

Newsletter



St. Anselm's Catholic Primary School

23/2/2024

Dear Parents

Attendance

I'm sure you will have heard in the news that attendance in schools has not returned to pre-pandemic levels, and this is also the case at our school. Attendance at St Anselm's has always been very good, with low levels of absence, but our levels of attendance are still lower than usual.

Children must come to school every day, and it is the parents responsibility to make sure they attend. Occasionally children are too sick to come to school and that is to be expected. Mild illnesses, such as coughs and colds, shouldn't normally lead to absence, but more serious illnesses such as a fever or vomiting would mean that a child should be kept at home.

No other reasons for absence are authorised, unless they are for exceptional reasons. This would include, eg, to attend a wedding or funeral of a close family member, or for a medical/dental appointment that cannot take place during school time.

Holidays during term time are not permitted or authorised, and this includes not attending school on the last day of term, or leaving early on the last day of term, to catch a flight. We have an increasing number of children who are missing school for this reason.

If you feel that you have an exceptional reason to request absence from school, then you need to fill out a request for absence form (available from the school office), before making any plans, so that your request can be discussed.

Punctuality is also essential. We have a number of families who are often late to school. Getting children to school on time sets positive routines for the future and allows for good achievement. If children are late, their day gets off to a bad start which can impact their learning, and is disruptive for the class and the teacher.

The governors, and the school's Educational Welfare Officer will be carefully monitoring the children's attendance to ensure that all our children attend school every day, and on time.

Class	% Attendance
Reception	95.9%
Year 1	96.8%
Year 2	97.1%

Year 3	96.2%
Year 4	97%
Year 5	96.9%
Year 6	96.7%

This morning, I met with PC Mick, who is the Primary School link police officer. I spoke to him about Year 6 transition, and also, e-safety. We know that e-safety is a particular concern, and we as a school are having to deal with inappropriate language being brought into school, as well as the potential for bullying on-line. I have asked PC Mick to come in and speak to the Key Stage 2 classes. This will focus mostly on street safety, but he will also talk about e-safety and mobile phone usage, with Year 6 in particular, as they transition to secondary school.

PC Mick will also run an e-safety workshop for parents on **Friday 17th May, at 10:30am**, in school. This will be a very beneficial meeting, and a chance to hear about potential dangers, and what parents can do to teach their children to use the internet safely. We hope that this will be well attended by parents.

As part of our Lenten commitment to alms giving, we will be taking part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk. It will be part of our Theme Week activities, and we will send out further details nearer the time.



Amazon wish list link for school resources



Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'H. Elwes'.

Hattie Elwes
Headteacher

Theme Week and World Book Day

Thank you to those of you who have offered to come into school to talk about your Olympic and Paralympic experiences! Mrs Varyawa is working hard on the events for the week and will be in touch with further details.

Mrs Lynch has also written to parents about World Book Day on 7th March, and Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents are encouraged to come into school on that day at 9:00am to read with their children.



Sesame seeds

We have children in school who are allergic to sesame seeds so we ask that children do not bring any food containing sesame seeds in their lunch boxes. Thank you

Dates

February

27th Year 4 and Year 6 parent meetings
29th Year 1 and Year 3 parent meetings

March

4th Year 2 and Year 5 parent meetings
7th World Book Day
8th PTA social for parents
13th Reception parent meetings
26th Theme Week assembly 2:15
27th End of term Mass
Year 5 and 6 Brighter Sounds 7pm
28th End of term 2:00pm

INSET days – 29th April and 24th June

And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed. Acts 14:23