

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**  
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28 May 2010

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all looking forward to having a well earned break at half term. I know the children and staff are!

As you are aware the school has been going through some challenging times recently. Over the past few weeks many people have been very busy putting things into place to address some of the areas for development identified by the Local Authority, staff, pupils and parents. I would like to reassure you that positive actions have been put into place to provide for a much more settled second half term. I believe that we have found a way forward which should allay some of the recent concerns expressed by pupils and parents. A key aspect of the work that has been done in after school development sessions has been to review and adjust the whole-school approach to positive behaviour management and reward. You will receive a leaflet about this after half term.

Staffing arrangements –

I am delighted to say that I will be continuing as Acting Headteacher after half term. Mrs Postans has agreed to continue working with Year 3 until the end of term. Mrs Bailey and Mrs Blake will be working with the Year 5 pupils. This arrangement will provide time for Mrs Blake to work alongside myself and members of the Local Authority as part of the Senior Leadership Team of the school and for Mrs Bailey to do her SEN role.

We are currently working on arrangements for classes for next year and will let you know that as soon as possible after half term.

The start of the school day –

Mrs Denham wrote in her letter on April 22<sup>nd</sup> about encouraging independence at the start of the day. Please can I ask you to say goodbye at the gate to encourage your children and to let them come on into the playground. Teachers are very busy at the start of the day so can I ask you that if you need to speak to your child's class teacher, please arrange an appointment with them via the office. If you need to leave an urgent message with the teacher on a specific day the office will be happy to pass it on to the relevant teacher.

The end of the school day –

I have already mentioned that staff have been involved in after school development sessions. Both of these so far have had to start 20 minutes late because of parents arriving late to collect their children. There may be some times when staff need to attend after-school training and development sessions off site and may need to leave school early. Please collect your children promptly at the end of the school day. If you have an unexpected emergency and are going to be late let the office know s soon as possible.

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**Cycling proficiency –**

Cycling proficiency training sessions will be available after half term on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June. There will be 9 places available for pupils who are 8 – 10 years old. The cost will be £15 per pupil. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please write in to request a place by Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June. Those who are allocated a place will be contacted and asked to send payment in by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June in order to secure the allocated place.

**Swimming –**

A reminder that Year 6 pupils will be swimming this Friday.

**Lost property -**

There is a considerable amount of lost property building up in the bin by the office. We will be sorting through it and any named items will be returned to pupils. Remaining items will be on display under the covered area by the Year 6 classroom at the end of the day on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June. Any items remaining after that will be laundered and sold by the PTA on the second hand clothing stall at the Summer Fair.

**Headlice –**

Last week I wrote asking you to be vigilant with checking for and treating headlice. Can I remind you to continue to do so during the half term break please.

**Sun safety –**

Now that Summer seems to have arrived, please can you make sure that your child comes to school with adequate protection – sunscreen applied before coming to school, sunhats and of course water bottles in school and ready for use!

**INSET day –**

Can I remind you that the school will be closed on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June for staff training. Pupils return to school on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Lastly I wish you all a peaceful and restful half term. Let's hope the good weather continues!

Yours sincerely,

Lin Goldsmith

Acting Headteacher