



# St Aidan's Catholic Primary School



## Newsletter

October 2016

### Where did that half term go?

I can hardly believe as I write this newsletter that we have completed a whole half term already. Yes we finish school tomorrow for 1 week, returning on Monday 31st October (much to the children's horror, we are actually IN school on Halloween). The children have discussed with us their desire to dress up but we have explained that as a Catholic school we do not celebrate Halloween and we were a little concerned about some of the costumes some of the children indicated they would wear! Terrifying! However we have spent some time looking at Spooky writing and the origins and traditions of Halloween so they haven't missed out. We focussed on witches and wizards much safer than some options available in the shops I think!

It has been an extremely busy term and I have tried to highlight some of the events and experiences we have provided for the children, so read on!

### Ofsted 2016

We were visited by Inspectors right at the beginning of the term but we were ready for them. I am delighted that finally Ofsted have recognised that we are a **GOOD** school. I think the report reads very well and I am very proud that they recognised the 'family' feel we have created in school and that they saw how wonderful our children are in and out of class.

If you haven't read the report yet then take a look. It is on the school website but also available on the Ofsted website. Inspectors have identified the dedication and commitment of all at St Aidan's. We aim to give your children the best start to their school life and we want them to enjoy school and be happy and I think for the most part we get it right.

Now we will move forward and build on these very firm foundations. Thank you to all of you who completed questionnaires and spoke to Inspectors. The Parent View site gives a limited and as Inspectors found out, incorrect view of our school, which was evident when they looked through the returned papers and spoke to parents on the yard. We do our very best to please everyone and we know that sometimes you may not always agree with the answer you hear. However, we will always make time to listen to your views and take on board your comments. We would ask if you do have any issues, please come and speak to us in person.

### Sports, Health and Fitness News

We were finally awarded our **GOLD Sports Mark award** last week which recognises the great work that goes on to provide top quality, sport, health and fitness education and experiences to the children. So far this term the children have completed football tournaments in Huyton and with Everton, run in the Knowsley cross country races and also competed in our own Inter House Cross Country events. On top of this they have been playing sport on the yard and have received at least 2 hours of PE a week and having Healthy eating lessons—no wonder Miss Harrison looks shattered! A big thankyou to her for her tireless efforts to raise the profile of sport in school—Ofsted were very impressed!

This will all carry on after half term. Hopefully your child has brought their kit home for a wash. Please ensure it comes back in to school on Day 1, all labelled and in a bag. Kit must stay in school. Sometimes we have to rearrange lessons so PE days do change!

**New Menus** for school meals are available after half term. As it gets colder you may wish your child to have a hot meal. Have a look, the food is delicious. If your child has a packed lunch please consider what you put in the boxes and bags. A lot of food is wasted as they don't eat it (for all sorts of reasons). I tell children to take it home but they often sneak to the bin. Maybe give them less?

## Events this term

We were very busy this term—look on twitter for all of the photographs. (Don't be put off when it says you have to be accepted, we were preventing undesirables accessing our site). We celebrated Roald Dahl's birthday with a visit in the night from the BFG who left a mess and a letter for the children, we celebrated National Poetry Day and learnt about Halloween using poems and stories to help us with our writing skills . We had an author Eamonn Reilly visit and read from his books and tell us how to write a great story. The Grammar Guy did a whacky and funny show for Years 2-6 to help them learn all the new terms and remember the many types of word and sentence types. (songs are available if you pass a pen drive in to school). The RSPB spent a day in school helping us to find the wildlife hiding around our school—we didn't realise there was so much! We have mystery Maths questions all around school which are puzzling all of the children and we have had 2 class assemblies! Phew...it has been busy. The children have had great fun and we tell them don't miss a single day as you are sure to miss something amazing...and it is true!!

## Do you want to get involved?

After the holiday we will be looking in earnest for some new Governors. We need a Parent Governor and some Foundation Governors. We have 4 vacancies so are looking for committed and willing people. Being a School Governor is voluntary and holds a level of responsibility and commitment so is not an easy option but it can be rewarding. If you are organised, enjoy reading, have a few spare hours (mostly in the evenings but sometimes during the day), can be fair, open minded and want to help develop our school then please consider being a School Governor. If you are interested speak to Mrs Wright in the Office and she will give you more information.

If that is not for you...how about...

If you have an hour a week to spare then you could help us with Reading. We always need volunteers to listen to the children read. An hour a week (afternoons or mornings) would make a big difference.

If you have any other skills to share, let us know!

## EARLY RISERS

We have noticed that some children are arriving at school as early as 8am but not going to Breakfast Club. Please note there is no one to look after your child until 8.45am so they are not safe if you let them leave the house too early . I am delighted they are keen but worried that they could hurt themselves (or worse) as they are unsupervised.

## Do you receive our text messages?

If the answer is no then it is likely we do not have your up to date details. We use the text system a lot to inform you of changes and remind you about events. Please inform the School Office if you change any of your telephone numbers, address or any other contact details.