



St Lawrence's Catholic Primary School
Headlam Street
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Friday 9 June 2023

Dear parents,

I am writing to update you on a number of matters regarding our school. It seems a while since I have written but I needed some certainty on one or two matters first.

MRS HAGON: As you will now be aware, Mrs Hagon is retiring at the end of the school year. She has served the school for an incredible 37 years! She will be a huge miss to the children, staff and many families she has supported and worked with over many years. Plans are in place to give her an appropriate send-off that is fitting for such a magnificent servant.

We completed a recruitment process before half term and appointed Miss Middleton to the teaching staff. She is very eager to join us and I am sure we will welcome her warmly.

Miss Bamber will also be leaving us in the summer after six years. She has also served the school very well. Miss Bamber's resignation only happened earlier this week so we will assess staffing options for next year before informing you of the next steps.

There is likely to be a slight reshuffle of staffing but I will confirm this to you before transition day on 14 July when the children will meet their new teachers.

STAFFING AND RESTRUCTURE: I have been asked by our Trust to continue working between two schools for another year. Miss Murray will continue as Head of School. In addition, we will be appointing an Assistant Head Teacher internally. The process is ongoing and I will have news on this before the end of the year.

PARENT GOVERNOR: Mrs Nicola Wake will be stepping down as Parent Governor at the end of the school year. She has been a highly effective voice on the Governing Body for a number of years and I would like to thank her for her service.

The Governors believe that formal parental representation on the Governing Body is very important, so we will be seeking to replace Mrs Wake in time for September. If you are interested the next step would be to make a formal expression of interest via email to office@stlawrencesprimary.org.uk by Friday 23 June.

If you have any questions or wish to find out more about the role and the process, please call school and ask to speak to Mr Brown or Miss Murray.

ATTENDANCE: Our attendance across the school in recent weeks has been mixed. We have seen a welcome improvement in our Reception Class and Year 2. However, we are currently below National Averages for overall levels of attendance. However, we are above the average for our statistical neighbours.

We still have a higher number of children below 90% attendance (and therefore deemed as persistent absence) than we usually would. 22% of children are below 90%, which we consider the minimum expected attendance. Having done some detailed analysis, it has been noted that attendance on Mondays and Fridays are significantly lower than other times of the week, which suggests absences are not always about illnesses. There has also been an increase in parents taking their children away for holidays during term time. This cannot be authorised.



If your child is below 90% and not showing signs of improvement then we will have to involve our attendance officer and look at referring the case to the local authority. If you are unsure of your child's attendance, please get in touch with the school office who can very quickly tell you.

Poor attendance seriously hinders your child's chances of making progress and fulfilling their potential. I would encourage parents of those children who are sat below 90% to work hard to improve matters urgently or we will have little choice but to refer cases to the local authority if we do not see definite signs of improvement.

STANDARD ATTAINMENT TESTS: The children have now all completed their Standard Attainment Tests (SATS) in Year 2 and Year 6. They have all worked very hard both during the week and in the weeks and months leading up to them. They can all say, without exception, that they put in maximum effort and they should be very proud of themselves. Some of the Year 6 material was particularly demanding but the children worked like trojans and kept their spirits up throughout. Their resilience and sense of perspective was a delight to see.

FUTURE DATES:

The following are some important dates for the diary:

Wednesday 12th July 1:45-3:00 School Fair/ end of year celebration

Friday 14th July Transition Day

Monday 17th July 1:30 End of Year Mass at Church

Tuesday 18th July 2:00 Year 6 Leaver's Assembly in hall

Wednesday 19th July Children finish for summer holidays

Wednesday 21 st June	Year 4 Bikeability
Tuesday 27 th – Wednesday 28 th June	Year 5 level 2 Bikeability
Tuesday 27 th June	Year 6 Youth Festival
Wednesday 28 th June	Languages Day
Wednesday 28 th June	Year 6 Leavers mass at Cathedral
Thursday 29 th June 2.15pm	New Reception Parents Welcome Meeting
Friday 30 th June 9.30am – 11.30am	Reception and KS1 Sports Day
Thursday 6 th July 1.30pm – 3.00pm	KS2 Sports Day
Wednesday 12 th July 145pm – 3.00 pm	School Fair/end of year celebration
Friday 14 th July	Transition Day
Monday 17 th July 1.30pm	End of year mass at Church
Tuesday 18 th July 2.00pm	Year 6 Leavers Assembly
Wednesday 19 th July	Children finish for summer holidays

Yours Faithfully

Mr P A Brown

Executive Head

Miss C Murray

Teacher Head of School

