



## NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2021

**Please be advised that all school documentation is available in different formats, on request.**

### HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Reminder for Year 6 parents/carers. Please be advised that applications for high school must be submitted online by 31 October. You are asked to choose 3 schools in order of preference. If you only put your first choice and do not get a place, the LA will allocate you a school and it could be one that you would never choose so it is better to put down at least two schools. Please also remember that applications for Catholic high schools must include a copy of your child's baptism certificate if you have one.

### BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB (OUT OF HOURS)

Please remember that you need to book onto these clubs a week in advance. We have to be strict on numbers allowed because of COVID-19 restrictions and you should not turn up at breakfast club on the day and expect to be admitted or inform a member of staff on the door that your child is in Out of Hours club if they are not booked in. It is not fair to the staff who are on duty. Please be considerate and check availability on the online form that Mr Hartley puts out each week. Also, please pay all monies online or pass into the office in an envelope with your child's name on. Out of Hours staff will not take money on the door.

### UNIFORM

The children look so neat and smart on their return to school. Thank you. Please conform to the rules regarding school uniform for the remainder of the year. PE is a compulsory subject of the curriculum. School PE kits are required for PE lessons. No football kits please! Track suits are encouraged to be worn on the day of PE lessons to save time.

The last 2 years have been hard for everyone, but we got through it. We all want our children to do their best throughout this academic year, as we play "catch up". We want them to be successful in their achievements, so we hope that you will continue to support them with any work that they bring home and ensure that they read for at least ten minutes each evening. Once they have read, please remember to sign their reading record book. Also, please ensure that your children spend at least five minutes per night on the Doodle Maths program and children from year 2 up, spend five minutes per night on the TT Rockstars program. The children should all have their login details but if they don't, Mr Sands can provide them.

### CURRICULUM INFORMATION

Information about all subjects (curriculum maps, rationale and learning milestones) can be found on the school website.

### SCHOOL PROCEDURES

The Department of Education (DfE) has informed schools that we can return to some level of "normality" but that we have to operate on the understanding that the



# HOLY NAME CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

virus has not gone away. We will return to some procedures that we followed before the pandemic but others will continue (such as frequent hand washing and wiping down of frequently touched surfaces). We have to risk assess all activities in school and if some (such as whole school singing in the hall) are too likely to spread infection, we will not undertake them for now. I want to reassure parents that we will try our best within school to prevent cross infection. We will continue with the same procedures as last year for entering and exiting school.

## **FLU IMMUNISATION**

If you have not yet completed the online the consent form from NHS Mersey Care regarding the flu immunisation, please do so as soon as possible. Paper copies are available at the school office upon request.

## **Self-isolation**

The regulations concerning the need to self-isolate for close contacts of positive cases have changed. Please note that adults who have received both vaccinations and children under the age of 18 years and 6 months no longer have to automatically isolate if they have been in contact with a positive case **UNLESS THEY HAVE SYMPTOMS** of Covid. This means that children do not have to miss school if there is a case in their household or classes/staff will not be necessarily sent home if a positive case is reported in school. They should only miss school if they are symptomatic themselves. This should mean less disruption to education.

If any children are symptomatic, families should book a PCR test. They can return to school on receipt of a negative test result. If they test positive, they should isolate for 10 days beginning from the date of onset of symptoms or the date of test if they are asymptomatic.

## **Wearing of Masks**

Liverpool City Council has asked schools to request families collecting/dropping-off children to continue to wear a mask if the area around collection/drop-off points become crowded. We will continue to ask family members and other visitors to school to wear a mask inside the school building unless they are medically exempt.

## **ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY**

Both the Department of Education nationally and Liverpool City Council locally are placing a huge emphasis on attendance and punctuality this year because of the amount of school time lost to the pandemic. The DfE has asked schools to remind parents that it is **“a parent’s duty to ensure that their child attends regularly at school”** and **“schools and local authorities (have the ability) to issue sanctions including fixed penalty notices.”**

**Schools in Liverpool are being reminded that regular absenteeism and lateness is a safeguarding issue and can be evidence of neglect. We are being encouraged to engage with other agencies (such as Social Workers, Health or even the Police) to help tackle regular absenteeism and lateness in school.**

Please see the paragraph above about isolation as children who miss school because they have been in contact with a positive case will be recorded as unauthorised absence if they are not symptomatic themselves or are awaiting a PCR test result.

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**“Shine Like the STARS!”**



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We MUST achieve the 97% attendance target set by the Government. Our families did extremely well in the years prior to Covid to improve attendance as a school, so please continue to support us in this matter and give our children the best chance to make progress.

## NON UNIFORM DAY

The first non-uniform day will be Friday 22 October. We ask for a 50p contribution to school fund.

## CONTACT DETAILS, CONSENT FORMS AND MEDICAL FORMS

We cannot stress enough how important it is that school is able to contact families in an emergency, that we have your consent for photographs and have up to date information regarding children's medical conditions. Forms have been sent and I urge you to complete and return to school as soon as possible.

If you live in a building that requires a code or a specific method to access the building, please inform us or give us the contact details of someone who knows how to access the building; this is purely a child protection matter and any details disclosed will be treated in the strictest confidence.

We would also ask that if any of your contact details change throughout the year, you make the school aware of this.

## SCHOOL LUNCHES

If your child has transitioned from Year 2 to Year 3 and you believe that you are entitled to free school meals, the onus is on parents/carers to make an application to the council for free school meals. The school cannot make this application on your behalf and you must pay for meals or provide a packed lunch while the application is processed.

If you believe that your child is eligible for free school meals please make an application to the local authority (even if your child is in KS1) as the school receives extra funding for all pupils entitled to free meals.

Payments for school lunches must be received each Monday for meals to be eaten that week. An external company provides the meals and school cannot afford to pay costs on behalf of families. **Debts will not be allowed to be accrued for longer than one week. Please do not cause the school embarrassment by having to say that we cannot provide a meal due to outstanding debts.** Parents who owe outstanding money from the last academic year should contact the office to make arrangements for payment.

## HOLIDAYS

Holidays will not be authorised during term time apart from extenuating circumstances. Any unauthorised absences will be reported to the Education Welfare Officer and penalty notices will be issued by Liverpool Education Authority. Children will miss out on important learning and this could result in affecting their academic performance and attainment. We have been asked by the LEA to prosecute any parent/carer who takes their child out of school unauthorised during term time.

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## **DOJO**

If you haven't already done so, please consider signing up for this App. It's an efficient and eco-friendly way of school communicating with families.

## **WEBSITE**

We ask that you check the website on a regular basis for updated information. If you have any ideas for information you would like to see that is not at present available, please do not hesitate to contact us. All reasonable requests will be considered. We try to update it as quickly as we can and all newsletters that are sent out are posted on the website

## **MARRIAGE & FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM (Archdiocese)**

This is offered by Jackie Brougham who can be contacted on  
Tel: 0789 179 5145 or by Email: jackiebrougham@btinternet.com

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**School closes for half term on Friday 22 October 2021 at 3.00 pm**

**School reopens on Monday 1 November 2021 at 8.45 am.**

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