to be the best money can buy. This is because they consider the education and the standards the school has achieved stand up to national scrutiny and are happy to help the Governors build a school to mirror the outstanding school we have made in our 90+ year old building.

This final sentiment, which is also felt at St Sebastian's, where lots of investment into building works has been carried out by the Archdiocese in the last 5 years, worth close to 1 million on the school and Field of Dreams site, is reflected in the Parent and Children's Questionnaire. Thank you for this and the results will be shared very soon with you all. The provision of KS1 & KS2 results have delighted myself and staff as well as our Governors and our School Improvement Partner, Mrs Angela Allen as being amongst the best locally and compare well or better against schools nationally.

Reward for good attendance:

Although 100% is our target, we have set a minimum of 96% for our attendance reward trips. We have been given tickets for Chester Zoo and school with support from parents, will help pay for transport. This trip will be early in the school year, so any absence may stop your child

going. Last year we were also given "Attendance Reward Tickets" for Ice Skating and we are hoping to have other rewards also. But children must reach the target % to go on these educational reward visits just like the ski trip.

We also had several children last year that had really good attendance but punctuality (being in on time) was very poor maybe between 20 and 60 times late in the school year. Therefore being in on time will be another factor to being allowed certainly on Reward Educational Visits.

Too many children are not collected from school on time, these may be directed to the Afterschool Club which will then have to be paid for by parents.

The Summer brought sadness to many:

Our thoughts and sympathies go out to those people who suffered any loss, either through what is known as "Hate Crime", or by disaster such as fire or floods worldwide. We also extend our prayers and thoughts to colleagues and families who have lost Mums and Dads or family members during the holiday period "may they rest in peace". The staff said a special prayer at our training day for all these people who are so sad at this moment in time and ask you to pray for them as probably many of you have done.

School Prospectus: Good Behaviour Handbook:

These are in the final stages at the printers and will be distributed at the October Parents Meetings. This year every child/family will receive a booklet. In future years, it will be children/parents NEW to the school.

School Uniform:

Many thanks for your continued support of "school uniform". You have done your school proud the children are a credit to you. They do look not only SMART but also they feel so PROUD, well done. Don't forget, PE uniform is a MUST and information regarding this will be in the next newsletter.

Monday 11th September PE Kit Inspection.

Tuesday 12th September Annual Assessment Run at Newsham Park.

ALSO another reminder:

- 1) Extreme haircuts eg shaven heads to fit into fashion styles are not allowed, nor are razor designs in hair. PLEASE just sensible haircuts smart and practical.
- 2) Long hair (below the collar or covering eyes etc) must be tied back for health and safety reasons this includes both boys and girls.
- 3) The only jewellery allowed is a watch which the school accepts no liability for loss or damage. Earrings are NOT allowed (or need to be covered).
- 4) No make up or painted nails.
- 5) Shoes should be "sensible" and "practical" so no heels. Also, shoes should not be slipper like and need to be waterproof black and not a trainer type shoe.
- 6) Change of footwear is necessary for PE, trainers or plimsolls with socks will be necessary (not school shoes).
- 7) Gymnastics/dance, will be done in bare feet in the gym.

As a Catholic Primary School:

Our mission is to follow what Jesus Christ taught us "To love one another", "To forgive each other" and "To support each other". This is why part of our curriculum is written by the Archdiocese that we follow as we were built to do this. We hope to share with you all via our website and information sent to you about this mission. We are "all inclusive schools" and where there is room we do accept families from different countries also other beliefs and faiths who do understand we don't, unlike some schools, have the facilities or staff to exclude children from our curriculum, which is very similar to many worldwide religions which we also teach. If parents feel uncomfortable on any issues, but particularly these mentioned here, please do come and speak to myself or the Head of School about your feelings as we do as Christ tells us "Welcome all".

Prayers with Children:

Some of our children seem unsure of prayers at mass and in class. We have given each child a copy of The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary and Glory Be. Please support us in ensuring the children know these well. Prayer is a way to talk to God, these prayers can help and are used often. Children of other faiths may not feel it appropriate to say these prayers but can say their own prayer at the same time.

Cardinal Heenan Meetings for present Year 6 boys: (parents can attend either or both) and applications for ALL Year 6 children to Secondary Schools next year:

Tuesday 12th September 5.30pm at St Sebastian's school for Year 6 from St Sebastian's and St Cuthbert's. I am hoping ex-pupils will speak at this presentation. Nothing better than hearing from boys in our community telling us about our Secondary School.

Monday 18th September Open Evening for 2018 Year 7 pupils (present Year 6) at Cardinal Heenan school.

Parents can attend either of these meetings to discuss transition to secondary school for their child. Cardinal Heenan is our feeder boys secondary school which if you are entitled to go to we encourage. CERTAINLY if you are attending other secondary school Open Occasions then you really should look at what is an entitlement for most of our boys.

The secondary transfer process is now open and applications need to be made on line or on paper by 31st October 2017 at www.liverpool.gov.uk if you are a Liverpool resident under school admissions. Paper applications can be requested if you do not have access to an on line facility. The website provides all the necessary information on the process. If you are unsure or just want to talk about your feelings please ask in school and we can help with this extremely important process, not applying for a Year 7 school place can be disastrous for your child.

To finish with an exciting year ahead. Myself, Heads of School and staff are really buzzing about it. The staff spent days during the holidays preparing their classrooms as did the premises staff to make sure the school sites were sparkling. We do hope together with our parents we can make it special for all our children.

Dennis Hardiman M.B.E

Executive Head Teacher