St.Brigid's Catholic Primary School

November Newsletter

Trusting in God - we love, believe and achieve.

AutumnTerm 2018/19

Safeguarding/Child Protection Officer—***Mrs R Tyler***

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you are all well and are looking forward to the bonfire celebrations at the weekend. As we begin November, I want to take the time to remind you of all the wonderful things that have been happening in school over the past couple of weeks and a few things that are scheduled for the near future.

Religious Education— This half term we continue to think about BELONGING and we ask some big questions of ourselves. What does it mean to belong? How do others know who we belong to? What commitments have we made to: ourselves, our family, our school, the clubs we are members of? Think about the uniform we wear at St Brigid's—this is one of the outward signs that we belong to the St Brigid's community. What other things do we do to show others that we belong to a faith community? Do we always use good manners, speak politely and treat others with respect? Do we care about our community and the environment that we live and work in?

SACRAMENTAL & Parish News—Father David has asked me to remind all of the Y4 children and parents who are due to attended the first preparation session for the sacrament of Reconciliation on Sunday 11th November at **11.15am** in the parish club. Both Father and I would love to see the children at 10am mass before the session begins as this would be a great way of helping your child to celebrate how they 'belong' to God's family.

Remembrance—At 11am on Friday 9th November, we will gather for our whole school Remembrance Service. This is a really good opportunity for the pupils and staff to reflect on the hard work and commitment shown by all those who help us to stay safe. As always, I am certain that this will be a poignant reflection as we have a number of families who have been closely affected by conflicts and many of you will know somebody who has suffered, past and present. At this time, we will also remember those we have personally loved and lost—as a school we will pray for those who have been an integral part of our community, including: Ted (the Lollipop man), Paula Roberts (Honey's mum) and past pupils, Rebecca Usher & Patrick Smith (whose anniversaries occur about this time). Please keep all of those affected by the loss of a loved one in your prayers. For guidance please see https://www.macmillan.org.uk/coping-with-bereavement or let us know so that we can help.

Y5 Advent Assembly—A date for your diaries: **Friday 30th November—2pm** in the school hall. All are welcome to attend.

School Attendance—Well done to everyone who is committed to helping us to reach our 96.1% attendance target—Unfortunately, our attendance for the first half term has been badly affected by families taking holidays during term time. Please be aware that this time cannot e made up. Families should also be aware that any medical absences for longer than a couple of days will need to be supported by edeince from your GP otherwise you will could be subject to a fine. The class results from 1st September to 19th October are as follows:

Rec	**Y1**	**Y2**	**Y3**	**Y4**	**Y5**	**Y6**
94.7%	95.8%	97.2%	94.0%	96.1%	98.2%	96.1%
Amber	Amber	Green	Amber	Green	Green	Green

Congratulations to Y5 who were the winners last half term and enjoyed their well earned trip to SPACEworld. The race is now on for the next trip and, with children (and staff) like ours, I'm sure it's going to be a photo finish!

Punctuality—Mr Fleming and I will continue to check up on those children who struggle to get in to school on time and will be inviting parents in to meet with us and a member of the School Attendance Service. As always, a very big thank you to the overwhelming majority of parents who ensure that their children are never late for school.

Parent and Carer / Teacher Meetings (Y1-6)—This week, we held our autumn term pupil progress meetings for pupils in Years 1-6 and you all had the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and targets for the coming year. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and those who were unable to but have organised separate appointments with their child's teacher. The meetings with staff are always important so that you are aware of how you can support your child and understand what they will be focussing on over the coming months.

Uniform—Despite our best efforts, there is always a risk that children will misplace items of their uniform. Please make sure that all items are clearly marked with your child's name and that you check the clothing that your child brings home in case they have picked up someone else's by mistake. Thanks for your help.

School Games Bronze 2017/18 · children's University · Get caught READING · Liverpool Quality Mark · knowsley schools 4 health bronze award · ICECATS

Liverpool Counts Quality Mark— As you know, we have been awarded a credible SILVER MARK for the work we are doing in Maths. Mrs Hunter, ably supported by Mr Owen, continues to work hard to maintain maths as a high profile subject and we are now looking at how we can achieve GOLD! Maths Ambassadors are in place and will be working across the school to ensure that maths is fun and relevant. Please continue to do all you can to help your child outside of school hours:

* **Be positive about maths**—Avoid saying things like "Maths is hard" or "I hated maths at school". Even if it's TRUE! Think about the attitude you want your child to have about Maths. Play some games—snakes and ladders, monopoly, countdown.
* **Show children how you use maths everyday—**Include your child in activities involving maths such as using money, cooking, travelling. Talk about maths in the work place— measuring up, calculating costs, working to schedule (timing).
* **Praise your child for their effort—**Research shows that anyone can be a successful mathematician as long as they are given the right support and encouragement. Always praise your child for trying (especially if they are struggling)—as long as they keep working hard, they can always improve.

Family Learning Fun—Mrs Buckley is busy supporting the Family learning Team as they deliver family craft sessions for our younger children and their parents/carers. These are always very well attended and the children enjoy spending time with their loved ones during school hours. Mrs Buckley will send out additional information (via text) of any further activities that are planned over the next couple of weeks so keep a look out.

Admissions for next September—Children whose 4th birthday falls on or before 31st August 2019 will be due to start school in September. If you, a friend or neighbour has a child who requires a place at school, please don't forget that you need to complete a school expression of interest form ***AND*** the Knowsley or Liverpool Admission Form (depending on which authority you live in). This should be done as soon as possible to ensure that you don't miss out on a place. Don't forget, a place in our nursery **DOES NOT** guarantee a place in our Reception Class. Please contact school if you require any further information.

Quidditch Competition—The St Brigid's team represented us all brilliantly in the recent competition and were runners up in the city wide competition. Very well done to all of the children who represented us so well and were model sports men and women on what was a gruelling day.

Internet Safety— During the week beginning the 12th of November, all of our children will have sessions around 'staying safe online'. This is part of our annual 'say no to bullying' week. Understanding the dangers which our children face online is paramount in helping them to stay safe and live emotionally healthy lives. One topic that crops up with all of our children is their prolonged access to social media via phones, IPads and gaming systems. Late night conversations can often lead to upset and undue worrying which all spills over into school and affects emotional wellbeing and concentration. Please remember that there are age restrictions on sites like Facebook and Instagram (age 13) so as to help protect our children and keep them safe. The same applies for video games which also have age restrictions because of the level of physical and verbal violence. For further information on internet safety why not visit the NSPCC website.

Children in Need—Fabulously Famous!!! On **Friday 16th November**, we will be dressing up and raising money for a worthy cause. The theme for the day is 'Fabulously Famous' so children may like to wear something from a decade gone by (70s, 80s, 90s), dress up as a historical character (Henry VIII, Florence Nightingale) or maybe a famous musician or artist (Elvis / Madonna / Vincent Van Gogh) or Pudsey Bear! The Pupil Leadership Team will be giving out prizes for the best costumes and outfits. Pupils are asked to contribute £1 for dressing up but they are welcome to bring extra money in for the raffles and competitions that will run during the day. Wrist bands and Pudsey Bears will be on sale at the front desk from next week.

Nursery Provision—Finally, I would like to thank all of our youngest children for settling in to life in St Brigid's Nursery so beautifully—they are a credit to themselves, their families and our school and have already made a lot of progress in such a short time. Thank you to all the parents/carers and families who really value the work of our school and continue to recommend St Brigid's to others—as a result of your support, the nursery classes have filled very quickly. Special thanks goes to Mrs Richards and all of the nursery staff who are working tirelessly to ensure that our children get the best possible start to their education.

With best wishes and sincere thanks for all of your support,
Mrs R Tyler—Headteacher

Maths Corner

Are you smarter than an 11 year old?
If a cat sleeps for 12 hours each day, then 50% of its life is spent asleep. A koala sleeps for 18 hours each day – how much of its life is spent asleep?

Maths fact—Much as with people, there are ***irrational***, ***perfect*** and ***complex*** numbers. Do you know the difference?