

Attendance

Whole school attendance
(09-09-19 to 13-09-19)

Year	%
1	95%
2	96%
3	94%
4	94%
5	99%
6	92%

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

We work alongside parents to ensure children have good levels of attendance and punctuality.

We are in the process of contacting parents of pupils whose children had concerning levels of attendance and poor punctuality last year – please keep an eye out for these letters and attend all appointments made with school so that we can tackle issues early and avoid escalation via Birmingham City Council's FAST TRACK legal process.

What's your attendance grade?

A = 100% Excellent	
B = 98% Very good	
C = 95% Good	
D = 92% Satisfactory	
E = 90% Below Average	
F = 85% Poor	
E = 80% Unacceptable	

Congratulations to Year 5, with 99% Attendance

Attendance from Monday 9th to Friday 13th for Key Stage 1 and 2 is 95%

School Attendance from 4th Sept to 13th Sept for Key Stage 1 and 2 is 95%

Please ensure your child attends school unless they are too unwell to do so.

All children should be in school by 8.55am at the latest.



Alive in Jesus

THE MESSENGER

CATHOLIC LIFE



Our new virtues for this half term are: Grateful and Generous. Over the next few weeks we will be looking at how our children are displaying these virtues in their words and actions.

We have changed the way we are celebrating mass in school this year and have decided to have class masses as well as whole school masses. We held our first one this week which was beautifully led by our Year 6 led children. I was absolutely delighted that 2 parents came along to join us in this special celebration. The children along with their class teacher spend a lot of time planning and preparing these masses. Can I please encourage parents to come along and support your children. All masses will be held in the children's classrooms. Mass next week on 19th September will be led by year 5 at 9.10am. Please do come along and join us.

NEED TO SEE A MEMBER OF STAFF?

Parents are asked to follow the following procedures when they need to see a member of staff. Each morning, a member of the leadership team will be present at the school door entrances. If you have any messages for your child's class teacher - please pass them on to the school office. If you need to see your child's class teacher, please see them on the playground at the end of the school day when a mutually convenient time can be arranged to discuss the issue. If you need to raise the issue again or need further help and support, please see the class teacher again or Phase Leader for your child's year group.

The Phase Leaders are:

Nursery/Reception – Miss Foster

Years 1 and 2 - Mrs Ingram

Years 3, 4, 5, 6 – Mrs Barton

If you feel after meeting with the class teacher and then the Phase Leader that you still need support or assistance, please see Mrs Williams (Vice Principal) and/or Mrs Damms (Principal).

To summarise, the process is:

- Class teacher • Phase Leader • Vice Principal/Principal

Learning is the lifelong process of transforming information and experience into knowledge, skills, behaviour and attitudes.

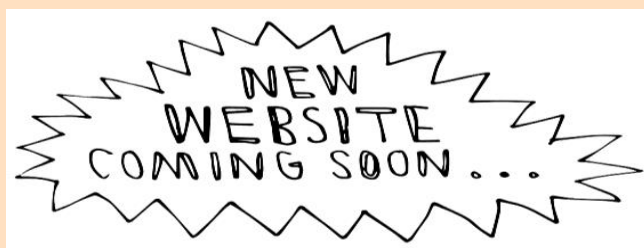
CODE OF CONDUCT

Earlier this week we sent out a paper copy of our Code of Conduct for parents – this is also available to view on our school website. We ask that all parents read and adhere to it. All staff employed have your child's best interest at the centre of their hearts and we ask that you respect all staff members. We will not tolerate any parents being verbally aggressive or shouting on school premises. Any incidents of this may result in you being banned from school site.



NEW SCHOOL WEBSITE

Over the next few weeks we are excited to announce that a new St Paul's school website will be launched. We will keep you up to date as to when it will go live, so until then our old website will still be active and updated regularly.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

A reminder that summer uniform may be worn up until the end of this half term (Friday 24th October). However, your child can wear their winter uniform this half term too.

CASHLESS SCHOOL

Please remember that we are a cashless school and dinners, clubs and trips have to be paid for in advance and not in arrears. New families have been sent information regarding how to access Parent Pay to pay for school dinners, trips and any clubs. Any problems please speak to a member of the Admin team.



TERM DATES

Please note that there is a typo in the children's planners. Under the Spring term dates it says that children start school on Tuesday 2nd June 2020! This is clearly a mistake and we will look forward to seeing the children back on Monday 20th April 2020.

END OF TERM

Please note that at the end of each term, Christmas, Easter and the summer holidays, school will close at 1.30pm.

Parents are asked to ensure that appropriate arrangements are put in place for collecting their child at 1.30pm on:
Friday 20th December 1.30pm finish,
Friday 3rd April 1.30pm finish, Friday 17th July 1.30pm finish.

HELPING CHILDREN COPE WITH CHANGE

Change can be very stressful, even when it's positive. Children thrive on predictability and routine, so helping children cope with change can be a real challenge. Even positive emotions (like excitement) can be overwhelming in large doses for children – just think how frequently the birthday girl or boy ends up in tears before, during or after the party!



Some changes (such as starting a new school, moving house or introducing a new baby or a new partner) we can see coming. Others come out of the blue. Helping children cope with change in a positive way can help set them up for the future. We'd love to wrap our children up in cotton wool and protect them from life's knocks, but we can't. And we wouldn't be doing them any favours if we could. Helping children cope with change by teaching them coping skills equips them to deal with life and manage its ups, downs, and sudden jolts.

Here are a few ideas on how to do it:

- *Get them involved Children cope best with change when they are prepared for it in advance.*
- *Try explaining why the change is necessary and big up the advantages.*
- *If you can, do a dress-rehearsal or find a way to familiarise your child with the change that is coming.*
- *Get them involved in making decisions (such as how their bedroom will be decorated in a new house).*
- *Use books, films and family life to point out how other children have also adapted to similar changes.*
- *Look at old photos and discuss how life changes for children as they get older and though we might feel scared or sad to start with, we quickly adapt and start to enjoy new circumstances. Maintain routines When something big happens in our lives we can often feel like our whole world has fallen apart.*
- *Try to maintain your child's routines as much as possible so that they feel less threatened by the change.*
- *A predictable routine helps children feel secure so helping children cope with change requires an equal emphasis on what is not changing. Acknowledge their feelings If your child is upset, don't ignore it.*
- *Stop what you are doing and pay attention.*

- *Only change what needs to be changed, or try to stagger changes so that they don't all happen at once.*
- *Encourage them to tell you how they are feeling. If they can't, help them find the words by saying what you see: "You look upset."*
- *Let them know it is ok to feel that way when big changes happen.*
- *Ask what they are going to do to make themselves feel better. If they don't have any ideas, then prompt them: "Would it make you feel better to go and lie down and read a book?"*
- *Make sure you stay calm yourself and don't get emotional. Teach coping skills coping skills help children cope with change by teaching them strategies for calming their emotions. Typical coping strategies include:*
 - *Slow deep breaths (for relaxation)*
 - *Distraction (thinking about something else)*
 - *Problem-solving (finding a way to make the situation better)*
 - *Positive self-talk (telling yourself it will all be ok). Work with your child when they are not upset to identify coping strategies that might work for them, and then prompt them to try those strategies if they are upset or anxious.*

Be creative – what works for you might not work for your child. We can support parents with accessing lots of additional support through our work with the Birmingham Pathfinder. Speak to a member of staff to find out more.



I wish you all a safe and happy weekend.

God bless,

N.Damms

**Mrs N Damms
Principal**

