



St Aidan's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter

19th March 2014

GOODBYE

This summer we will sadly say goodbye to Miss King! She has gained promotion and will be leaving us to take up a post in St Helen's as an assistant head. Although she hasn't been with us for very long, Miss King has become an important and well respected member of our school staff and we will miss her greatly next year. We wish her all the best in her new challenge and thank her for all she has brought and done for the school and our pupils. Her love for Maths and for Learning in general is something she has passed on to all the pupils she has come in contact with. She has developed great relationships with pupils not only in her own classes but throughout the school and I know many will really miss her. I am sure you will all have an opportunity to say thanks and goodbye—she is always on the yard at home time!

United Utilities and the School Field

As I am sure you have all seen, the work is well under way on the field to alleviate the flooding that has affected so many in the area. Over the Summer holiday the work will step up and Adswold Road will be partially closed (letters will come from UU soon to explain the changes). The first important date for your diary is Thursday 26th June (next Thursday). On this day the cars will not be allowed to stop outside school as tonnes of concrete is being delivered from early in the morning (6am) until later that night. This poses a huge problem for many of you and also for the safety of the children. We would urge as many of you as possible to walk to school that day but to take extra care as there will be hundreds of lorries passing the school. Please accompany younger children that day for their safety. We will open school to ALL from 8.30am and ALL children will be allowed to come straight in (we will supervise them until 9am). There will be no need for anyone to wait on the yard—you must however ensure your child enters the playground safely (staff will be on the gate to support this). Home time will be a particular challenge and as yet I have not found a solution to how I can ease the burden at the school gate, but I am working on it and will write to you next week.

Please put the date in your diary as Walk to School Day and ensure you are up early so that you don't have to use the car that day.

Please ensure your child stays off the field especially over the summer—it is incredibly dangerous!

ATTENDANCE NEWS

Sadly our school attendance level has dropped over recent months, we were over 96% at one stage but now we are at 95.4%. This is a real shame as many of you have worked so hard and have shown how much you value good attendance. I realise that we have been hit with illness but the issue is the 1 or 2 days off a week some pupils take on a regular basis- resulting in them being classed as persistent absentees by the Local Authority.

It was agreed at Governors this week that as from September we will use cautions and fines for poor attendance (there is a set formula which accounts for genuine illness but not a regular pattern of odd days off). We will also be referring anyone who has poor attendance (below 96%) and who takes a holiday in school time to School Attendance for a caution or fine. These policies will be developed over the coming weeks and will bring us in line with local schools who use the same systems. I have tried to avoid this approach but despite all our efforts Attendance levels are not rising significantly. The good news is that the vast majority of families will be able to continue as they are, safe in the knowledge that their child attends school regularly and that the system in place for reporting absence is used correctly.

School Nurse

Our School Nurse Helen is starting a drop in session on a Friday—the first one is Friday July 4th. She will be available from 9am in school and can support you with a host of issues from bed wetting to asthma, problems with your GP or healthy eating, nits or poor health. Pop in and say hello, she will be in the Bubble room and will be able to speak privately.

SPORTS DAY

The date is set for Friday 4th July (with a reserve date on Monday 7th July) It is likely that Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will run their races in the morning and the Juniors will have the afternoon. We will have to hold the races on the small strip of grass at the back of school so once again there will only be 2 tickets per family I expect. Hopefully next year we will be back on the big field and more can attend. Please do not bring food and drink for the children. We will provide them with a drink. All you need to bring is your loud cheering and enthusiasm.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

26th June	Walk to School
2nd July	Transition Day
4th July	Sports Day
7th July	Reports
8th July	New Nursery
14th July	Leavers Mass
18th July	End of Term
2nd September	New Term