



Friday 22nd September 2017

To the parents of children in Nursery

Dear parents,

Welcome back to school. This year your child's teachers are Miss Landucci, Miss Akhtar and Miss O'Connor. Please find below some useful and important information which will help you support your child in school during this coming academic year:

- The morning session begins at 08.30 a.m and ends at 11.30 am. The afternoon session begins at 12.15pm and ends at 15.15 pm. Please ensure that you use the correct entrance and exit for your child's session at all times. And make sure that your child arrives and leaves on time every day.
- The gates open at 08.30am and close at 8.45am. The gates on Perry Beaches Boulevard will open at 11.25am for the morning children to be collected and again at 12.15pm for the afternoon children to arrive.
- Requests for extended holidays during term time will not be permitted and any such time taken off will be unauthorised and may result in your child losing his/her school place with us.
- Children will have access to Milk and Fruit during each session.
- Class fund is £1 per child per week for the whole year, and will be collected at the start of every half term.
- School uniform is not compulsory in Nursery. However we highly recommend that your child wears it, as Nursery children are active learners and learn through play exploration which can often be very messy. If you would like to purchase a School sweatshirt/cardigan then please see the office.
- Children must wear clothes that are comfortable and easy for the child to pull up or down to support their use of the toilets. We ask that your child brings a bag into school with spare clothes just in case your child needs changing for any reason. Please put your child's name on each piece of clothing.
- Please could you provide your child with a box of tissues for the class to use during the year as many children will suffer with colds throughout the year.
- There will be opportunities to access a selection of Nursery books through our own mini library. Your child can select a book and this will be recorded to ensure that the book is returned safely. Books will be changed weekly.
- The Library is open after school on **Tuesdays** and we encourage all parents to support their child to borrow library books and read at home regularly.

We are constantly striving to make sure that our children really reach their full potential. In order to achieve this parent support is crucial, our good teaching in school must be supported by commitment from parents at home. By working together, we improve the learning experience for your child.

Important Curriculum information

- **As a catholic school we follow the teachings of our RE Catholic Strategy. The children will experience regular act of Collective Worship to develop their spiritual relationship with God.**
- The teaching and learning of Mathematics in Nursery will be provided through the environment, adult interactions, supporting resources and knowledge of the children. There will be focused maths objectives that nursery staff will work on regularly. Short maths focused group times will be shared on a weekly basis and re-enforced during the week. Teaching of Mathematics in Early Years will cover number, shape, space and measure. Pupil's progress is assessed informally on a regular basis in order to inform the teacher's planning. You can support us by checking your child's targets and working on them at home and by making maths fun by looking at it in the natural environment through your daily routines.
- The teaching of Literacy in Nursery comprises of group time phonics sessions, which are then consolidated in the environment. There will be numerous opportunities for children to make marks in a variety of contexts, as well as develop their fine and gross motor skills to support their ability to write. Children will have the opportunity to develop their communication skills and a love for reading through the teaching of Literacy. You can support us by talking to your child as much as possible and by sharing a story with your child every day to develop their reading and communication skills.
- Good pupil attendance is an important factor for real learning. Our school target for attendance is 97% and pupils falling below this level will be monitored. Please see the information sheet attached which explains how much learning your child will miss if absent from school.
- For a full break down of your child's termly topic area please see our termly learning plans on our website: www.holyfam.bham.sch.uk
- **We aim for 100% attendance and punctuality for every child.** Good pupil attendance is an important factor for real learning. Our overall school target for attendance is 97% and pupils falling below this level will be closely monitored. Please see the information sheet attached which explains how much learning your child will miss if absent from school.

Our **Autumn Term Parents' Evening** will be on **Thursday 19th October from 8.30am**. – we kindly ask that **parents only**, attend Parents Evening for **Nursery to Year 5 children**. We would like **Year 6 pupils to attend with their parents**, as this is such an important year for them. At the Autumn Term Parents Evening your child's class teacher will focus on how well your child has settled and this will include information on behaviour and attitude to learning. The class teacher will then report on progress against the targets set for your child in their July report and the new targets for the Autumn Term. Parents will be able to look at children's books during our open evening on **Tuesday 17th October 3:00 – 3:30**.

Some Autumn Term Dates we would like you to be aware of: -

*** Inspire workshops –details in Newsletter.**

Many thanks for taking the time to read this information letter. As always, if you have any questions please speak to the class teacher initially.

I look forward to sharing another successful year with our pupils, families and staff.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P. Foley

Headteacher

Enclosed Late Arrival and Absence from School Information

Class Fund Envelope

Absence from School

Children are required to attend school for 190 days each year.

We aim for 100% Attendance and Punctuality for Every Child

Holy Family School's Overall Attendance Target is 97%.

Any attendance less than 97% is a concern and parents will be contacted by school staff.

Attendance during the school year	Equals days absent	Which is approximately weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons is missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons
65%	67 days	13.5 weeks	340 lessons

How does your child's attendance compare with this target?

Please remember that children who miss a lot of school achieve less.

Late Arrival at School

When your child arrives late at school he/she misses the teacher's instructions and the introduction to the lesson.

Your child may also feel embarrassed entering the classroom late.

Minutes late per day during the school year	-equals days worth of teaching lost in a year	-equals days worth of teaching lost in a year
	INFANTS KS1	JUNIORS KS2
5 Mins	3.7 days	3.4 days
10 Mins	7.4 days	6.9 days
15 Mins	10.0 days	10.3 days
20 Mins	14.7 days	13.8 days
30 Mins	22.0 days	20.0 days

Frequent lateness adds up to a considerable amount of learning lost, and can seriously disadvantage your child.

Gates open at 8.35 am

School begins at 8:45am

Please help your child to be punctual