



*Christ is our light*

All Souls' Catholic  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

# NEWSLETTER

## A message from Mr Cooke

At the beginning of the week there was a great sense of excitement, optimism and anticipation across the school community, as we returned to begin another academic year, and I took great pleasure in catching up with the children to hear of their adventures over the summer as well as welcoming our new starters in Nursey and Reception. This morning, following the deeply saddening news yesterday of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, we are reminded again of the importance of community as we join our national and global families in coming to terms with and mourning our great loss. There will continue to be a more muted tone to school life throughout the 10 day period of national mourning and we will be gathering together in classes and as a school to pray for the repose of her soul and all those affected by her death.

I would like to take the opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to all of the families who are joining the All Souls community this year and I look forward to getting to know you and your children as the term and year progresses. With the day-to-day impact of the global pandemic, which has affected each of the last three academic years, now behind us, I feel an even greater determination this year to ensure that, in close partnership with you, their parents, all children at All Souls make the absolute most progress - academically, personally and spiritually - that they possibly can. I consider it a great privilege and honour to serve such a wonderful school community as Headteacher and do not take lightly the responsibilities and burdens that it brings.



## Holiday Requests

Should you require your child to take time off during the term, please ensure you complete the online holiday request form well in advance so that this can be considered by the school Governors. Please note that authorised absence during the term time will only be granted under exceptional circumstances, up to a maximum of 5 days and only if your child already has a high level of attendance. [Term Time Holiday/Exceptional Leave request form \(google.com\)](#)

## Attendance

One of the Key School development priorities this year is to raise overall school attendance, reduce persistent absence (where a child's attendance falls below 90%) and increase punctuality. These are all things that have been significantly impacted over the last three academic years by the pandemic, but which now need to improve this year. In an ideal world, we would like every child to be in school every day and achieve 100% attendance. We know that this is not possible, however, and have set ourselves an ambitious target of 96.5% attendance for the academic year. This means that we will be very closely monitoring attendance and taking action early (including letters, inviting parents into school, seeking advice and support from the local authority) where there are concerns. Equally, we will be closely monitoring punctuality and, again, taking action where children are repeatedly late. The pedestrian gate is opened at 8:30am each morning and it is expected that all children have arrived and are seated in the classroom by 8:45am at which point the register is taken. Although the gate is closed at 8:45am, children who arrive just before this may not be seated in classrooms by 8:45am and will therefore be recorded as late. From Monday, the adults positioned on the gate in the morning will be recording the names of the children who arrive after 8:45am so that the official school register shows them as late. Arriving late does not adequately set children up for a good day, can lead to increased anxiety and be detrimental to their education and development. Please also note that arriving after 9:00am is recorded as 'late after the close of register' and results in children not receiving an attendance mark for the morning session. For more information about the school's processes around attendance, please refer to the Attendance Policy which can be found on the school website.

## Welcome to our new staff members

This year we are delighted to welcome two new members of staff to our passionate and highly skilled team: Miss Abbie Grantham has joined All Souls as a class teacher and will be teaching in Year 1 and Miss Natasha Miles-Smith will be working in Year 4 as a teaching assistant. I'm sure that you will join me in extending a warm welcome to them both and help them to settle quickly and happily into All Souls life. This September, Mrs McGrath and Mrs Hartwell have also commenced their roles in permanent positions as Deputy and Assistant Headteacher respectively, after both being appointed as Assistant Headteachers in a temporary capacity last year. Again, I'm sure that you will join me in wishing them the best of luck in these permanent roles.

## Sacramental Preparation

This week, Fr Paul has written to the parents of children in Year 3 and 6, who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation this year. The letter outlines what this preparation entails, information to support yourselves and the key dates of events and sessions that you will need to participate in. Please ensure that you familiarise yourselves with the content of this letter. There is also a form included with this letter that you will need to complete and return to Fr Paul.

## Reading books

This academic year we are implementing a number of changes to the way in which reading is organised across the school as well as beginning a new Phonics Programme. Please be patient with us over the next week or so as children are reassessed in the reading and allocated to a new reading book band. Please look out shortly for a letter which will outline how reading is organised across the school.

## Uniform

As we commence our PE curriculum next week we would like to remind parents that all items of uniform and equipment must be clearly labelled with children's names. It is near impossible to return items of clothing to children if it is not labelled. Children may wear their Summer uniform until we break for October half term. After this, full Winter uniform will be required. Please ensure your child has a waterproof coat with them each day. The senior leadership team will be spot checking children's uniform for labels next week.

## Key Dates for the Diary

- 11<sup>th</sup> September – 9:30am School Welcome Mass – Start of Term  
24<sup>th</sup> September – 5-6pm – Confirmation Sacramental Preparation Session (Church)  
1<sup>st</sup> October – 5-6pm First Holy Communion Sacramental Preparation Session (Church)  
2<sup>nd</sup> October – 9:30am – Year 6 Confirmation Commitment Mass  
9<sup>th</sup> October – 9:30am Commitment Mass for Year 3 children preparing for First Holy Communion  
17<sup>th</sup> October – Open Evening (details to follow)  
18<sup>th</sup> October – Open Evening (details to follow)  
21<sup>st</sup> October – last day of half-term  
12<sup>th</sup> November – 5-6pm – Confirmation Sacramental Preparation Session (Church)  
3<sup>rd</sup> December – 5-6pm First Holy Communion Sacramental Preparation Session (Church)  
14<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – 5-6pm – Confirmation Sacramental Preparation Session (Church)  
28<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – 5-6pm First Holy Communion Sacramental Preparation Session (Church)  
4<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – 5-6pm – Confirmation Sacramental Preparation Session (Church)  
18<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – 5-6pm First Holy Communion Sacramental Preparation Session (Church)  
22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 – 5-6pm First Holy Communion Sacramental Preparation Session (Church)  
6<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – 5-6pm – Confirmation Sacramental Preparation Session (Church)  
7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – 9:30am Year 3 First Holy Communion Mass  
14<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – 9:30am Year 3 First Holy Communion Mass  
4<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – 11:15am – Year 6 Confirmation Mass

## Behaviour Policy

This academic year we have made some changes to the school's Behaviour Policy. Most significantly, we have implemented a new 'code of conduct' which was shared and discussed with the children in assembly on Tuesday and which is centred around three words. Whilst at school we expect all children to be **'Ready'**, **'Respectful'** and **'Safe'** in all that they do. We discussed what each of these mean and how the children can show and meet these expectations. To support the implementation of this code of conduct we have created a poster which is displayed in every classroom and at various points around school as a constant reminder and reference for the children about the expectations.

