

# Newsletter



St. Anselm's Catholic Primary School

16/9/2022

Dear Parents

We welcome our new families, both in reception, and across the school. It's lovely to see how quickly the children have settled back in.

The start of the new school year is a good time to remind parents about our attendance policy, particularly as we are no longer having to function within COVID guidance.

All children need to attend school, every day. Parents can only allow their child to miss school if:

- They are too ill to attend (parents must contact the school on each day of absence)
- Permission for absence has been gained by the head teacher in advance

Holidays in term time are not permitted, and absence is only authorised if the request for absence is deemed to be for an exceptional reason.

**It is a requirement of the school that parents complete a 'Request for Absence' form if their child needs to be absent from school. This should be completed and submitted at least a week before the absence, unless there is a last minute emergency or appointment.**

We are increasingly finding that parents are submitting the form on the day of absence, or the day before, and it is important to remember that the purpose of this form is to request absence, and not to inform us of absence. All absence must be considered by the head teacher in a timely manner. There will be occasions where permission for absence is declined and so parents must wait for permission before making arrangements.

We have been more lenient about allowing children out of school for medical appointments, post pandemic, but now need to return to pre-pandemic requirements. It is the expectation that routine medical appointments (doctor, dentist etc) take place outside of school hours. We recognise that some hospital appointments will be during the day due to the time of different clinics, but a 'Request for Absence' form, for such appointments, alongside proof of the appointment, must be submitted to the school in good time.

Our attendance rate dropped over the last couple of years, and we want to now make sure that we return to our high level of attendance across the school. Our Education Welfare Officer visits school regularly, and looks at the registers, to monitor any children whose attendance is a concern. Governors also have a responsibility to monitor overall attendance rates (anonymous).

Punctuality is also important. Please ensure your child arrives in time for the bell (just before 9:00am) and that they are picked up promptly at 3.30pm.

I hope that we can continue to work together to improve our attendance as good attendance is directly linked to good attainment.

**Family Learning:** Our maths family learning sessions start next week. This is an opportunity for parents to hear about how maths will be taught this year, and to work with their child.

During the pandemic, we had to bring in a number of measures to try and reduce the spread of infection. We are now able to move back to the systems we had in place before.

#### Water bottles

Now that our water fountains have re-opened, there is no need for children to bring water bottles into school (though they can if you want them to). We have water fountains both inside and outside, so children have access to water when they need it.

#### Snacks

Children should not be bringing snacks into school. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have access to free fruit every day at playtime.

#### Pencil cases

There is no longer a need for the children to have their own stationery, and they can now use school provisions. Key Stage 2 children may bring a pencil case in if they want to, but this will only be used for certain tasks which will be decided by their teacher. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 should not be bringing pencil cases to school.

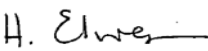
#### PE kit

We feel that the new system, of children coming into school in their PE kit on their PE day works well and we will be keeping this in place.

#### Behaviour

We are currently reviewing our behaviour policy and will be using assemblies to focus on certain behaviours with the children. Our current focus behaviour is about respecting property. We find that children sometimes find it hard to look after school property, resulting in equipment getting lost or broken, and there is an expectation that it will just be replaced. We want them to understand the importance of caring for property, whoever it belongs to, and know that things can't always just be replaced. This also applies to their uniform—we are trying to make them more responsible for looking after, and keeping track of, their clothing

Best wishes

  
Hattie Elwes  
Headteacher

#### Dates

##### **September**

19th Bank Holiday – **school closed**  
22nd Year 2 Family Learning 9:00  
23rd 9:30 Year 6 assembly +Family Learning  
29th Year 3 Family Learning 9:00

##### **October**

5th Year 4 Family Learning 9:00  
6th Year 1 Family Learning 9:00  
7th Year 5 Family Learning 9:00  
8th Family Social 5:00 – 7:00pm  
11th Year 1 and 6 parent teacher meetings  
12th PTA AGM  
13th Year 3 and 4 parent teacher meetings  
14th Year 2 assembly  
17th School photos  
18th Year 2 and 5 Parent teacher meetings  
19th Reception family learning (phonics)  
21st Break up for half term



*'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.'* 2 Corinthians 5-17