

Newsletter

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Week Beginning 7th September 2009

Issue No : 154

Welcome Back!

A huge welcome back to everyone after the long summer vacation. The children look rested and eager to start the new term!

We welcome a host of new faces throughout the school. We have David Kennedy in Y1; Erin Barton who has returned to Y1 after almost a year in Canada; Brian Mabhiza in Y1; Ben Spanton in Y4; Robbie Walker in Y4; Lucy Kennedy in Y5 and Cara Kennedy in Y6. I am sure all the children will soon settle down into our routine and make good friends.

We welcome also, of course, our new Reception children as follows : Laura, Joseph B, Chloe, Adam, Lydia, Jason, Isabella, Rosie, Olivia F, Jake, Antonios, Joseph H, Shannon, Matthew, Emma, Zachary, Jonathan, Louis, Thomas, Niamh, Ruby, Andre, Lucy, Ellie, Matilde, Genevieve, Madison, Olivia W, Rose and William. The children have settled down very well in Class 1 with Mrs Mosley and Mrs Mooney.

Mrs Cameron – Acting Headteacher

Mrs Cameron would like to thank all staff, parents and children for their best wishes for this new academic year. Mrs Cameron is looking forward to her new role in the school.

Mrs Fau-Goodwin

Mrs Fau-Goodwin is settling in to her new role at St Mary's Catholic Primary in Crewe. She has asked us to pass on her sincere thanks to all those parents and children who sent their best wishes, cards and gifts on her leaving.

Mass for the Start of the New School Year

Fr Daly will say Mass in school this Friday morning (11th September) at 9.30am in celebration of the new school year.

Diocesan School Building Fund

A letter from Bishop Brian of Shrewsbury was circulated yesterday which gave details of the Shrewsbury Diocese School Building Fund. Please take the time to read the letter carefully and give it due consideration as, ultimately, it affects all our children across the Shrewsbury Diocese. The support given by parents enables larger building projects to be undertaken within local Catholic schools and we have ourselves benefited from this fund in recent years, enabling us to currently have seven straight year groups. Please send your donation into school in a clearly marked envelope as soon as you can.

Lunch Money

The price of school lunches increased from 1st September 2009 to £2.00 per day (£10.00 per week). Cheques are payable to Cheshire East Borough Council. If your child usually brings a packed lunch but would like to have a Friday Special, please ensure that the £2.00 is brought into school on a Monday morning as this is the only time that lunch money is dealt with, and adequate notice needs to be given to Mrs Burd in the kitchen.

Office / Classroom Protocol

Please be aware that the school office is constantly busy. The door and telephone will be answered as soon as possible, but as you will appreciate, Mrs Ashbrooke may well be engaged on another task. Please bear in mind also that if you are contacting the school by telephone, it is our policy that you will be asked what it is regarding so you can be directed to the most appropriate person to deal with your query. To improve your contact with the office, we would ask that you kindly observe the following: ensure that lunch money and all monies are received in clearly marked envelopes; ensure that your child has all they need for the day before 8:55am; ensure that your child arrives on time and that arrangements are in place for collection at home time or that child care arrangements are clear; please remember that Monday mornings are particularly busy and the office should only be contacted as a last resort. Thank you for your consideration.

Please also remember that appointments must be made to speak to staff as they are teaching all day and they must be your first line of contact if you have any issues or problems.

Please make use of Monday 'drop in' time from 3:15pm – 4:00pm as staff are available to see you informally with any issues you wish to raise.

Medication

If your child requires long or short term prescription medication, please ensure that all the relevant paper work is in place by contacting Mrs Tobin as soon as possible and completing a medical form during parent information evening this week. If your child requires an inhaler or epipen, please ensure they are in date.

Religious Education Parent Leaflet

Please find attached, this term's Parent information on our Here I Am topics and religious education programme.

School Uniform

Please remember that uniform is now purchased directly from the supplier – Schoolwear For Less. There is a link on our school website and the process is self-explanatory. The supplier website is www.schoolwearforless.com

Parent Information Evening

As per our letter of 7th September, our Parent Information Evening will be held on Thursday 10th September. Staff will explain the year ahead, expectations and routines, and will answer any general queries you may have. This is not a parent consultation evening to discuss individuals; its purpose is to map out the year ahead for you and explain how home and school can work together.

Health & Safety Issues

As you are all aware, parking is a major issue at St Anne's. There are still a number of parents / carers who continue to park on the school site. Being late is not a reason to use the staff car park or park inappropriately.

If you are using the car park as a nursery parent or are bringing /collecting a child from the before and after school club, please enter the site **UNDER 5MPH**.

The yellow hatched areas at the entrance and exit to the site, **must** be kept clear **AT ALL TIMES** as we may well need access for an emergency vehicle at any time.

We are monitoring the site very closely as we have had a number of near misses, and continue to send letters to parents / cares who abuse school policy.

Please be mindful of the movement on site as well as the need for access. There are many pedestrians, small children and pushchairs around.

Attendance

Attendance is a key focus within the new framework as outcomes for children can be significantly affected if the children are not in school. Our school attendance rates are just around the National Average, due to families taking holidays during term time. The OFSTED team asked that this was given some serious thought and consideration by parents and governors. Our school education welfare officer has now been alerted, as we fall into the 'amber' category, where we have traditionally always been in 'green'. The national average is 95% and 'red' is 93% and below.

The attendance rates for the last academic year per year group were as follows :

YR – 93.2% ; Y1 – 92.9% ; Y2 – 92.3% ; Y3 – 92.4% ; Y4 – 92.7% ; Y5 – 91.8% ; Y6 – 94.1%

Total Overall Average Percentage : 92.7%

From Monday 14th September 2009 any parents / carers requesting holidays during term time will need to contact Mrs Cameron personally with their holiday request form.

After School Activities

Cheerleading

Cheerleading with Miss Georgiou will commence on Thursday 10th September – all places have been filled for the time being. Arrangements will remain the same as the last academic year with the class commencing at 3.30pm and finishing at 4.30pm. Would parents please collect their children from the Hall doors.

Gymnastics

Gymnastics will once again be taught by the Crewe & Nantwich Gymnastics Club from Camm Street. Classes will begin on Tuesday 15th September. KS1 will be held from 3.30pm to 4.30pm and KS2 from 4.30pm to 5.30pm. Unfortunately the after school club are unable to provide any extra after school care and so KS2 children will need to leave school as normal at 3.15pm and return for 4.30pm.

Art Club

Mrs Mosley will resume the Art Club at the start of the Spring Term.

Salsa Dancing Club

Miss McGonigle is hoping to organise a salsa dancing club after the October half term.

Choir

Choir practice resumes on Friday 11th September from 3.15pm until 4.30pm
Congratulations and thank you to our choir who performed their summer programme at concerts both in school and at St Anne's Church. The concerts raised over £150.00 for the Marie Curie Cancer

Care Fund. Year 6 choir leavers were presented with a trophy kindly donated by the PTA and a super T shirt donated by one of our choir families. Many thanks.

Football

Football training for Year 5 and Year 6 children commenced on Tuesday of this week and will take place every Tuesday during the lunchtime break. Miss Hughes has already completed trials and will announce the school team later this week.

Sportscape

The Sportscape team will provide after school activities this term on Mondays from 3.30pm until 4.30pm. Letters have already been circulated.

Drama

Drama for KS2 children takes place on Mondays from 3.15pm until 4.15pm. Drama for children in Years 1 and 2 will commence on Thursday 17th September from 3.15pm until 4.15pm. If your child requires a place, please contact Mrs Speet directly on 01270 619390.

Friends of St Anne's

Diary dates for the Friends of St Anne's are as follows :

Thursday 24th September 6.30pm to 7.30pm – Bedtime Stories

Friday 2nd October 7.00pm to 9.00pm – Family Quiz Night

Friday 6th November 6.30pm to 8.00pm – Childrens Disco

Friday 4th December 6.30pm to 8.00pm – Christmas Bingo

A big thank you to all the parents who supported the Friends last year. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead with many new projects in the pipeline. An introductory newsletter for all new parents will follow shortly.

End of Year Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to those parents / carers who completed the questionnaire on our website at the end of the last academic year. Unfortunately the response was extremely low so, as collating the views of parents / carers is an important activity in school, we are now asking that the questionnaire be completed on paper. A copy will be given to your child(ren) within the next few days and we would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete it and send it into school. Thank you.

Sunflowers at St Anne's – Baby Unit

The new Baby Unit is now open at Sunflowers Nursery and the new extension for the before and after school club was opened on 1st September. A big thank you to all the staff who worked extremely hard over the summer to ensure the unit was ready on time.

School Holiday Calendar - 2009/2010

Please find below a copy of the approved holiday dates for the next academic year.

Please keep them in a safe place !

| | School Closes | School re-opens |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Summer 2009 | | Wednesday 2 nd September |
| Autumn Half Term | Friday 23 rd October | Monday 2 nd November |
| Christmas | Friday 18 th December | Monday 4 th January 2010 |
| Spring Half Term | Friday 12 th February | Monday 22 nd February |
| Easter 2009 | Tuesday 30 th March | Monday 12 th April |
| May Day | Friday 30 th April | Tuesday 4 th May |
| Summer Half Term | Friday 28 th May | Monday 7 th June |
| Summer 2010 | Friday 16 th July | |

Inset Days are follows : Friday 23rd October; Tuesday 4th May; Friday 28th May