

ST. WILLIAM OF YORK CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



ST WILLIAM ROAD THORNTON CROSBY L23 9XH

Tel: 0151 924 7280 Fax: 0151 931 4558

**E-mail: head.stwilliamofyork@schools.sefton.gov.uk
www.stwilliamofyork.co.uk**

Headteacher: Mr M Murphy

School Business Manager: Mrs S Middlehurst

8th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the beginning of another school year, I hope you all had an enjoyable summer break. I would like to extend a very special welcome to all those new children and their parents who have started at our school, you are most welcome and I look forward to getting to know you all over the coming weeks. The children look fantastic in their new school uniforms and I thank you all for your support with this. The beginning of the school year is always quite hectic so along with the fortnightly newsletter please refer also to the school website and twitter feed regarding up and coming events.

Staffing

We have a number of new staff who have started with us. Mr Davies is our new SENDCO and Pastoral Lead who will also be teaching PE. Mr Davies will be on the yard before school each morning should you wish to raise anything with him. Miss Blundell will be working across both Y5 and Y6 while Miss Gallagher will be in the Reception Class. I'm sure you will join with me in welcoming them to St William of York.

School Website

Our new school website is still in the process of being updated however there are lots of new features so please take the time to go online and have a look.

School Spider – online payments

We now have a new online payment system called School Spider. Details of how to download the app has been sent out. We no longer have Pay360/Simspay so please delete this app.

ParentApp

It is really important for communication that all parents download our ParentApp as this is our main communication method to keep in touch with what's going on in your child's class and school. We can also email through ParentApp for those that can't get the App. Thank you to all parents who are using the school app, over 93% altogether, which is brilliant. If you haven't downloaded our ParentApp yet, we have sent you a link, which might be in your spam emails, so look there if you can't see it in your inbox. Any problems please let the school office know.

Attendance and Holiday Requests

A reminder school start time is 8.45am but please aim to be here for 8.40am as the gates will be locked at 8.45am and any children arriving after this time will be marked late & will need to be signed in at the office. Children can go into class from 8.40am; there will be no lining up. Last entry into Breakfast Club will be 8.35 am, opening time is 7.45am & the facility is free. The school will continue to finish at the usual time of 3.15 pm. Attendance & punctuality are really important, children are expected to be in on time every day as turning up late can be upsetting for them, it also disrupts the first lesson & it can be difficult for them to catch up. The government has attendance as high priority as it links directly into learning & progress. Therefore we will have no choice but to continue to issue fines for unauthorised attendance (5 days in one term or 9 in two) & for family holidays. We will be working closely with Sefton Council's Education Welfare Officers who will call out to see absent children & take part in attendance panel meetings. Fines are £60 & may be issued to both parents. If the fine is not paid it will increase to £120 per parent. If this is not paid then court proceedings can be initiated resulting in fines of over a few hundred pounds depending on the case. If your child's attendance letters, last year, stated that absence would be unauthorised without medical evidence then this will continue for this academic year also. Attendance Support Plans issued will be reviewed & will continue into this academic year. Many thanks for your support.



Together Everyone Achieves More

Chess

As you know we have a long history of playing Chess in school which goes back initially around 11 years when we were first asked to be part of a pilot study called Chess in Schools. Over the years we have taken part in the Annual Merseyside School Chess Tournament as well as being invited to attend the national championships in London. The tuition timetable for this year will mean that all children in years 4/5 and 6 will receive coaching every Thursday morning with the first session starting on the 21st September.

Parent Questionnaires

Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill in the parent questionnaires at the end of last term, we received 72 of them which is a tremendous response. The overwhelming majority were very positive about the school and are testament to all the hard work and dedication of the staff here at St William of York. A summary of the responses is available on the school website.

Year 6 Holy Family High School Visit

Our Year 6 children will be visiting Holy Family High School for a full day next Wednesday, 13th September. Further details regarding the day will be shared with those parent/carers over the next few days.

Harvest Thanksgiving

Fr Harrington has asked me to share details of this year's Harvest Thanksgiving Mass which will take place at 11.15 a.m. on Sunday 17th September at St Mary's Catholic Church, Little Crosby.

Nursery Hours

We will continue to offer the opportunity to purchase extra sessions in Nursery from September. Each three-hour session (8.45-11.45am or 12.15-3.15pm) will cost £15.00. Nursery Breakfast Club will also be available for £5 per day. All fees must be paid in advance and sessions are subject to availability. If you would like further information, then please speak to Mrs Bryning in the Nursery or Mrs Middlehurst at the School Office.

Pupil Premium Funding/Free School Meals

As a school we receive additional funding, called Pupil Premium, for children whose parents are on lower incomes and are receiving certain benefits. This additional funding is used to benefit the children by funding additional staff to work with smaller groups, uniform vouchers, some school trips and other specific resources. It is therefore really important that parents who are eligible for Free School Meals apply. This includes parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 who get a free school meal anyway under Universal Free School Meals (UFSM). If you get Income Support, Jobseekers allowance, Employment Support Allowance, Child Tax Credit only, Universal Credit and have a net household income of less than £7,400 per annum (£616.67 a month) or receive support under the Immigration & Asylum Act then your child should be eligible for this additional funding. If you are in receipt of Working Tax Credit you are not entitled. If you are eligible we encourage you to please complete a form available from the school office.

Healthy Snacks/Packed lunches

As a school we are always trying to promote healthy lifestyles and would appreciate your support in providing healthy alternative snack/lunch options for your children.

Swimming

Our Year 5 children will start their swimming lessons next Wednesday afternoon, 13th September, and will continue with these right up until Christmas. Year 4 will have their lessons in January and right the way up to the Easter break and Year 3's will be the whole of the summer term.

After School Club

We have had to carry out a review of After School Club due to rising costs & unfortunately will have to increase prices slightly from September. We have tried to keep the increase as low as possible and hope you understand the reason behind the increase. Our prices are still very competitive compared to other schools & in addition our Breakfast Club remains a free facility. The First Hour will go from £5 to £6 & the full session from £10 to £12. We also have a new booking system on School Spider which will allow parents to book and pay for sessions. Bookings & payment will have to be made in advance.

Free Breakfast Club

Our Free Breakfast Club continues to be extremely popular. It runs every morning in the school hall from 7.45 am, however the cut off time for when food can be served is 8.25 am with the doors closing at 8.35 am. This free facility is available to children from Reception upwards so please do come along.

Dogs

A reminder to parents that dogs cannot be brought onto the school premises.



Together Everyone Achieves More

Mass times at St William of York Catholic Church

9.30am Sunday morning at St William's & 11.15am Sunday morning at St Mary's Little Crosby

Kind regards

Mr M.Murphy
Headteacher



Together Everyone Achieves More