



Saint Margaret Mary's Catholic Infant School

Acting Headteacher: Mrs L. Maddocks

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6th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

A huge welcome to our new reception and nursery children and families. You have all made a wonderful start to your time in our school. We hope you will all be very happy and learn lots of new things every day. Welcome back to our Year 1 and Year 2 children and also those who are new and have joined alongside them. We have already been so impressed as to how quickly the children have settled into the new school routine.

Uniform – a big thank you for your support in ensuring the pupils are wearing the correct uniform. The pupils have returned with a fantastic attitude and look very smart. Please ensure every item of uniform is labelled with your child's name.

Staff news – Congratulations to Mrs Moore (previously Miss Fallon) who got married over the summer holidays! This term, Mrs Maddocks is continuing in the role of Acting Headteacher and Mrs Quigley and Mrs O'Callaghan are continuing in the role of Acting Deputy Headteachers.

School Council and Eco Council – Next week, we will elect 2 School Councillors and 2 Eco Councillors from each class in Year 1 and 2. Please chat to your child about these roles so they can decide if they would like to volunteer for their class vote. The children will hear all about these roles in assembly on Monday.

Attendance and Punctuality – A big well done this week for amazing attendance (96.1%) and punctuality. It has been great to see **EVERYONE** arriving to school **ON TIME**, ready to learn. Keep it up!! A reminder that the school gate opens at 8.40am and closes at 8.50am (after this time, you will need to go to the school office and will be marked late). School closes at 3.10pm. Nursery children start at 9.00am and finish at 3.00pm.

Please see below an important message from Knowsley Council **Re: National Framework for Penalty Notices - School Absence**

I am writing to inform you of changes the Government will implement from 19 August 2024 concerning unauthorised absences from school. It is important that you take a few minutes to read this letter so that you understand what the changes are.

Parents can already be issued with a penalty notice by the local authority for their child's non-attendance at school. From the 19 August 2024, the Government will standardise the process for penalty notices. All local authorities must follow the national requirements.

From the 19 August 2024:

- Penalty notices for unauthorised absence from school are increasing from £120 to £160 per child, per parent. The amount will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

- A parent may be issued with a penalty notice if their child's absence is unauthorised, and they miss 10 sessions within a rolling period of 10 weeks. Ten sessions are usually the same as 5 school days. The 10 weeks may span different terms or school years. For example, two unauthorised absences in the summer term and eight unauthorised absences in the autumn term.
- The changes apply to any unauthorised absence taken from the start of the new academic year. For example, a holiday in term time which has a start date after the 19 August 2024.
- If a second penalty notice is issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, the penalty notice will be charged at the higher rate of £160. There is no option for this second offence to be discharged at the lower rate of £80.
- The Government has set a national limit of two penalty notices that can be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period.
- If the national limit of two penalty notices has been met, or exceeded, the local authority must consider the use of another tool to improve attendance. For example, prosecution or another attendance legal intervention.

The local penalty notice code of conduct will be published on Knowsley Council's website and has been drawn up in consultation with headteachers and the Merseyside Police Force. The Council believe good attendance is essential to support your child in getting the most out of their education and we thank you for your continued support.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 20th September	MacMillan Coffee Morning – All are welcome!
Tuesday 24th September at 2.45pm	Class 8 Prayer and Liturgy. Parents and grandparents welcome.
Wednesday 25th September at 2.45pm	Class 7 Prayer and Liturgy. Parents and grandparents welcome.
Thursday 26th September at 2.45pm	Class 6 Prayer and Liturgy. Parents and grandparents welcome.
Thursday 26th September	European Day of Language.
Friday 27th September at 2.45pm	Class 5 Prayer and Liturgy. Parents and grandparents welcome.
Wednesday 25th September – 3rd October	Book Fair in school.
Wednesday 2nd October at 9.00am	Stay and Read Class 4. Parents and grandparents welcome.
Wednesday 9th October at 9.00am	Stay and Read Class 3. Parents and grandparents welcome.
Wednesday 16th October at 9.00am	Stay and Read Class 2. Parents and grandparents welcome.
Wednesday 23rd October at 9.00am	Stay and Read Class 1. Parents and grandparents welcome.
Friday 25th October	School closes for half term.
Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th November	Parents evening.

(Due to unforeseen circumstances dates may occasionally change)

Please note – All future newsletters will be on the school website

Yours sincerely,

L.Maddocks - Mrs Maddocks (Acting Headteacher)