



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back

Welcome back after what has hopefully been a restful summer holiday for you all, even though the weather has been fairly dull but at least we are promised an “Indian Summer” for our return back to school! and a special welcome to our reception children and their families joining us for the first time.

School day

We begin the year with changes to the timings of the school day. The start of the day continues at **8.55am**. A reminder of the changes to the school day:

Lunchtime will now be 45 minutes- 12.00-12.45 and the end of the day is as follows:

Classes 1 and 2	2.55pm
Classes 3-6	3.00pm
Classes 7-12	3.05pm

I am sure this will soon feel like normal after a few days.

Leadership

May I take this opportunity to say how much I am looking forward to being “Head of School” after being a teacher here for 21 years! It is a great school, with a wonderful community, and I will continue to work hard with staff to maintain this-under the watchful eye as always of Mr. Ryan. I will be responsible for the day to day running of the school ensuring that all children and staff achieve their full potential and are happy and safe. Mr. Ryan will remain as Headteacher and spend his time working between St Patrick’s and Christ the King. Mr O’ Donnell and Miss Hobson remain at school as valued Assistant Headteachers and Mrs Kennedy will continue to expertly lead in the Foundation Stage.

Buildings

There was no major work to the school buildings during the holiday but we have had a good summer clean with carpets and soft furnishings being professionally cleaned. We had a great amount of “lost property” left in the school - too much! This will be on display each night, this week - starting Tuesday, after school in the hall until Friday for you to come to view and collect. After Friday, the clothing will be donated to a local charity and we will have a “NO LOST PROPERTY” approach. This means that there will be no lost property boxes around school, all uniform and belongings should have names on so that it can returned to the owners. All children need to be encouraged to value and look after their belongings and this is one step in doing so. We need to encourage children to look after their belongings and to take responsibility in finding things they misplace.



Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God

Uniform

It is great to see all children returning to school looking so smart -especially our Year 6 wearing their new blazers! A reminder that all children are expected to wear a tie and need to wear black school shoes. If children want to change into trainers at break times, they may do so if they wish.

Attendance

As we begin the year, may I urge you to aim to have your child in school each and every day as every day and every lesson matters. Children who have good attendance generally achieve better than those who do not. They are usually more able to make and sustain strong relationships and have a better understanding that school is important. There are approximately 175 days of non-school time. Please make every effort to use this time to book holidays and visit friends and family.

Finally and sadly, many of you will be aware of the sad passing of one of our parents during the holiday period - Emma McDonald. Emma was a bubbly character around the playground, always very supportive of the school and will be sadly missed by all. A loving mum in every way possible and a very valued member of our community. We send our love and prayers to Emma's family, especially to John, Indianna and Summer. May Emma now be at peace. I am sure you will all support the family in whatever way you can, but especially in your prayers at this sad time. At times like this, it brings home evermore the importance of cherishing life and the time we spend with the loved ones in our lives.

Hoping you all have a wonderful year ahead and enjoy the joys, opportunities and challenges that lay ahead of us all!

God Bless

Mr.Conwell

Head of School

4th September 2017

