12th September 2018

**Welcome back!**

Dear Parents,

I just wanted to write to you to officially welcome you and your children back for the start of another academic year. I trust you all had a lovely Summer (seems a long time ago already!) and that your children have settled in well. As well as welcoming you I wanted to share and remind you of a few key pieces of information.

**Policy/Information**

There are certain key policies and documents I am required to share with you each year, for example our attendance policy. Rather than print off information you have already received, I have added a ‘Parents’ page to our school website. I will use this page to add any lengthy documents and alert you when something new has been added. You can then access them online (if you do not have internet access, please inform the school office and we can print you a copy). To start with, I have added a copy of our attendance booklet, behavior booklet, uniform booklet and a downloadable contact form should you ever change your details. Please do access and familiarise yourselves with these documents.

<http://www.stjosephscatholicprimarybirkenhead.co.uk/parents/>

**Allergies**

It is very important that you inform us if your child has or develops an allergy to any food or substance. We will require certain documents so that we can pass these on to the school kitchen. Please speak to the school office who can offer further advice.

In a previous newsletter, I alerted you to the fact that we have a child in the school with a nut allergy;

*He is currently in KS1 and has a quite severe allergy to nuts. As can be the case with allergies, the nature of it develops and alters, but at present, they are aware of a number of nut containing products which can trigger a reaction, ranging from mild to very severe and possibly life threatening. Whilst at the moment there are no plans to become a nut/product free school (as some schools now are), the parents did want to make you all aware, as in the past parents have kindly brought in food for various reasons, such as birthdays, celebrations etc. Please do not give out any food directly to children without consulting class teachers/office staff. Please also consider your own child’s packed lunch. We both thank you for your understanding and support in helping keep all the children as safe as possible at all times*

**Dates**

I understand completely that communication is key in operating a large organisation such as a school. Last year we tried hard to improve communication, however, I am well aware that on several occasions this fell short of the high standards I expect and you were given short notice of events. My staff and I will continue to keep this as a focus so that you are informed well ahead of any events or requirements. To this end, I wanted to share with you some key dates for the year ahead so that you can make any plans or arrangements in advance. All of our school calendar dates are placed on the website at the foot of the home page, but I wanted to also provide you with some now in advance. We will write to you with further details of events closer to the time.

We are also setting dates for masses and assemblies in school, so will write to you separately with these dates.

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| Monday 17th September | 11+ tests for Y6 pupils  F2 pupils all attend am, stay for lunch |
| Tuesday 18th September | F2 pupils start full day  Individual/sibling photographs |
| Friday 21st September | St Anselms entrance exam for Y6 pupils |
| Monday 24th September, 5.00pm | Parents internet safety workshop |
| Monday 1st October-Friday 5th October | Y6 at Oaklands |
| Monday 15th October 3.30-6.00pm | Parents evening |
| Wednesday 17th October | Parents evening |
| Monday 29th October | School closed (Inset) |
| Wednesday 28th November | Flu immunisation |
| Tuesday 4th December, 2.00pm | KS1 Christmas concert |
| Wednesday 5th December, 2.00pm | KS1 Christmas concert |
| Thursday 6th December, 1.00pm | Christmas Fair |
| Wednesday 12th December, 6.00pm | Y3 First Holy Communion parents meeting |
| Sunday 20th January, 9.00am | Y3 First Holy Communion enrolment mass |
| Monday 25th February | School closed (Inset) |
| Wednesday 27th February 3.30-6.00pm | Parents evening |
| Thursday 28th February 3.30-6.00pm | Parents evening |
| Thursday 7th March | World Book Day |
| Wednesday 27th March, 6.00pm | Y3 First Forgiveness |
| Friday 29th March, 1.00pm | PTA Easter bingo |
| Thursday 2nd May | School closed (Inset) |
| Monday 13th May – Friday 17th May | KS2 SATS week |
| Friday 17th May, 7.00pm | PTA quiz night |
| Tuesday 11th June, 6.00pm | Y3 First Holy Communion parents meeting |
| Saturday 15th June, 10.30am | Y3 First Holy Communion |
| Saturday 22nd June, 10.30am | Y3 First Holy Communion |
| Friday 28th June, 3.30-6.00pm | PTA Summer fair |
| Thursday 4th July | KS1 Sports Day |
| Friday 5th July | KS2 Sports Day |
| Tuesday 9th July | Optional Parents meetings |
| Thursday 11th July | Optional Parents meetings |
| Tuesday 16th July 2.00pm | KS2 concert |
| Tuesday 16th July, 7.00pm | KS2 concert |
| Wednesday 17th July, 7.00pm | KS2 concert |
| Tuesday 23rd July, 1.00pm | Y6 Leavers mass & assembly |