



St Anthony's Catholic Primary School

A Voluntary Academy



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Executive Headteacher: Mrs L Kelly, B.Ed., NPQH

7th September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the new academic year!

I hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful summer break enjoying relaxing time with family and friends.

As you are aware, I have been asked to act as Executive Headteacher of both St. Elizabeth's and St. Anthony's during the autumn term, before Mr Johnson will take over in January 2019, as the permanent Headteacher at St Anthony's. I am delighted to take up the challenge of running two schools and I hope to continue to build upon the many successes that exist here at St. Anthony's. I will be based at St. Anthony's from Monday to Wednesday and at St. Elizabeth's on Thursday and Friday. Mrs Burns will act as Head of School in my absence. I would like to assure parents and carers that I will liaise closely with the Senior Leadership team on the days that I am not here and together we will aim to ensure consistency in our approach.

It has been a real joy to meet the children over the last couple of days and I have felt a very warm welcome from both staff and children. The children have all returned from the holiday refreshed and ready for the exciting challenges that the new year will bring. I must also make reference to how smart and proud the children all look in their new uniforms.

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to our new staff members this academic year and I am sure you will too as you get to know them over the coming weeks. Miss Laws joins us in Year 1, Mr Fairbrother in Year 4 and Miss Pearson in Year 6, all of whom completed their student placements with us during the last academic year. Miss Finan and Miss Mitchell also join us, and will be working alongside Mrs Cook and Miss Paton. Finally, we welcome Miss Bone in the school office and welcome back Mrs Sherry into Year 3. We hope they will be very happy and soon feel part of the St. Anthony's family.

The new nursery children are settling in well and we are delighted to welcome them and their families who join us this year, alongside a number of families who have joined us in other year groups. We hope you quickly settle in to life at St. Anthony's.

We will of course be issuing a newsletter during this term, in the meantime, I have included some important information and dates for your diary below:

Mass times

With effect from 16th September, Mass times will change from 10:00am to 10:45am at St Anthony's.

Health and Wellbeing

Following the success of the taster Health and Wellbeing Day earlier this year, we extend an invitation to the St Anthony's community to attend our latest Health & Wellbeing day on the afternoon of 11th September 2018 from 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm, there will be health professionals offering help and advice along with useful tips and guidance on keeping healthy and looking after yourself and your family's wellbeing. Children in Nursery and Reception can be collected at 2:30pm on this day if you wish to enable you to attend the event. We hope you will be able to attend!

*"Journeying together with Jesus Christ
We learn to love and love to learn"*

Early collection for medical/dental appointments

Attendance and punctuality are a key element in the success rate of children's learning. Therefore, we request that medical and dental appointments should be made outside of school hours and children should not be collected early from school unless there are exceptional circumstances.

If an emergency appointment is needed; parents and carers should phone school beforehand and explain the purpose of the collection. Confirmation of any medical appointments should be in writing.

Child Protection

The whole staff attended Safeguarding training on Monday. This was to review the law, our duty as a school, and some of our internal procedures, through the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy (refer to school website). As a school we have a duty to ensure that all child protection issues, or where there are reasonable grounds to suspect an issue, will be dealt with appropriately including reporting to the duty social services officer. We are legally bound in our duty of care to make referrals. Mrs Jayne Hurry is responsible for supporting the school community with child protection issues. She has an open door policy and is there to help and support parents and carers with any concerns. Please make an appointment if you would like to chat informally to her.

Infant Children

The safety of all the children is of utmost importance to us, and therefore we would just like to remind you that all Infant children must not be left unaccompanied in the playground in the mornings. **An adult must stay with them until their Class Teacher collects them from the playground at 8.55am.**

Home Time Arrangements

All children must be collected on time at the end of the school day, by the designated parent/carer. Please ensure your Junior child is aware of home time arrangements, i.e. if they are to wait for an adult to collect them, or they are to go home alone or to go to the after school club. You must also ensure that arrangements are made for the care of your child once they return home. You **MUST** contact the school office if there is a change, i.e. another adult will be collecting your child (Infant or Junior) – we will not let your child go home unless we are notified. Please speak to your child's teacher about the collection arrangements.

Parking – Please help to keep the children safe, by parking away from the school gate at the start and end of the school day.

If the children are coming to school on bikes or scooters, please ensure they are stored away safely and secured in the bike shelter. Please do not risk losing them, by leaving them unattended on the front entrance of the school.

Meet the Teacher Evening

We will be holding our annual parents information meetings on the week beginning 17th September, for all year groups, timetabled as follows:

- **Reception, Years 1 and 2** - Tuesday 18th September 2018 at 2.45 pm - Enter the school via the Black Path
- **Years 3, 4, 5, and 6** – Wednesday 19th September 2018 at 2:45pm - Enter the school via the Junior hall.

Each class meeting lasts about 15 minutes to allow you to meet your child's class teacher and receive some key information about routines and expectations. We hope that you will find this information helpful and you will get an opportunity to ask any general questions.

School Uniform

Please ensure you write your child's name on all uniform and PE kit. The correct PE kit must also be worn – blue polo shirt (no sports tops) and Maroon shorts or jogging bottoms, if the

weather is cold (these can be navy, maroon or black with no markings or brand names). During rainy weather, please ensure children are sent into school with a waterproof jacket.

Food in School

For children who choose to have a packed lunch, please ensure it contains a healthy balance, with no fizzy drinks or sweets.

School Meals

The cost of a school meal from September 2018 is now £2.25 per day. Payment needs to be made at least a week in advance via SIMS Agora cashless system, as school now operate a completely cashless system.

If your child wishes to change a meal pattern i.e. from paid school meals to packed lunches, the school office must be informed **in writing at least two weeks in advance** and any outstanding balance would need to be paid immediately. Thank you to those parents who pay for school meals in advance. Unfortunately, despite reminders, there are some outstanding debts on school meals, therefore a packed lunch will need to be provided from home.

Mobile/Internet Safety

As your children become more and more reliant on the Internet for both school work and entertainment, we must all, as a community, be more aware for the need to monitor the sites your child visits. In school, through classroom activities and discussion, we highlight positive uses of technology, but also ways in which we can all keep safe through responsible use of the internet, our mobile phones and social media (e.g. WhatsApp, Facebook). At home you can ensure the security systems on your computers, tablets and mobiles are up to date and also, please talk to your child about the dangers of accessing unfamiliar sites, or giving parents' e-mail/Facebook/Twitter details to strangers. Please remember to check your privacy settings at least weekly.

Asthma inhalers

All asthma inhalers were returned home at the end of the summer term and we currently do not hold any medication for any child. If your child suffers from asthma please ensure that they have their inhalers in school. Any other medication must go to the school office and a signature obtained in accordance with the medicines policy.

Communication

Where possible we endeavour to use digital communication, therefore please ensure we have your current mobile phone number and e-mail address, otherwise you may miss vital information concerning your child and events going on in school.

Dates for your diary

11th September 2018 – Health and Wellbeing Day

20th September 2018 – Whole School Mass

16th October 2018 – Parents' evening

19th October 2018 – Finish for half term

5th – 9th November 2018 – Outward Bound Trip (Year 6)

Each Friday from 16th November - 14th December – Non uniform day (treats for the Christmas Fair).

I look forward to getting to meet as many of you as possible over the coming weeks. We aim to be a listening school and should you have any concerns regarding your child, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Mrs A Burns.

Yours faithfully

L Kelly

Mrs L Kelly
Executive Headteacher