

# Newsletter

St. Anselm's Catholic Primary School



18/9/2023

Dear Parents

It's been lovely to see the children settle so quickly into their new classes, and we welcome our new families to our school. Our reception children are already happily walking into school independently, and Year 6 are very much looking forward to becoming their buddies this week.

I hope that you found the curriculum meetings with the teachers useful, in order to gain an overview of the learning and expectations this year. This week we start our first maths family learning sessions. This is a chance for you to work with your children, and learn about how maths will be taught this year.

Year 1 and Year 5 have got off to a good start with their reading buddies:



## Attendance

I wanted to take the opportunity to remind parents about expectations around attendance.

Attendance is directly linked to attainment. All children are expected to attend school every day, unless they are unwell. If they are absent, they miss out on learning and then find it hard to catch up and fill the gaps.

If your child needs to be absent from school for a reason other than illness, then you must submit a **'Request for Absence'** form to the school office, at least a week before the expected absence. A request for absence may be refused, so please do not book anything until you have spoken to the school.

Absence can only be authorised for a small number of reasons. These include hospital appointments that can't be made outside school hours, and secondary school visits for Year 6 only.

Other absence request can only be authorised if they are considered to be for 'exceptional' reasons. Examples of these would be to attend the wedding or funeral of a close family member, or if absence is recommended by a health professional. It is likely that all other absence requests will not be authorised.

We noted that, at the end of last term, a number of families left school early to travel abroad. All of these absences were recorded as unauthorised.

Children's attendance should be between 95% and 100%. If attendance starts to slip below 95%, then we will start making contact with you. Attendance below 90% becomes a concern. We also work alongside the Educational Welfare Officer who does get involved if there is unauthorised absence and poor attendance.

Similarly, children must be on time to school. It is very difficult and disruptive if a child has to walk into the classroom late, once teaching has started.

We hope that families can work with us to continue to uphold our high standards of attendance and punctuality.

All classes have undertaken their half termly science week, and there were many lovely examples of practical, investigative activities across the school.



Best wishes

H. Elwes

Hattie Elwes  
Headteacher

## Dates

### September

21st Year 2 maths family learning 9:10

22nd Year 6 assembly 9:30

Year 6 family learning 10:00

28th Year 3 family learning 9:10

### October

4th Year 4 maths family learning

5th Year 1 maths family learning

6th Year 5 maths family learning

7th Family social 5:00 – 7:00

10th Year 1 and Year 6 parent/teacher meetings

11th PTA AGM 7pm

12th Year 3 and 4 parent/teacher meetings

13th Year 2 assembly

16th Photos