

ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Living and working as Jesus taught us

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First Half Term Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you today just to update you on how school has functioned since September and to thank you for your support during our first half term of the academic year. I cannot state today that it has been easy in these uncertain times, but I do know that the measures that we have had to put into place have been necessary and were implemented to keep our whole school community safe. Thank you for adhering to all the measures we have implemented since September and we all wait for some sense of normality returning. However, throughout this pandemic, there have been many successes which we will be able to utilise moving forward as a school.

Your children have all been superstars since returning in September and to see their happy faces and eagerness to learn is a pleasure for the staff and myself to witness every day. They have adapted well to their new classrooms and the adults that they have been working with. There have been a lot of absences and change for many reasons from children and staff and everyone has adapted to all the challenges presented to them. Our staff have been immense during the first half term too, so I am sure they will have a well-deserved break over the half-term.

As mentioned earlier in the term, we are constantly looking at how to improve different aspects of the school, and after a few small changes to timings we have evaluated our systems again. While we feel the staggered starts have worked and stopped too many people congregating on our school grounds, we just want to make a few small tweaks to our systems so that our children can utilise every minute of their curriculum time, when they are in school. Our gates will still open at 8:30am for our children to walk down to their class under our supervision. In class, activities will be ready for our children so they can come into school in a 'nice flow'. **Teaching will commence everyday at 8:50am from Nursery to Y6.** We have also changed collection times for Upper Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 1. This will allow our younger children to have their lunch at a slightly earlier time too. ***(Please note that if there are families with more than one child at school, collection should be at the later time e.g if you have a child in Y1 and Y5 you collect them both at 3pm).***

Timings will be as follows:

- Teaching will start in all areas at 8:50am
- Please try to stick to the drop off times each morning this will ease the flow of people on site at any one time
- Our gates will be closed at 8:55am prompt and as the weeks progress we would like to close the gates at 8:50am. Children will then need to proceed to the main office and be signed in there if they arrive after this time

Classes	Drop off	Collection
Upper Key Stage 2: Y6, Y6/5, Y5	From 8:30am	3pm



Lower Key Stage 2: Y4, Y4/3, Y3	From 8:40am	2:50pm
Key Stage 1 (LB, DF, BB)	From 8:45am	2:40pm
Reception (Lions + Tigers)	From 8:50am	2:40pm
Nursery (Cubs)	From 8:50am	3:05pm

Please can we remind you that this is not to cause any inconvenience to our families and if you need your child to remain in school until the later time of 3:00pm they will be supervised with 'holding' activities. In effect, the only significant change is our Upper Key Stage 2 classes remaining in school until 3pm.

Assessments

Our children have had assessments in class recently and we will share this with you when we aim to 'touch base' with our families next month.

Family Tree

If you remember last year over the October half term we set all our children the challenge of researching their family tree and finding out where in the world their families had links to. We would like all our new families in Tigers, Lions and Cubs to create a family tree and share photographs with us on Seesaw and Twitter. If your child did not research your family tree last year and they are in a different year group than the classes mentioned above, please feel free to research your amazing family tree.

Remote Learning

Lots of information in regards to remote learning has been shared over the last number of weeks in our newsletter. Our policy for remote learning is now on our website under the 'Home Learning' section as is our 'Remote Learning - Made easy' guide. Why not check this out, especially if your family is self isolating?

Reading

Developing a love of reading is a continued priority in school for our children. Over half-term is the perfect opportunity to become enthralled in a book. Our school website has lots of helpful information including '100 books to read before you leave Year 6.' Please share any recommendations to Seesaw and Twitter.

SEN

Over the last number of weeks, Mrs Harry our SENCo has been on sickness absence and at some stage she will start her maternity leave. In order to bridge this gap, we have managed to secure the services of Mrs Kailee Casson who has been SENCo at another Knowsley school recently. We know that she will do a fantastic job at St Anne's Catholic Primary School. We are delighted that Mrs Casson has already started working within our setting.

Half-term break

Halloween has become a time when many children like to dress up to visit their neighbours and friends to go 'trick or treating'. Current restrictions will not allow this to happen in the same way. An idea could be that families put out a pumpkin, decorate the house or put a pumpkin picture in the window for other families to 'discover'. Let's go on a Halloween Treasure Hunt around our local area/school. You could tweet how many you discovered. Also why not carve a pumpkin at home with your family this half term and share this with our school on Seesaw and Twitter.

Finally, just keep up the excellent efforts at home and at our school in keeping everyone safe. If you need to contact the school in an emergency over half-term please email the school or contact us through 'Seesaw'. Have a lovely half-term everyone, stay safe and we will look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 2nd November at the times mentioned above.

Yours sincerely,
Mr L Anderson
 Head Teacher