

St. George's Catholic Primary School and Nursery

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Dear Parents

Half term is upon us already and we are well over half way through the academic year. It's a frightening thought how quickly time passes but it does have one advantage – COVID measures have passed and we are on the horizon of returning to pre-March 2020, when life was 'normal'. Let's just hope and pray that after two years, we have all turned the corner and Covid is something that children will learn about in their history GCSE!

CONGRATULATIONS TO YEAR 4

On Wednesday evening, our Year 4 completed part of their journey towards their First Holy Communion. Father Chris and Deacon Keith welcomed children and parents into church so we could celebrate their Reconciliation. It follows a lot of hard work from Miss Mawtus, and preparations that our families have been involved in since September. Children have been attending special sessions after mass and it was lovely so see them in their service. Deacon Keith took the children through a wonderful passage about the Prodigal Son and, understanding what it is to reconcile. After they spoke with Father Chris, and Father John, they placed their pebble on the alter and blessed themselves with water. Thank you to all their parents for your support over the weeks and we look forward to their First Holy Communion in May.

NEW ARRIVAL

After last week's sad news regarding Mr Dillion, we are delighted to share some happier news this week. On Friday, Mr Dillon's second child arrived...

Finn Daniel Dillon, weighing 6lb 9oz.

Apparently, he's very hungry but doing very well. We wish him and his family lots of love as they become adjusted to sleep deprivation all over again. Obviously, they are going through a difficult time with very mixed emotions so please keep them all in your thoughts and prayers.



VIOLIN SUPERSTARS

Well done to our super violinists from Year 5 who performed for their parents on Tuesday afternoon. Mrs Ashcroft was very proud of them and they truly demonstrated their skills and precision after only starting to learn how to play in September. Miss Harvey has taught them well but she will now begin teaching Year 4 after the half term break. Next year, Miss Harvey will remain with those children as they move into Year 5, and continue with them until February half term. It's a lovely rolling programme of tuition and I'm sure we'll have some very talented players in the future. Thank you to all the staff for their continued support.

To learn with kindness, respect and friendship through God's love



SPECIAL VISIT

Today saw our Year 6 children shine in front of their very special visitor that Mr Dillon had invited in. Bill Esterson came in to see the children and to be quizzed about being a politician! The children have been learning about the suffragettes so it seemed like a perfect opportunity. He spent quite some time listening to the children and answering their questions so we were delighted that he could make time for them today. Who knows, maybe that is all that was needed for a little light to ignite inside one of the children and they'll be on a journey to parliament! I could definitely pick a few out of Year 6 who could do a good job in No10! Many thanks to Mrs Jutla and Mrs Hulse who have stepped in while Mrs Dillon has been on leave. They have put in a lot of time and energy into the last 3 weeks and I'm incredibly grateful to them both.

LONG HAIR

Can we just remind parents, and the fashion conscious girls, that long hair must be tied back while in school. There's a trend for the older girls to want to have it styled and swishing about but we know that we've had a few classes affected with little visitors this year, and the best way to keep them at bay is to have hair tied back. After half term all children with long hair need to have it in a ponytail, or plaited in some way to help keep everyone happy. Thank you.

TERM DATES

Next year's Term Dates are on the school website/app calendar. Click into the calendar from the home page and you can flick through the months to see the holiday ahead of schedule. We are just waiting for the Governor's to approve the dates for September 23 to July 24 before they will also be uploaded onto the calendar.

Can we ask that parents PLEASE make use of the two week half term we've planned for in May/June. This is a perfect opportunity for families to take a cheaper holiday, out of normal season, benefiting from cheaper deals. We do this to help families with costs and to support better attendance in school. Attendance is very poor at the moment, and we fully understand that there have been many reasons for that over the past couple of years. As we move into new times, we do need to see a big improvement in attendance and punctuality. We are now buying services from Sefton to facilitate attendance meetings with parents if children's attendance or punctuality doesn't show signs of improving. This will lead to Sefton issuing penalty fines, but we would love to avoid this. Please support us in getting your child into school, and on time, as we move into the last section of the academic year. Thank you.

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PARENTS' MEETINGS

We have set dates for the next set of parent meetings. Year 6 will have their meetings before the Easter holiday so children and parents can be prepared for their SATS, which will come around all too soon. The rest of the appointments will take place in the second week after Easter. We'll be using the School Cloud system so parents can join at convenient times and two parents can attend at the same time, from different locations. See dates below:

Year **6**: Monday 14th March
Year **1**: Monday 25th April
Year **2**: Tuesday 26th April
Nursery: Wednesday 27th April
Reception: Thursday 28th April
Year **4**: Thursday 28th April
Year **3**: Friday 29th April
Year **5**: Friday 29th April

WORLD BOOK DAY

Save the date as we are celebrating World Book Day 2022 on **Thursday 3rd March**. This year, children to come to school as a favourite book character; bring the book too if they have it!

SCHOOL NURSE DROP-IN

School Nurses have been seconded over to the 'Covid' side for the past 5 months but are now returning to their day jobs. We are delighted to have Mrs Swanson back with us again and her next drop-in session will be on **3rd March!!!!** I wonder what character she will come as?

If you'd like to see the school nurse, drop-in between 8.30am and 9.00am.

Have a wonderful half-term break.
See you all on Monday 21 February at 8.50am.



Mr P. Chapman
Headteacher