

Newsletter



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Friday 6th September 2024

Whole School Attendance

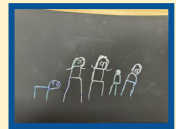
Welcome to St Winefride's Catholic Primary School where we 'Learn, Laugh, Listen, Live and Love' in the presence of Jesus.'

'Let Your Light Shine.' Matthew 5:16



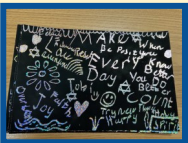
A message from Mrs Davies to all our families....

A very warm and heartfelt welcome back to school to all of our children and families and a very special welcome to our new children who have started Reception class this week as well as new starters across the school. It is a privilege to welcome you and your family to our school community. Our Year 6 children have enjoyed meeting our Reception children and they are looking forward to supporting the children in their role as a school buddy. I know that our Year 6 children will be wonderful role models and help our Reception children to shine their light.



I hope that you all had a wonderful summer break and that you were able to spend time together as a family and had chance to connect with wider family and friends. It has been a joy to speak with the children this week about their summer break and share in the memories that have been created this summer.

Our return to school, as always, has been very positive. The children all look very smart in their school uniform and they are happy, motivated and excited about the academic year ahead. Each year, we have a theme for our school year, with this year's theme being '**Make Every Day Count.**' On Tuesday, we gathered together in our first assembly and discussed our theme for the year and the importance of each day having value. The children may have spoken to you about the creative artwork that they have produced showing how they are going to try to make every day count, this academic year and beyond. If they haven't, please speak to them about this at home.



As we settle to our familiar routines and new routines, there will be lots of information to absorb. Please know that we are all here to help and support to ensure that this half term is a positive one for you all.

I wish you all a happy, restful weekend and I look forward to welcoming you, on Monday, to our first full week in school. Mrs Davies



Welcome to our New Staff

I am delighted to share that we welcome Mrs Cummings to our school. She will be teaching our year three children alongside Ms Bennett. We also welcome Miss Perrett and Mrs Rowlands to our school staff. They will be working with our class teachers to support the learning of pupils across the school.



STAFF NEWS—CONGRATULATIONS

Huge congratulations to Mr and Mrs Rimmer and Lucy on the arrival of their beautiful daughter and sister Zara Florence Rimmer. We wish them happiness and special times ahead.



Meet the Teacher Sessions

At the beginning of the school year, we always organise a meeting where you have the opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher and see their classroom. Please see the date and times of these sessions which we encourage you to attend. These dates are included in the important dates also.

Monday 23rd September 2024

- 3.45pm—Parents of children in Year 5
- 4.15pm—Parents of children in Year 1
- 4.45pm—Parents of children in Year 3

Monday 30th September 2024

- 3.45pm—Parents of children in Reception
- 3.45pm—Parents of children in Year 6
- 4.15pm—Parents of children in Year 4
- 4.45pm—Parents of children in Year 2.

Forest School session—Thursdays

I am excited to share that Forest School sessions will commence next week and each week, a class will have a session, in our Forest School, linked to their curriculum. The children will be working outdoors, therefore, we ask that when it is their Forest School Session, they wear suitable clothing and bring their school uniform with them to change into in the afternoon. We ask that children wear old comfortable clothing with long sleeves and legs and old trainers or wellies.

The Forest School session next week (Thursday 12th September) will be for children in Year 6.

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ATTENDANCE INFORMATION—IMPORTANT— PLEASE READ

Attendance matters and influences a child's development. We all want positive outcomes for our children and positive school attendance contributes to this.

You may remember that I shared some information with you last summer term, about new statutory guidance for schools in relation to attendance. Effective from 19th August, there is new statutory guidance, for attendance, for schools. Please see the table, showing the changes to fixed term penalty notices which are effective from 19th August 2024. Please note that this now includes 10 unauthorised sessions within a 10 week period. This includes children arriving late to school (after registration closes).

Headteachers are not permitted to grant leave of absence for holidays or recreational activities.

PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS CHANGING

1

FIRST OFFENCE

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

2

SECOND OFFENCE (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.

The following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024.

3

THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a Parents' future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

10 SESSIONS (5 DAYS) OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10-WEEK PERIOD

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.

Please follow the link for the Publication that will start from 19th August 2024.
www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance



School Lunches

You will be aware, from my communication at the beginning of the week, that we have a new catering provider EDSSENTIAL. This week, the children have enjoyed delicious meals from our week one menu. I have joined the children at lunchtime and enjoyed sampling the school lunches and I am very impressed with the meals. From speaking with the children, they are enjoying the new menu and they have been very positive about their food. I would like to thank you for your patience and support with transitioning to using our school website to order and pay for your child's school meals. It is our intention to use our website so that you, as parents, are not having to use numerous platforms. Just a reminder that lunch can be pre-ordered or ordered on the day. As shared in my correspondence about school meals, we encourage parents of children in Reception and KS1 to order with your child at home and parents in KS2 may do the same or allow the children to choose on the day.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals and we encourage you to order this for your child.



Key Stage Two—Snack available at breaktime

I know that our children are enjoying the new menu for lunch time snack—especially our children in Year 3! **Just to make you aware that children should NOT order their snack at home; the children will order their snack, each morning, at registration.**

This will be added to your account by the office staff. This is to reduce the number of children taking snack different to what has been ordered at home. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

School Uniform

The children have returned to school looking very smart and hopefully, next week, I shall be able to share with you, our whole school photograph.

This is a gentle reminder that hair, below shoulder length, should be tied back. There are a number of pupils wearing their hair half up and half down. Please ensure hair is tied back neatly. False nails, jewellery (with the exception of small, stud earrings) are not part of our school uniform.

Thank you for your support.