



AUTUMN Term 2018-19

Safeguarding/Child Protection Officer—Mrs R Tyler

Dear Parents / Carers,

WELCOME BACK and what a lovely start our children have made. I hope you have all had a wonderful summer break and are not missing your darlings too much now that they are back in school! Coming back to school after the long holidays is often a nerve-racking time. Even the teachers feel apprehensive before their return! Despite their trepidation, the children (and staff) have returned wonderfully. The new year always brings new challenges and rightly so. The staff and children will be setting themselves goals to be achieved by the end of the year and will be working hard to ensure that they do their very best to meet these. Don't forget, all new learning occurs outside of your comfort zone—with this in mind, we will be supporting your child to 'take a risk' and 'have a go', even if they find this challenging. You never know what you can achieve unless you give it a try! What are your targets for the year ahead? Why not share these with your children or have a family goal—walk / explore / play board games etc.

Coming in to school—It was a pity that the weather was bad this morning but the children came in to school beautifully, as always. From now on we will be coming straight in to the hall at 8.45am **everyday**. This means that you can drop your child off as you would on a wet day and our staff will direct them to their classrooms rather than lining up on the yard. So, from tomorrow, please see your child to the school hall and don't forget, the doors will close when the bell rings at 5 to 9.

Religious Education—Father David will be joining us for our Welcome Back Mass tomorrow and we will be celebrating with Jesus the beginning of the new school year. We pray that we will make the best use of our time in school and show the love of God to everyone we meet. We always focus on friendships at the beginning of our new school year and remember that if we love one another and treat everyone with care and respect we will be helping to make our community a wonderful place to be.

Parish News—Father David has now set the dates for **Y4 Reconciliation Service** (Sunday 2nd December at 2pm) & **Y4 Communion Mass** (Sunday 12th May at 12pm). He will be meeting with parents/carers of pupils in Y4 (and others who wish to take the sacraments this year) on **Monday 24th September at 2.30pm** in our school hall. Please make sure that your child is represented at this meeting as important information will be distributed.

Attendance—Please be aware that if your child has more than 7.5 days off from 3rd September to 24th July they will be below target—below is the breakdown of attendance across the whole school year:

0 days off = 100%	1 day off = 99.5%	2 days off = 98.9%	3 days off = 98.5%	4 days off = 97.9%
5 days off = 97.3%	6 days off = 96.8%	7 days off = 96.3%	8 days off = 95.8%	9 days off = 95.3%

We will be doing all we can to make sure that our children are in school as much as possible. Thank you to all of you who continue to support the work of the school and ensure that your child is in school whenever possible. Any family whose child has 5 days off within a 10 week period (without proof of medical evidence) or with persistent absences over time will be contacted by the Local Authority and may be subjected to a fine.

Bikes and Scooters—Our children are encouraged to use their bikes and scooters to travel to and from school. Please make sure that your child is aware of how to use them safely and remind them that they should walk (not ride) them on the school grounds. We ask children to walk them in and out of the school gates to avoid accidents which can and do happen when the premises are crowded at the beginning and end of the school day. Please use a chain to make sure bikes and scooters are locked up securely while on the school grounds.

Secondary Transfer—I know that we have just come back to school but all Y6 pupils who live in Knowsley will soon receive the Knowsley Secondary School booklet—these are usually sent to school in the first week of term and we will distribute them as soon as they arrive. In the next week or two, you should be able to view the booklet and complete your application online at www.knowsley.gov.uk/schooladmissions. If you are a Liverpool resident (purple wheelie bin), the booklet will be available to view online from 12th September—you will not receive a paper copy and all applications must be completed online. I have booked in a session for Y6 parents and will go through the application procedures with anyone who would like support on **Thursday 4th October** at 9.00am (School Hall). In the meantime, please give me a call or drop in if you need any advice and I will be happy to help. All applications for secondary admissions must be completed by 31st October 2018.

Y4 to 6 Residential—As you know, we will be taking our children to Robin Wood in February next year. If you haven't





already done so, please return your deposit to school as soon as possible. Weekly /monthly instalments can be made via Mrs Higham at the front desk.

Staffing for 2018-19—Our staff are excited to be back and so impressed by the way in which our children have returned to school. Classes are organised as follows:

NURSERY—Mrs Richards, Miss Edwards, Mrs Clays, Mrs Usher, Mrs Newton, Miss Barrow, Miss Gilchrist

RECEPTION—Miss Dailey, Miss Jones, Mrs Glascott

Y1—Mrs Hunter & Mrs Edwards

Y2—Mrs McKay & Mrs Collins

Y3—Mrs Burns / Mrs Buckley & Miss Kemp

Y4—Mrs Edwards & Miss Tynan

Y5—Mr Owen & Mrs Pickett

Y6—Mr Riley & Mrs North

SEND Leaders—Mrs Richards (N to Y1) & Mrs Hunter (Y2 to Y6)

Parent and Carer Meetings—We will be holding Parent / Carer Meetings over the next few weeks. These are intended as informal meetings which will give you the opportunity to meet your child's new teacher. It is important that your child is represented at these meetings as we give out a good deal of information about the coming year and outline ways in which you can support your children in their new class. Meetings will also cover information on arrangements for residential trips, sacramental changes, Y2 & 6 SATs and the Y1 Phonics Test.

Mon 10th Sept—2pm Y5 Mr Owen (Hall) & Y4 Mrs Edwards (Library)

Tues 11th Sept—2pm Y6 Mr Riley (Hall) & Y3 Mrs Burns (Library)

Tues 18th Sept—2pm Y1 Mrs Hunter (Hall) & Y2 Mrs McKay (Library)

If you (or a representative) are unable to make the meeting, please let us know as soon as possible and we will get all of the information out to you.

Birthdays—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. As most of you will be aware, we really encourage our children to make healthy food choices and there are a growing number of children with food allergies in school. With this in mind we ask that you **do not** send birthday cakes or bags of sweets into school. We are no longer able to distribute bags of sweets on your behalf so please save these for your child's celebrations at home.

Wrap Around Care—We continue to run our Breakfast and After School Clubs to support parents who struggle with childcare outside of school hours. Breakfast Club runs daily and is charged at a rate of £1.80 per day. After School Club runs from Monday to Friday and carries a cost of £3 per hour. The club is open from 3.15—5.45pm. If you require a place for your child, please complete the relevant forms with Mrs Higham at the front desk.

Mobile Phone Text Messaging Service—Please ensure that we have any updated mobile phone numbers as a matter of urgency so that we can contact you in the case of an emergency and so that you don't miss out on important information that we may text to you. I have already sent out a couple of texts and some of these have been *undeliverable* to individual families.

Medicines—The school policy for the administration of medicine is available from the front desk if required. We can ONLY give medicines that have been prescribed by a doctor AND are needed 4 times a day. Please contact Mrs Higham if you require any additional information.

Free school meals for children in Rec, Y1 & 2—Just a reminder, the government is funding schools in England to provide every child in Reception, Y1 and Y2 with a hot, nutritious meal at lunch time. The aim is to improve academic attainment and save families money. Studies have shown that where all children have been given a free school dinner, students were academically months ahead of their peers and more likely to eat vegetables at lunchtime instead of less healthy food like crisps. So, if you have not already taken up this offer, save yourself time and money and please think about encouraging your child to have a school dinner.

Paid School Dinners—School dinners remain at £1.90 per day (£9.50) and this should be paid through our Parent Pay system— if you don't already have one, your code can be obtained from Mrs Higham.

HEALTHY SNACK—Tuck is available to buy from school at £1.00 per week for Infants (R-Y2) & £1.50 for Juniors (Y3-6). We supply a range of options to ensure a balanced, varied and healthy snack. If you wish to provide your child with their own snack to bring to school, please do so ONLY from the following list: *a piece of fruit, a small box of raisins, a cheese string, a yoghurt, plain biscuits, a couple of bread sticks.*

With best wishes for a fantastic academic year 2018-19.

Mrs R Tyler (Headteacher)



Words of Wisdom

It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities. —J.K. Rowling