



# SAINT NORBERT'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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Mission Statement: To live, love and learn in the footprints of Jesus.

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13<sup>th</sup> June 2023,

Dear Families,

## Mass for St Peter and St Paul – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Children in Classes 3, 4 and 5 will be attending Mass for St Peter and St Paul at 8.30am on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June. If you are able, please send your child with a small amount of money for the collection.

## Sports Day – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023

The Early Years (Nursery and Reception) Sports Day is due to take place in the morning of Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June. The gate will open at 10am with the sports beginning at 10.15am. This should finish at around 10.45am. Children in the Early Years should come to school in their shorts, t-shirts and plimsolls and bring their school uniform with them to change into once the sports have finished. They should also bring a teddy bear with them for the Teddy Bear Race, please.

If your child is not in Nursery on a Thursday and would like to take part, they should be brought to the church gate at 9.45am already changed into their shorts and t-shirts. You should then collect your child from the church gate once the sports have been completed. Do please let Miss Woodmansey know in advance if your child is attending so we know to expect them.

Sports Day for the children in Classes 3, 4 and 5 will take place in the afternoon of 29<sup>th</sup> June and will begin at 1pm. The gate will open at 12.30pm for you to take your seats. Please do not arrive early as the children will be having their playtime. Children in Classes 3, 4 and 5 should come to school in uniform as usual; they will need their PE kits and plimsolls in school ready to wear in the afternoon. When the afternoon sports have finished, the children will be asked to take all chairs and equipment back into school and change before going home.

All children must have a sunhat and water bottle with them. In the event of rain, a text message will be sent to your child's main contact by lunchtime to confirm if the Sports Day is **not** going ahead.

## Taking photographs at school events

You will have noted that in my previous letter, dated 7<sup>th</sup> June, I explained we are unable to allow the taking of photographs or videos during collective worship; the main reason for this is to avoid distracting children who may have spent considerable time learning parts.



Artsmark  
Gold Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England



If you come to support your child on Sports Day, please take photographs to capture memories if you wish to but I must ask you not to use these on social media or public websites, please. Your understanding and support with this is gratefully appreciated and I will try to clarify our approach to the taking of photographs and videos before future events on a case-by-case basis.

### **Reading books for children learning phonics**

We have a responsibility to ensure that children who are learning to read take home books with the sounds they have been learning. Skilled word reading involves both the speedy working out of the pronunciation of unfamiliar printed words (decoding) and the speedy recognition of familiar printed words.

Sometimes, children fall behind in their reading because reading books are not always well matched to their reading stage, particularly when books contain sounds they have not yet been taught. There are also a number of additional factors involved in reading successfully.

At St Norbert's, and where children are still being taught phonics through our Read Write Inc. programme, they will each bring home:

- A book bag book which matches their current learning in school.
- An e-book of the same level which has been studied in class.
- A 'sharing' book from a selection of age-appropriate books to read with an adult at home. These books should be read by an adult and enjoyed together during 'story time' to develop a love of reading.

We do not have 'book bands' and reading achievement is not measured through the completion of stages in this way. When children have completed our phonics programme, they will – of course – be supported to choose from a range of additional reading books.

### **Absence from School**

To ensure that our safeguarding and absence procedures are robust, we will no longer be able to accept emails as a method of reporting your child's sickness absence from tomorrow, 14<sup>th</sup> June. Please contact the school office before 9am by telephone and speak to a member of office staff. An absence line answerphone is available for out of office hours messages.

If we only receive an email from you and you do not telephone or visit to confirm your child's absence, this will subsequently show on your child's records as unauthorised. Our office staff will contact you after 9am, unless they have received a telephone call, until they have spoken to you. Home visits may be made if we feel that this is necessary and the Education Inclusion Officers consulted where no contact has been made.

I would like to politely remind you that in the vast majority of cases I am unable to authorise holidays during term time; unauthorised absences must be reported to the Education Inclusion Service who may decide to issue fines as appropriate. Where both parents have joint responsibility for a child, both parents would be included in any action taken by them.

In addition, please be reminded that if you are taking your child out of school for dentist or hospital appointments, you may be asked to provide confirmation of the appointment information.

Thank you for your understanding.

### **Reminders**

Please ensure your child has everything they need with them at 8.20am when they arrive for school. This should include: PE kits, swimming kits, book bags, lunch boxes, water bottles and glasses, where applicable. Weather-dependent, they will also need a sunhat and should be coming to school with sun cream already applied. Children walking to the Axholme North Leisure Centre for swimming lessons will need a waterproof coat with them on a Monday morning. Thank you.

## **Collective Worship with Class 4**

Collective Worship with Class 4 takes place on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Doors open at 2.20pm with the Worship starting at 2.30pm. All families of children in Class 4 are welcome to attend. As usual there will be no admittance once started at 2.30pm. Please note that at this event, we are unable to allow the taking of photographs or videos.

## **PGL Visit**

I am pleased to confirm that the proposed visit to PGL next May will be going ahead at a confirmed cost of £289 and ask that you therefore make your deposit payment of £89 through Parentpay, please. Should you wish to pay the full cost or any additional amount before the last payment is due, please feel free to do so. If you would like to hire bedding at an additional cost of £16.50, please do let the office know. Full details of the visit, and the revised payment plan, will be shared directly with those parents whose children are attending. Thank you.

## **Summer Fayre**

Thank you so much to everyone who supported our non-uniform day yesterday, donating prizes and gifts for our Summer Fayre, and to those who are selling Grand Draw tickets on our behalf. As always, your generosity is quite humbling and highlights the very special community spirit we enjoy. We do hope that you will be able to join us on Saturday from 11.30am and look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Dawson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

A Dawson