



## Our Lady and St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

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*Aspire, Achieve, Learn and Love as one family in Christ*

Newsletter – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Welcome back everybody. It has been lovely to see all of the children back in school this week and hear about the wonderful adventures many of them have had over the summer holidays. School is always so quiet without them it really was wonderful to fill the hall on Monday for our first assembly and to see their smiles around school once again. I would like to welcome all of the new families who have joined our school community either through a change in school or through our new reception children – we hope your first week as part of our OLST family has been a good one. Finally I would like to apologise for the ongoing disruption to our school site as a result of the work being carried out on our roof. The work was due to be completed during the summer break but due to several different complications this work has overrun and looks likely to continue for another few weeks. Thank you for your understanding.

Have a lovely weekend.

*Mrs Suzie Wilson* - Head Teacher

### Homework

This year we will be altering the way we organise homework for our children slightly. Reading will form the core basis of our homework expectations and we have stripped back other homework to show how much we are prioritising reading. All children in YR-Y6 need to read and be heard read aloud by an adult every night. We are also currently looking into the best option for regular maths homework which we are hoping to offer via an online platform. Children will be set weekly maths tasks and challenges linked to the work they have carried out in class that week along with regular times tables activities. Topic homework will be set once every half term but this will take the form of a project linked to current learning and the children will be given several weeks to complete this. Often this type of project has a more practical approach and allows the children to explore different types of learning and be creative at home with their families. We will no longer send home lists of spellings for the children to learn – this only tests their memory not their understanding of spellings. Children in Y2 – Y6 will come home with a spelling rule and a few examples of that rule and they will be tested on their understanding of that rule and previous rules they have learnt. Children in YR and Y1 learn their spellings as part of their phonics programme which is Read Write Inc. Further information on phonics and how you can support your child at home will be available at a phonics evening later in the term.

### Diary Dates

Thursday September 14<sup>th</sup> – Y6 to Trinity STEM day  
Thursday September 14<sup>th</sup> – Whole School Mass 10am  
Friday September 15<sup>th</sup> – Y6 to Trinity for Textiles afternoon

#### Mass Dates

Thursday September 14<sup>th</sup> – Whole School Mass 10am

#### Assembly Dates

Friday October 6<sup>th</sup> – First Celebration Assembly for parents

### End of Day Arrangements

We are trying to ensure that the end of the day runs smoothly and all children are safe. As stated on the forms any changes to end of day collection arrangements in exceptional circumstances should be phoned through to the school office before 2.45pm. As a school please note that we do not allow any children in YR-Y4 to walk home from school alone and as such all children in these classes will need to be collected by an adult or have alternative childcare arrangements in place for safety reasons.

### Head Lice

In order to try and minimise the spread for head lice at our school it is part of the school policy for girls to have their hair tied back at all times but I would also ask that you check your child's hair for nits on a regular basis and treat them immediately to help stop any possible outbreaks.

### Attendance

Our attendance target is 96%

Reception – 83%

Yr1 – 90%

Yr2 – 96%

Yr3 – 99%

Yr4 – 95%

Yr5 – 95%

Yr6 – 93%

Whole school – 94%

Whole school since September – 94%



### Awards



This year our children will be awarded stars of the week by their class teachers and these will be given out in assembly on a Friday and listed on the newsletter. Once a month children will be nominated for a special Head Teacher's award which will be presented by Mrs Wilson and parents will be invited to join us for this assembly and see these awards presented.

### Inhalers/Glasses

If your child requires an inhaler or glasses please identify this on their data collection sheet and notify their class teacher. Glasses should be in school every day and a second inhaler should be obtained from the Dr which can be left in school. Children in KS2 will be responsible for their own inhalers during school time.

### Open Afternoon for Parents

We will be holding an open afternoon on Wednesday October 11<sup>th</sup> to give parents/carers a chance to come in and meet your child's new teacher. If you have any significant worries or concerns regarding your child then appointments can be made with the class teacher for a chance to discuss these after school.

### Uniform

We are very proud of how smart our children look here at school in their uniforms and we aim to keep our standards high in this and in all we do. As we are the start of another school year we have attached a reminder of our school uniform and what is acceptable here at school.

### Music Lessons

We have increased our provision for music tuition here at school this year and are now able to offer both violin and guitar lessons to pupils in KS2. There are spaces left for both instruments so if you would like your child to learn how to play an instrument please do return the appropriate forms and pay for the tuition via school comms to secure their place.

Further details can be gathered from the school office and replacement letters are available.

### After School Clubs

We are very pleased to be able to offer our children 4 different after school club opportunities here at school this term. We have dance with Liz England on a Monday which is open to all ages then our sports coach Ricky will be offering 3 different clubs this year. For autumn we will have Football for KS2 on a Monday, Dodgeball for KS1 on a Tuesday and Hockey for KS2 on a Thursday. Letters with details for all clubs have been sent out and further details can be gained from the office. Ricky's clubs are filled on a first come, first serve basis and places are secured by paying the fee for the term through school comms.

### Data Collection Sheets

Children in Y1-Y6 should have received data collections sheets and permission forms this week. Please can you ensure that these come back into school as soon as possible and keep us up to date with any changes of phone numbers or contact details.



*A new year, a fresh start,  
infinite possibilities!*