



St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

A Catholic Voluntary Academy, Part of
Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust

Cookgate, Nunthorpe
Middlesbrough, TS7 0PZ

Tel: 01642 310198

E mail: st.bernadettes@mcschools.org.uk

Head Teacher: Mr P. Conway



September Newsletter 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome

We have been delighted to welcome the children back to school this week. Following a week in their new classes in July it has been great to see so many happy faces skipping into class and ensure we hit the ground running!

Attendance and holiday requests

Our attendance figure for 2017-18 was 96.4%. Our school target is 96.7%. Every school day is precious and pupil leave in term time will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. We thank you in advance for your commitment to your child's education. Mrs Simpson and I track attendance across the year. We can call upon the help of an attendance officer should there be an indication of persistent absence or lateness for individual children. For any holiday requests, a form must be used. This is available from the school office, and must be completed and supported by evidence e.g. letters from employers, work rotas, wedding invitations etc. prior to the event. This is for every absence including long weekends or single days. The back of the form outlines the policy on penalty notices.

Uniform

Standard of uniform is exceptionally high - thank you. The children look 'as smart as carrots!'

Our uniform shows that we are part of St Bernadette's Primary School community, and we have the highest expectations with regards to school uniform. Please can we maintain this high standard and encourage all children to wear their uniform smartly. Please could we ask that particular attention is given to the following:

- ☒ All uniform is clearly labelled with the child's name.
- ☒ Ties to be worn with shirts.
- ☒ Long hair must be tied back.
- ☒ Small plain bows can be worn.
- ☒ Skirts should be of an appropriate and modest length.
- ☒ Shirts/blouses to be tucked in.
- ☒ Haircuts to be appropriate (no tramlines, patterns or sculpting).

Earrings

Only small stud earrings are suitable for school. This is to prevent accidents as children are very active at playtimes. Earrings must be removed for PE. Children who have recently had their ears pierced will be given tape to cover their ears before PE lessons. Staff cannot be held responsible for lost earrings. No other jewellery is permitted for school.

School Lunches

Mrs Martin, our fabulous School Cook, has produced 3 weekly revised menus. They are available on the school website and around the school. School will of course still cater for specific dietary requirements; if you want to discuss this further please contact the school office. Please can we remind you that the school needs 2 weeks' written notice if your child changes from school dinners to packed lunch or vice versa.

PE Kits

It is important that our children are ready and equipped for their weekly PE sessions and we have school PE kits for that purpose. Plimsolls should be provided for indoor PE sessions and trainers and appropriate warm clothing for outdoors/KS2 cross country. We also have outdoor hoodies for children to wear during the winter months.

St Hilda's Catholic Academy Trust

Company No: 09203984

Registered Address: Trinity Catholic College, Saltersgill Avenue, Middlesbrough, TS4 3JW

Maths Club

Maths club has continued as usual in the new term, for Years 3 – 6. The club runs from 8.10am – 8.40am. The cost remains at £48.00 each term. If you child currently attend the club, the payment will be due to pay via ParentPay. Please enquire if you wish your child to join.

Key Stage 2 Schools In / Maths Club

In the good weather children are allowed on the playground from 8.30am. The playground is supervised by a member of teaching staff. Year 3-6 children who attend Maths Club or Schools Out are allowed onto the playground at 8.30am. If you want your child to remain in Maths Club or Schools In until registration at 8.40am please can you advise a member of staff.

Parking

Start as we mean to go on....Please can we ask that you continue to park your cars respectfully around the school area (including Skiddaw Court). You are not permitted to park before or after school over drives and on the yellow zig-zag lines.

Collecting children from school

If for whatever reason there is a change to the usual person collecting your child from school, this may be an invitation to another child's home, a party etc. Please can you ensure that it is the parent /carer who makes the school aware as to who will be collecting their child.

Walking to/from School

Please note that only children in Years 5 and 6 may walk/cycle home from school unaccompanied, and permission must be given from a parent/carers. Forms are available from the School Office. Without written consent we will not allow children to leave the school grounds.

Mobile Phones

If your child has a mobile phone for walking to and from school, a consent form is also required. Forms are available from the School Office.

Mobile phones are to be handed in to a class teacher each morning, they will then be held in the school office until collected at the end of the day.

School Nurse

Should anyone have any new or regular medical concerns with their children such as bed wetting, nits etc. Please inform the school office who will make contact with our school nursing team. Our website also contains relevant generic health advice.

Twitter

If you have a Twitter account, please follow us. We have a private account you can access easily through the school website or Twitter. To protect the safety of the account only parents, family and known friends to the school will be accepted. The school twitter feed is a great way of finding out about the wide variety of curricular and extra-curricular activities which go on throughout the school day.

Dinner Money

School dinners now cost of £2 per day (£10 per week). Dinners must be paid for in advance, preferably by ParentPay. If you have forgotten your log in details, or don't have one please see the office staff.

Donations

Schools Out are seeking donations of good quality scooters and foot push vehicles for their outdoor provision. If anyone has any goods that would be of use please can you drop them in at the school office.

Artsmark

Following several Art projects in school, Mrs Whitfield and Mr Lynn recently applied for Artsmark which recognised the schools contribution to Art across the curriculum. Their hard work has been accredited with a Silver award.

Games Mark

Mrs Mannion has also completed our Sports Mark application. We achieved a Bronze award for our inclusive contribution towards competitive in school and out of school sport.

Future events

PTA

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the PTA will be held on Wednesday 19th September at 7.30pm in school. Rachael Arnold, our chair of the PTA, has requested to step down from her role so we need to appoint a new chair. We thank Rachael for her proactive leadership in her role ensuring much needed funding for our school. If you would like to support the work of the PTA or offer your assistance in a key role within the committee please come along. We actively encourage new members to our meetings and remind you all that you all members of our Parent Teacher Association and your support and ideas are really appreciated. The PTA hope to organising a Welcome weekend in the coming weeks. More details of this and other future events will be provided following the AGM.

Education Mass

Every year Bishop Terry celebrates Mass for our community of schools in St. Mary's Cathedral. This year the Education Mass will take place on Tuesday 2nd October at 7pm in St. Mary's Cathedral. Bishop Terry extends a welcome to children and parents if they would like to join the teachers.

Parent Teacher Consultations

In November we will hold our Parent / Teacher meetings. As last year, we will offer either joint meetings involving your child/parent/teacher or a parent/teacher meeting only. These will take place during the week in mid-November; further details will follow in future newsletters.

Christmas Productions

There will be a slightly different format this year for the Christmas Productions as follows:

Wednesday 28th November - Years 5 & 6 – Advent Liturgy & Carols 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Friday 7th December – Years 3 & 4 – Dress the Tree & Carols 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Wednesday 12th December – Years 1 & 2 – Nativity Production 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Wednesday 19th December – Nursery AM and Reception – Nativity Production 10:00am – 11:00am
Nursery PM and Reception – Nativity Production 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch will be served on Wednesday 19th December, children may wear their Christmas Jumpers on this day.

Extended Schools Activities

Mrs Mannion will be organising our many and varied extended school clubs over the coming weeks. Information will be filtered out through individual classes.

School Calendar and events

Please find attached the school calendar showing some of major events for the coming year. There are some events which we have not been able to finalise yet. When other events are scheduled during the year, you will receive more detailed information through our monthly newsletters, our website and our eschools messaging services. On occasions we may have to change some of these dates due to unforeseen conflicts but will inform you if this happens.

Those parents new to school will be issued with a unique code and instructions on how to register to eschools and how to use our Learning Platform.

Curriculum and Religious Education newsletters will be sent out towards the end of September. To keep fully informed of all our communication please can you ensure the school office have your up to date information.

If you are not receiving emails please contact the school office. Any families who do not have an email address are able to request paper copies of the newsletters etc.

Readers

Miss Brady is in the process of contacting adults who supported reading in school last year. We are extremely grateful for this support. If anyone else could provide weekly support, 2-3pm, on one day per week please can you contact the school office, Mr Conway or Miss Brady.

And finally,

Please do not hesitate to contact teachers, office or myself should you wish further clarification with anything or on how to support your children further.

Yours sincerely

Mr. P. Conway Head Teacher

St Hilda's Catholic Academy Trust

Company No: 09203984

Registered Address: Trinity Catholic College, Saltersgill Avenue, Middlesbrough, TS4 3JW