



St Lawrence's Catholic Primary School
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Head Teacher: Mr P Brown

Friday, 20th December 2024

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you all for continued support at Christmas time and generally. We are a fantastic community and all the stronger when we come together for the good of our lovely children.

CLOSURE OF CHURCH: You will know by now that St Lawrence's Church is closing imminently due to the extent of the repairs needed to keep it a safe and viable building. The parish has been absorbed into the parish of Christ the King. As a proud Catholic school, we are looking at how we can support the existing community and congregation so that they can celebrate their Catholic faith and worship regularly and hope to support Fr Jonathan as the parish transitions into its new form.

MISS BRIGGS AND MISS PEARSON: Today we say goodbye to Miss Briggs and Miss Pearson who have served us this term on supply. Both have made valuable contributions to our school and we wish them well.

MRS GLENDENNING:

Next term we will welcome a new member of staff to work in our Early Years and Key Stage 1 team. Mrs Glendenning - a former parent - will join our school and I am sure you will all make her most welcome.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS: The school fayre was a great success and raised over £700 for the school as were all of the parties, plays and productions enabling all of the children to enjoy and celebrate the season in style while remembering the key messages of love, hope and kindness in our world.

ATTENDANCE: After a good start, our attendance levels have dipped substantially in the last three weeks. As seen in the media, there have been a number of nasty colds, flus and infections around. Hopefully two weeks rest at home will enable us to all regain our strength and we can reach the levels that we were in September and October in particular where we were well above national averages. As always, excellent attendance equals excellent outcomes. We expect each child to achieve 90% attendance as a minimum. 95% and above is considered 'good attendance'. We cannot approve term time holidays and are now obliged to report this to the local authority - especially if there is a pattern of taking term time holidays.

PUNCTUALITY: A reminder that the school day begins at 8:45am. We have a core of children who consistently come in late and I feel that this is becoming habitual. We ask for high standards from our children and this starts with coming in every day they can, ready for school and on time. These are excellent habits to get into. Being late stresses out the children and is disruptive to the learning of others. We front load the working day with key activities in the morning when the children are at their freshest. Being late each day means that children are consistently missing the most important learning.

CHANGES IN ADDRESS AND COLLECTION OF CHILDREN: Please always inform us if there is a change of address or contact number. We must always have these to hand. We must always also know of who is picking the children up. We will not release younger children (Year 4 and below) to those sent to collect them who we do not know and / or who are under 16 years of age.



TRAFFIC: Most parents who use cars now park a short distance away from school and walk the rest of the way rather than crowd the very narrow and awkward streets that surround the school. Thank you for this and please continue. I have noticed that it is safer and less crowded at the end of the school day.

RETURN TO SCHOOL: There is no planned training day at the end of the Christmas holidays. The children will return to school on Monday 6 January.

SOME DATES FOR THE DIARY:

Spring term 2025

Term starts: Monday 6th January 2025

Half term: Monday 24th February 2025 to Friday 28th February 2025

Term ends: Friday 11th April 2025

Summer term 2025

Term starts: Monday 28th April 2025

Half term: Monday 26th May 2025 to Friday 30th May 2025

Term ends: Thursday 17th July 2025

INSET Days

Friday 23rd May 2025

Monday 2nd June 2025

Friday 18th July 2025

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS: The afterschool clubs will start on the first day of term (Monday 6th January 2025) and children are to be collected at 4.15pm. Space have been allocated and those that have applied or a place for a club will have received a confirmation or waiting list slip.

Monday: Dance (Year 5-6), *some spaces are still available.*

Tuesday: Sports/games (Reception, Year 1 and Year2)

Wednesday: Karate (KS2), *spaces are available*

Thursday: Sports with Mr Stephenson (Year3-4)

On behalf of all of the staff and Governors, may I take a final opportunity to wish you all a happy and holy Christmas with your loved ones.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Brown

Executive Head Teacher

