



**ST. LEO'S AND SOUTHMEAD CATHOLIC NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL
SERVING THE COMMUNITY
LICKERS LANE
WHISTON
KNOWSLEY L35 3SR
Head Teacher: Mrs J Grundy
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12th September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome back to the new academic year and a very special welcome to our new children who have joined the Nursery, Reception and other classes throughout the school. This first letter of the year is always a long one with many dates for your diary but this is to give you as much notice as possible of what will be happening in the school. We will remind you nearer to the time by sending newsletters and all of our newsletters are put onto the School Website. It is going to be a busy, exciting year and I am sure that all of the children will learn whilst having fun! All of the children have settled brilliantly into their new classes with their new teachers – well done children! Every child will receive a copy of this letter but any following letters will be one per family to save paper, the environment and cost!

School Uniform

The children look very, very smart in their new school uniform; they are a credit to you. Please make sure that their names are written on everything including coats/jackets.

P.E.

Physical Education has a really high profile in school and is now a Government priority by linking it to health and keeping fit. P.E. is a compulsory lesson in school and every child is required to get changed into their P.E. kits for their lesson. The P.E. kit uniform is

White T shirt

Black or grey shorts

Black pumps (not trainers).

Again please make sure that your child's name is on everything (including pumps!) Please allow your child to leave his/her P.E. kit in school in a bag. Thank you.

Parent Questionnaires

Thank you so much for the wonderful response and for the many positive comments that you made, we really do appreciate your support. The following suggestions were also made:-

- A yearly class photograph taken by photographer.
- School tour for Reception parents.
- Test results for Years 3, 4, 5 to be given out.
- Drama/Gymnastics after school club.
- Residential trip.
- Gates to be closed.

We are going to consider each suggestion and see what we can do throughout the year. Thank you for these great ideas, together we are making sure that the school continually improves. Some of the comments are now on our website – thank you.

School Numbers

The numbers are continuing to grow in school and many parents are still trying to get a place for their child to attend this school. For the third year running the school has been over-subscribed and parents still have their children on waiting lists. If you know of a family with babies or young children please ask them to register their details with us as soon as possible in order that we can help them with information about nursery and school places to avoid local parents being upset.

Letters from Class teachers/Helping my child learn what goes on in school.

Every teacher will send you a welcome letter home with information about your child's school year and helpful hints how you can help your child to learn. The letters are also on the school website. Also on the website are what we call "long term plans" for each subject. These are what the teachers use and will tell you what is being taught in school. Any of the following will help your child:-

- Helping your child to count/learn numbers, times table.
- Reading to/with/and hearing your child read every day. (Ten minutes at bed time is a lovely time.)
- Helping your child to learn phonics, spellings.
- Homework packs/personalised packs.
- Playing games with your child. The old fashioned games are great to help your child learn e.g. Ludo, Dominoes, Bingo, Monopoly, and Lotto.

Switch the television and computer off and spend 15 minutes playing a family game! Worth its weight in gold!

Governors

The Governors meet as a full Governing Body once per term and as a committee once per term. The committees are

- Curriculum

- Building and Premises
- Finance and Personnel.

The Governors also have their own link classes and are very involved in the life of the school. More information can be found on our school prospectus which is also on the school website.

Information Meetings for Parents/Carers

We have organised the following information meetings to update you about specific areas related to that Year group. Please come along as it will also give you the opportunity to ask any questions. The children in Years One, Two and Six all have to complete statutory tests and at the meetings we will provide you with as much information as we know to help you to help your child. All meetings will be in the school hall. Please attend the relevant meeting if your child is in one of those classes.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Year group</u>
Monday 19 th September	2.30	Year One
Thursday 29 th September	2.30	Year Two
Friday 30 th September	2.30	Year Six
Tuesday 4 th October	2.30	Year Three

Reading is fun in our school

On Tuesday 13th September, Roald Dahl, a famous children’s author – would be 100 years old! To celebrate his anniversary we are going to have a Roald Dahl day in school. The children are welcome to bring any Roald Dahl books into school to show their classmates or pictures etc. (Please make sure that names are written on them.)

School list

Please find attached to this letter, a school list of dates and what will be happening in school. We will send out more information nearer to the time but if you read it you will have plenty of time to plan ahead – e.g. Christmas Performances, Year 6 Leavers’ Assembly, especially if you need time off work. Also it tells you about theme days/theme weeks, party days etc. If you stick the list onto your fridge you will be very organised! It also provides dates about some planned school trips, party days and dressing up days.

Friday 7th October – Science Trip

We will be taking the children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 to Knowsley Leisure Centre to see the “Ministry of Science”. There will be no charge for this trip as school will be paying for it. This will be a fantastic trip and I know that the children will learn so much about Science in a fun, lively way. If your child is in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 we would like to invite you or grandparents into your child’s class on **Friday 14th October at 8.45**

when you drop your child off at school. The children are going to do a little presentation about the Science that they have learnt on the trip. We hope that you can come along to the presentation but please do not worry if you can’t; we understand that you might have work commitments.

Parent’s Night

These will be on Thursday 20th October and Thursday 30th March. The staff might meet you during the week, they will organise appointments and send them out to you. If you ever want to speak to your child’s teacher you are welcome to do so, please ring school and make an appointment.

Swimming

The children in Year 4 will be going for swimming lessons starting Monday 7th November. Detailed information letters will be sent out soon.

Christmas Performances

Each class will do a little Christmas Performance for you. Please make a note of the date and time of your child's class so that you can plan time off work or babysitters!

Christmas Performances

All in the school hall.

<u>Date</u>	<u>class</u>	<u>time</u>
Monday 5 th December	Year 6	2.30
Wednesday 7 th December	Year 3	2.30
Thursday 8 th December	Year 1	2.30
Friday 9 th December	Year 4	2.30
Tuesday 13 th December	Year 2	2.30
Wednesday 14 th December	Year 5	2.30
Thursday 15 th December	Reception	2 O'clock (please note earlier start time for Reception)

We love Reading

We are always encouraging the children to develop a love of reading in school and we recently gained an award for the various activities that we do e.g. Book Shop, Theme days/weeks, School trips, Parents' library (in entrance). We also have a special time for each class when we invite parents into your child's class for half an hour to read with your child. We did this last year and the parents really enjoyed being in the classroom with their children. The dates are on the school list and your child's class teacher will remind you nearer to the time. Grandparents are also welcome!

Easter Bonnet Parade

It seems such a long way away but just to give you notice – Friday 31st March.

Ambition Week

Last year we had a very successful "Ambition Day" in school during which the children learnt about the many occupations they could do/aim for when they get older. We had outside speakers and many of our own talented parents came in to talk to the children about their jobs. As it was so successful and the children really enjoyed it, we have extended it to a week – 24th April to 28th April. If you can spare some time to come into school to talk to the children about your job and the skills you need to have – please make a note of the dates and Mrs Smith will be in touch! It will inspire and motivate the children.

Sports week for children

This will start on Monday 3rd July and finish on Friday 7th July. Every child will need to wear their P.E. kits (including plain black pumps). They can also wear a track suit on top for the week if you wish as the weather outside is unpredictable.

Year 6 Leavers' Celebration

This seems such a long way away but we want to give you the date now Tuesday 18th July 10 O'clock.

Toast

We sell toast in school for the children to have at play and break times. It is 10p. per slice and money goes towards school fund and to pay for the bread etc. The children really enjoy their toast, especially on cold winter mornings. If you can spare one hour per week, to come into school and help make the toast, please speak to Mrs Clarke in the office. Any help will be very much appreciated.

Parent Text

To make sure that you always receive important text messages from school (some are last minute) please make sure that you have registered – if you haven't please speak to Mrs Clarke in the school office.

Dinner Money Increase

Starting on 19th September the cost of school meals will be £1.80 per day which is £9.00 per week. Parent Pay will be amended.

Parent Pay

We now ask that all school lunches are paid via Parent Pay. If you haven't used this before, please speak to Mrs Clarke in the office.

Football in school

Many children ask to play football at lunch time in school. Infant and Junior children are now choosing to play football and really enjoy doing so. If your child wants to play football please allow your child to bring into school

- An old pair of jogging bottoms
- An old pair of trainers (not football boots)

and leave them in school. The children will then put them on and protect their uniforms. The children are not allowed to play football unless they have the above. Thank you.

Children being collected at home time or walking home alone.

There is an increasing number of children in the juniors, who are telling their new class teacher that they are allowed to walk home alone. Please would you complete the attached sheet (if your child is in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) and return it to school as soon as possible. The teachers will not let the children go unless they have it in writing from you. This is to protect their safety.

Phones in school

The children are not allowed phones in school. This is a safeguarding rule. If your child is in Year 6 and makes his/her own way to and from school and you are worried about safety – please write a letter to Miss Allen who will then arrange to lock your child's phone away on arrival and return it to them at home time. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

School Academic Year List

Please read the attached list and put it somewhere safe – it contains a lot of helpful information.

We are all excited and enthusiastic about this academic year and we have lots of activities planned for the children which I know they will enjoy. We really do appreciate your encouragement and support. It is a privilege for us to teach your children, they are all super stars!

Thank you
A very happy, proud Headteacher
Mrs J Grundy.

September 2016

Child's name _____ Class _____

Parent's name _____

My child is allowed to walk home alone

I will collect my child

Contact telephone number _____

Emergency contact telephone number _____

Name of emergency contact person _____

Date _____ Signature _____

St Leo's and Southmead

Parent Information

School Year List

2016 - 2017

More details will be sent nearer the time.

September 2016 – 2017

Monday 5 th September	Years 1 – 6 return to school.
Monday 5 th September	Geography Theme week. Have a look on our website to see what your child will be doing for Geography.
Monday 12 th September	Nursery and Reception start school.
Tuesday 13 th September	Roald Dahl 100years old.
Monday 19 th September	Year One Parents' information meeting.
Wednesday 28 th September	Year One End of topic celebration for parents.
Thursday 29 th September	Year Two parents' information meeting.
Friday 30 th September	Year 6 information parents' meeting.
Monday 3 rd October	Judaism week.
Tuesday 4 th October	Year 3 parents' information meeting.
Wednesday 5 th October	M. McQueen in Year 6.
Wednesday 5 th October	No Pens Day – How can we still learn without using pens?
Friday 7 th October	National Poetry day – Bring your favourite poem to school or write your own.
Friday 7 th October	Year 3 – 6 Ministry of Science Trip.
Thursday 13 th October	Parents invited to read with Year 2.
Friday 14 th October	Parents invited into Years 3 – 6 Science Presentation
Monday 17 th October	D.T. Theme week – Have a look on our website to see what your child will be doing in D.T.
Wednesday 19 th October	Parents invited to read with Year One.
Thursday 20 th October	Parents' Night.

Half Term

School closes Friday 21st October

School opens Monday 31st October

Monday 31 st October	History week – Have a look at our website to see what your child will be learning.
Tuesday 1 st November	Parents invited into Years 3 and 4.

Monday 7 th November	Year 4 swimming begins.
Wednesday 9 th November	End of topic celebration Year 2 parents.
Monday 14 th November	Anti-Bullying week.
Friday 18 th November	Cycle training Year 5.
Monday 21 st November	Culture week Key Stage 2. Children in Years 3 – 6 go on school trips.
Thursday 24 th November	Parents invited to read with Year 6.
Friday 25 th November	Cycle training Year 5.
Monday 5 th December	Year 6 Xmas performance.
Tuesday 6 th December	Pantomime.
Wednesday 7 th December	Year 3 Xmas performance.
Thursday 8 th December	Year 1 Xmas performance.
Friday 9 th December	Year 4 Xmas performance.
Monday 12 th December	Art week. Have a look on our website to see what your child will be learning.
Tuesday 13 th December	Year 2 Xmas performance.
Wednesday 14 th December	Year 5 Xmas performance.
Thursday 15 th December	Reception Xmas performance.
Monday 19 th December	Xmas lunch.
Tuesday 20 th December	Xmas party. Donations from parents very much appreciated.

Xmas

School closes Wednesday 21st December.

School opens Tuesday 3rd January.

Tuesday 3 rd January 2017	History week.
Monday 16 th January	Rubbish in school – writing day.
Tuesday 24 th January	Reception parents invited in to read.
Wednesday 25 th January	Year 5 End of topic celebration parents.
Friday 27 th January	Composer day – Each class will learn about a composer.
Tuesday 31 st January	Nursery parents invited in to read.
Friday 3 rd February	Music day. Have a look on our website to see what your child will be learning.

Monday 6th February D.T. week. Have a look on our website to see what your child will be learning.

Tuesday 7th February Internet Safety day. How can children stay safe?

Half Term

School closes Friday 10th February

School opens Monday 20th February

Monday 20th February Geography Theme week. Have a look on our website.

Wednesday 1st March End of topic celebration Year 3 for parents.

Thursday 2nd March World Book Day.

Thursday 9th March School Photographer in school for the day.

Monday 13th March World Maths.

Monday 13th March Celebrating Science and Technology.

Friday 24th March Health Day – How can we all stay healthy?

Friday 24th March Nursery Mother's Day assembly for parents.

Monday 27th March Art week. Have a look on our website to see what your child will be learning.

Thursday 30th March Parents' Night.

Spring Break

School closes Friday 31st March

School opens Monday 18th April

Tuesday 18th April History week.

Monday 24th April Ambition week. Visitors and parents talk to children.

Tuesday 2nd May Parents invited to read Year 5.

Wednesday 10th May Reception End of topic celebration for parents.

Monday 15th may Year 4 Swimming begins.

Monday 22nd May Art week.

Whit holiday

School closes Friday 26th May

School opens Monday 12th June

Monday 12 th June	Geography week.
Monday 12 th June	Phonic screen Year 1 begins.
Wednesday 21 st June	End of topic celebration Year 4 parents.
Monday 26 th June	Multi cultural week.
Monday 3 rd July	Sports week.
Wednesday 5 th July	Year 5 & 6 Transition Day – visit St Edmund Arrowsmith
Monday 10 th July	D.T. week.
Friday 14 th July	Year 6 Camping Day.
Tuesday 18 th July	Year 6 Leaver’s assembly.

Summer holidays

School closes Friday 21st July.