



SUMMER Term 2015/16

Safeguarding/Child Protection Officer—Mrs R Tyler

JUNE 2016

Dear Parents / Carers,

I can't quite believe that it is the final half term of this school year - time certainly flies! As you know, we have so much to get through in the next few weeks and, as always, it is an extremely busy time for all of us as we look forward to trips, performances, sports and transition days. Y6 are now on their last lap at St Brigid's before they embark on a whole new adventure at secondary school. As you are aware, there is a great deal going on for all of our pupils between now and the end of term and so it is important that your child is in everyday so that they don't miss out—the events list was sent out last half term but is also available on our school website.

**First Holy Communion & Confirmation Mass**— Congratulations to all of the children who will soon be celebrating their First Holy Communion & Confirmation. We are fortunate to have the Archbishop of Liverpool, Malcolm McMahon, presiding over the mass which will take place on Sunday 19th June at 10am. Please be aware that the final preparation session for candidates and their families is this Sunday at 11am in the parish club.

**Communion & Confirmation Celebration Service**—We will be holding a service of celebration on *Friday 24th June at 10.00am*. This will be followed by a party in our SPACE for Sports and Arts building. The pupils who have made their Communion & Confirmation should come to school at normal time and wearing their special outfits. They may be collected from school after their party at 12.30pm. Please come and join us for this celebratory service if you can.

**Religious Education**— Over the next couple of weeks, our pupils will be focussing on all aspects of Reconciliation. Please talk to your child about what it means to make good choices, say sorry and build bridges. Father David, our Chair of Governors, will be visiting school on Friday to monitor the provision of RE across the school and will be talking to the children about all that they are learning.

**Parish News**—Father David has asked me to remind you all that the Parish Summer Fayre will be taking place on *Sunday 17th July*. If you have any unused items of clothing or books that you would be willing to donate or would like to support the work of the parish in any other way, Father would be most appreciative. I know that there are a number of our pupils and parents who have already volunteered their time to ensure that the event will be well organised and fun filled. Please do all you can to support.

**Attendance**—This year we have seen a lot of reoccurring illness and it has been particularly difficult for many families of pupils who are normally never off school. There are however, a number of pupils who have had too many odd days off and have taken holidays during term time. As a result, our overall attendance percentage is the lowest it has been in over 4 years.

**Sept to 20th May**—Whole school end of year target = 96.1%

Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
94.4%	94.4%	93.3%	95.5%	93.7%	95.3%	95.6%

Whole school from Sept to May = 94.7% :-{

Many congratulations to the 56 pupils whose attendance is outstanding (98%+) and all of the many other pupils who are above the school target. Texts will be going out this week to let you know what your child's attendance percentage is from September to May.

**PUNCTUALITY**—The overwhelming majority of our pupils are in the line at 5 to 9 and never let us down. Well done to you! There are some, however, who continue to come into school late. Mr Fleming will be keeping a check on pupils arriving late and letting parents and the Local Authority know who is affecting our punctuality data. Please be aware that your child is missing out if they are not in school on time and their attendance will be affected if lateness continues.

**New Starters**—I will be meeting with parents of pupils who are due to start school in September on Wed 22nd June at 9.30am. Following this, our new pupils will be joining us for the afternoon on Thurs 30th June. I am sure you can remember how nerve wracking it was when you first had to let your precious darling/s go to school for the first time. Please keep all of our new pupils, their parents and families in your prayers as they begin their St Brigid's journey.

**Birthdays and Party Bags**—As you know, we love to celebrate our pupils' special day and always make a fuss of birthday boys and girls in class and during whole school assemblies. Just a reminder that birthday cakes and large bags of sweets **WILL NOT** be given out in school due to the large number of families who are focussing on healthy eating and dental care, plus the growing number of pupils with food allergies (some quite severe). However, if you would like to send in a **small bag of haribos** for your child's class mates we will distribute these on your behalf. Thank you for your support.





**Athletics**— Well done to the pupils in Years 3—6 who are representing St Brigid's at the annual Liverpool Catholic Schools Athletics event at Wavertree this week. We all had a wonderful time last night and there were some really great performances from Y4&6 in the track events and Y3&5 in the field. Tomorrow night we will be back again for the Y3&5 track and Y4&6 field events so hopefully the weather will stay fine for us—fingers crossed!

**Children's University**—The celebration event at Liverpool Hope University will be taking place on the morning of Monday 20th June and Mrs McKay has been busy collating all of the credits that our pupils have earned throughout the year. We will be joined by Keith McDowell (one of our school governors and Knowsley's Lead for Family Learning) who will talk to the children about the real difference that they are making to their education by participating in 'out of school hours' learning. I am so proud of the children who will be receiving their awards and having their efforts formally recognised during, what is always, such a prestigious event. I am sure that our pupils will be a credit to themselves, their families and our school on their graduation day!

**After-School Club**—There are a number of families who have spoken to school staff recently about the need for an after-school club at St Brigid's. The school governors and I are taking this very seriously. With this in mind, I will be sending out a short questionnaire next week to gauge whether running a club of our own will be feasible. Please look out for this and return to school as soon as possible. Thank you.

**Child Safety Week (6th-12th June 2016)** - Families are being urged to 'Turn off technology for safety'. This year's campaign will highlight the dangers of accidents happening when we're distracted by answering a phone call or checking a text. By turning off technology at crucial times, we can give children all our attention to keep them safe when pressures mount. It's also a good example to children and young people to turn off technology when crossing the road or other times when you need to concentrate to stay safe. Child Safety Week is the flagship annual campaign run by the Child Accident Prevention Trust. It aims to help families understand the risks, as well as the consequences, or accidents – and most importantly, the simple ways that accidents can be prevented. For more info go to <http://www.chilfsafetyweek.org.uk/resources/interactive-resources/> and [www.knowsleynews.co.uk](http://www.knowsleynews.co.uk)

**NEW Car Seat Regulations: December 2016 'Booster Seat Ban'**—You may be aware that, under current law, children must normally use a car seat until they reach the age of 12 or the height of 1.35m. At the moment, children as young as 3 years old and weighing as little as 15kg are allowed to use backless booster seats. The new regulations will come into effect in December 2016 and will say that booster seats will only be approved for children taller than 1.25m and weighing more than 22kg. Experts agree that backless booster seats are unsuitable for young children and do not protect them adequately against potential dangers.

**Summer Trips**—Our annual summer trips are now booked and the children and teachers are really looking to their 'day out'! Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 will be visiting Underwater Street on Monday 4th July. Years 3 & 4 are going to Gulliver's World on Thursday 7th July and Years 5 & 6 are off to 'The Hive' in Widnes on Thursday 21st July. Please keep a look out for letters regarding these trips which will be going out from your child's class teacher.

**PHONICS Screening Check**—This will take place next week for all of our Y1 pupils. The children are well prepared and have been working their socks off with Mrs Hunter and the staff in Y1.

**St Brigid's Transition Day: Wednesday 6th July**—Planning for transition is an important part of the work we do in helping our pupils prepare for change. In a couple of weeks, the children will be moving around the school and getting to know their new teachers and classroom environments as they begin to think about their move to the next year group come September.

Reception class into Y1 with Mrs Hunter (class teacher) & Mrs Clarkson (TA)

Y1 class into Y2 with Mrs McKay (class teacher) & Mrs Usher (TA)

Y2 class into Y3 with Mrs Burns (class teacher) & Mrs Collins (TA)

Y3 class into Y4 with Mr Riley (class teacher) & Mrs Pickett (TA)

Y4 class into Y5 with Mrs Edwards (class teacher) & Mrs Clays (TA)

Y5 class into Y6 to be split with Ms Barker & Mr Owen (class teachers)

**Foodbank**—Mrs Higham is still collecting items to be donated to our local food bank. If you feel that you are able, please bring any tinned meat or veg, cereals, pasta or soups to school as soon as possible.

#### **Hot Weather Alert—Stay Safe**

***Most of us welcome hot weather, but when it's too hot for too long there are health risks. This summer, make sure the hot weather doesn't harm you or anyone you know—especially the elderly and the very young.***

**<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Summerhealth>**

Thank you all for your support and I wish you all the very best for a wonderful *final* half term.

 **Mrs R Tyler—Headteacher**

*Wise Words*  
Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. It  
is also what it takes to sit down and listen.  
Whinston Churchill