



St. Michael's Catholic Primary Academy & Nursery

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Principal Mrs. C. Williams

03 September 2014

Dear Parents

May I take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to school. A special word of welcome to the children who are joining our academy for the first time. As the academic year progresses parents are invited to contact me if they wish to discuss any matters pertaining to your child's education and welfare.

Re. School Meals – Please note price increase

Parents are asked to ensure that dinner monies are paid on the first day of the school week. The cost of school meals has increased to £2.05 per meal, £10.25 per week for junior aged children. Correct monies should be sent into school in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name, class and amount of money enclosed. Should any child wish to transfer from having school meals and wishes to have sandwiches instead, parents are asked to write a letter giving two weeks notice of the change. Thank you. Should your child wish to begin to have a hot midday meal a similar amount of notice is required. Infant aged pupils are now going to benefit from a free school meal daily under the new Universal Free Meal offer (this scheme does not offer free milk).

Free School Meals – Information re. making an application

I would remind parents that it is an easy procedure to apply for free school meals under the free meal programme. Parents who are in receipt of income based Job Seekers' Allowance, Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit and whose income is less than £16,190 may be eligible.

Parents may now apply online www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals and receive an instant decision.

Claimants need not provide paperwork; they will need to have their National Insurance number to hand and be able to provide personal information including date of birth, surname, address and child(ren)'s details. Forms are also available from the school office. Subsidised meals under the Flexible Pilot Scheme will no longer be available.

Milk Money – Please note price increase

The cost of milk money has increased to £11.00 per term and is now payable. All monies should be received in school no later than end of school on Tuesday 09 September. Parents are informed that the receipt of milk money is recorded by the kitchen supervisor and not by the school administrators. Parents are asked to ensure that when making payments that the **correct money is placed in an envelope that is clearly marked with your child's name and class**. Children under the age of 5 receive full cream milk. Please note that children under 5 years of age on the first day of term, Tuesday 02 September receive free school milk. Children in receipt of free school meals (not Universal Free Meals) also receive free milk.

Classes and the adoption of the names of Saints to identify classes

As your child enters his or her new class in September 2014 you may notice that classes are named and identified by the name of a Saint. During the autumn term children and staff will work together to research the life of the Patron Saint of their class. As the children grow in their knowledge and understanding of faith it is important that they are aware of the lives of the Saints and the adoption of the names of Saints to identify class names also identifies the Academy's Catholic identity.

PTO

Bishop Cleary Catholic Multi Academy Company, a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (company number 08578428)
whose registered office address is Compton Park, Wolverhampton, WV3 9DU



Names of the Saints that were adopted in 2012 as the Patron Saint/Saints of that particular class:

Year 6MF	Mrs Fergusson	St. Peter & St. Paul
Year 5PK	Mr Kay	St. Catherine of Alexandria
Year 4AW	Mrs Walters	St. Philomena
Year 3LB	Mrs Bradley	St. Anthony of Padua
Year 2AB	Miss Brereton	St. Martin
Year 1CT	Mrs Tudor	St. Francis of Assisi
Reception	Miss Starkey	St. Anne
Nursery	Mrs Griffiths	St. Catherine of Sienna

During the course of the year Father Stephen will celebrate Mass in school. It is hoped that parents of the children in classes where Mass is celebrated will join us for Mass.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Class Mass</i>
Tuesday 09 September	Whole School – Led by Year 6
Friday 19 September	50 th Anniversary Mass 10.00 a.m. in Church
Friday 26 September	Celebration Assembly and Blessing of Our Lady’s Grotto
Tuesday 14 October	Year 5
Tuesday 21 October	Year 4
Tuesday 11 November	Key Stage 1
Tuesday 18 November	Year 3
Tuesday 24 November	Year 5
Tuesday 02 December	Year 4
Tuesday 09 December	Year 3
Friday 19 December	Whole School Led by Year 6

Parents are informed that on occasions it may be necessary to postpone one of the class Masses when Father has other parish based commitments or is involved in particular services that he must lead. The school will inform parents of any occasions where Father is unable to celebrate Mass in school. It is likely that the text messaging service will be used for this purpose.

Re: Available post of Lunchtime Supervisor

A post for a lunchtime supervisor has become available at our school. Any parent wishing to apply for the position should contact the school secretaries. In order that an appointment can be made as soon as possible the closing date for expressions of interest in the post will be Wednesday 10 September 2014. Thank you.

Local Parking and Safety Issues

I would ask that parents are mindful of issues that can arise as a result of parking congestion in the roads surrounding the school. In the past we have received complaints from parents who have reported that there have been potentially dangerous incidents caused by parents double parking and reversing at speed near to the school. **In the interests of pupil safety please do use local car parks to help to avoid congestion in Telford Gardens and Trysull Gardens.** Traffic Wardens periodically issue fixed penalty notices when people have parked illegally in Telford Gardens. Neighbours living in Trysull Gardens and Telford Gardens have reported that parents are parking cars across driveways and using private car parking areas which causes residents great inconvenience. **In the interests of safety and security parents and visitors should not park at any time in the school driveway. It is essential that access is available at all times in the event of an emergency. Thank you for your co-operation**

Dates for Diaries

Tuesday 09 September – Beginning of Term Mass – 9.15 a.m., School Hall

Parents are welcome to join with us as Father Stephen celebrates the first school Mass of this academic year.

Friday 19 September

Our 50th Anniversary celebrations will commence as His Lordship Bishop Pargeter celebrates Mass at 10.00 a.m. this morning. The Mass will be held at St. Michael's Parish Church. Pupils will join with parishioners, parents, staff, past employees and former pupils to gather together to celebrate the 50th Anniversary since the school first opened. Staff will be pleased to receive offers of help from parents who are prepared to help us as we escort our pupils to and from the church on this morning.

Friday 26 September

Today our 50th Anniversary celebrations will continue with today being identified as a day of celebrations for our pupils.

The morning will commence with a celebration assembly at 10.00 a.m. in the school hall, during which we will welcome former employees and past pupils to join with us in our celebrations. I am pleased to inform parents that Mr Clarke, the school's first Head teacher is expected to be joining us on this morning. We cordially invite parents to join us for this Jubilee Assembly. Following this, refreshments will be served with a chance to view some nostalgic photographs. Parents are also welcome at 11.00 a.m. when we plan to release 300 red balloons to mark the occasion. During the afternoon the PTA have organised cakes, drinks and a disco for the pupils which will take place after a service to bless a new outdoor statue of Our Lady. Children are asked to bring a single stem flower to lay at the foot of this statue.

Thursday 02 October – Harvest Festival 2.15 p.m.

Parents are invited to join us for our annual celebration of praise and thanksgiving for the blessings that God gives us at harvest time and throughout the year. Pupils are invited to bring harvest produce to school on the day of the festival. Monies raised from the sale of the produce that is brought into school will be donated to the charity CAFOD (Catholic Aid for Overseas Development) to support the organisation in the good work that it does in developing countries.

Rosary during the month of October

During the month of October a decade of the Rosary will be prayed each afternoon directly after the school day finishes at 3.15p.m. Children and parents are invited to join with staff as the Rosary is prayed as we honour Our Lady. The Rosary will be prayed in the area that has been dedicated to Our Lady and can be accessed just inside the main entrance to our school building. It is hoped that many parents and children will join us for the prayer sessions.

Monday 06 October – CAFOD Mass – 7.00 p.m. at St. Anthony's Church, Stafford Road

(Further details to follow)

Wednesday 22 October/Thursday 23 October

Our Year 2 pupils will take part in a residential visit to Kingswood Nursery and Infant Centre (further details to follow).

Friday 26 October – School Closes for half term at 3.15 p.m. on this day.

School re-opens on Tuesday 04 November. Monday 03 November is an in-service training day for staff from each of the Bishop Cleary Catholic Primary Academies. Children should not attend the Academy on this day.

Yours sincerely

C Williams
Principal

