

St. Martin's Catholic Primary School

September 2018 Newsletter

New School Year

Everyone is back and well into the swing of things!! Welcome to all the new children who have joined St Martin's this year. Welcome also to Mrs Monks in Year 3; Miss Robertson in Years 1, 4 and 5 and welcome back to Mrs Hayes in Year 5. We hope they were made to feel very welcome and are enjoying their new school.



Many thanks

May I say on behalf of all the staff, a very big thank you for all your generosity at the end of last year? We were all very grateful for your kind wishes and many presents. It is with all your help and support that together we make our school such a special place for everyone - children, staff, parents and community alike.

School Mass for Karen Hughes RIP

Next Wednesday, 12th September at 9.15am we will be celebrating Mass for the life and work of Mrs Karen Hughes. It has been strange starting this new school year without hearing Karen laughing down the corridors. Yesterday, Tuesday 4th September, we had a remembrance assembly for Karen and a number of the children shared their own special memories of her. Please come and join us next Wednesday, if you can, to celebrate this very special lady's life and work here at St Martin's.

Karen's Path

At the end of last term many of you had asked if we could raise money for a memorial for Karen Hughes. After discussion we have decided to renovate the path around the school field and to rename it 'Karen's Path'. This will open up the use of the school field throughout the school year and was something Karen encouraged the children to do - enjoy themselves. We are getting in a firm who will be restoring the full path, cutting back trees and plants and replacing the old worn out benches. Hopefully this will all be completed before October half term.



Sponsored Dance-a-thon

To raise money to complete Karen's Path we are going to hold a Dance-a-thon on Friday 21st September. All the children will be dancing for a set period of time and we would like parents and relatives to come and join in during their slot. Further details and sponsor forms in the next few days.

Inset day change

We have had to make a change to the Inset day 29th October. The children will now return to school on Monday 29th October following the half term holiday. The Inset Day will instead be on Friday 23rd November. I hope this does not cause too much trouble and that I have given sufficient time to make new arrangements. This will give you all a long weekend half way through the long (eight week half term) lead up to the Christmas holidays.



PARENTS EVENING
COMING SOON!



Parents' Meetings

Many of you commented very positively on the way we organised Parents' Meetings last Autumn term so we are going to use a similar format this year. Dates for the meetings which will be held over the next few weeks will be sent out as soon as possible. Please remember that we are always happy to speak to any parent if you have any concerns or worries. To do so, contact the School Office or your child's teacher after school to arrange a mutually convenient time after school.

School trips

We have once again arranged for all our juniors to go on a residential trip during the course of this year, Years 5 and 6 to Edinburgh in February; Year 4 Ironbridge in May; and Year 3 Llandudno in March. Details of costs to each class will be given at the Parents' Meetings outlined above so that you can start planning now. We have also arranged for all the children to go to the cinema just after half term. Watch for a separate letter out soon. Dates are at the end in Diary Dates.



Breakfast Club and After School Club

Our Breakfast Club continues its great work. It is open from 7.30am - 8.45am and only costs £2.50 per child which is great value including their breakfast. Please note the children are not allowed into the school or onto the playground before 8.45am as there is no supervision. If your child arrives at school earlier than this, then they need to go to the Breakfast Club.



Our After School Club continues to go from strength to strength. If you wish to use the facility you need to contact Laura on 07757840673. Infant children will be collected from Class and Juniors can make their own way there. The cost per session is £2 and children must be collected before 4.30pm. They have a great time there.

PE Kit

It is very important that all children have the correct PE Kit. They are not allowed to wear football shirts. The PE Kit consists of a white t-shirt with school logo, black shorts and a pair of pumps. It is advisable that the juniors have a pair of trainers for outdoor PE. It is best for all children to keep their kit in school and to take it home each half term to be cleaned. It needs to be kept in a named drawstring PE bag.



Uniform - Laser Schoolwear (High Street, Runcorn) & Boydells (Widnes)

The children all look fantastic in their new uniform and I am very grateful for your support in this. Please do take note however that all children should have shoes or sandals, **not trainers**. Junior children may play out in trainers but cannot wear them in school. A change of shoes for indoor wear would be advisable when the weather is wet - pumps from the PE kit can be used. Infant children need velcro fasteners and not laces unless they can tie them themselves.



**Proper shoes are a must
No trainers**

Please ensure that all clothing is labelled with your child's name so that if it is lost it can be more easily located.

Years 1 and 2 children also need to have an 'infant style' Reading Book Bag.



Macmillan Cancer Support Day

On the same day as the Sponsored Dance-a-thon Friday 21st September the Friends are holding a Macmillan Cancer Support day. Teas, Coffee and cakes will be available all day in the Parents Café. Why not come along and join in with your child's dance and then go over for a drink and a cake afterwards (and before as well if you wish!).

Health and Safety

I am sure you wish us all to take health and safety very seriously at all times and we need your support in this matter. With this in mind no child may play with footballs, cycle around the playground or play on the climbing frames before school in the morning, as they cannot be properly supervised. Could we also ask that parents do not follow the children into the school building in the morning as this



No dogs
except guide dogs

causes blockages and disruption as the children are coming in? Once the staff have come out to open the gates and greet you could you please pass the children to them? If you wish to talk to a member of staff before or after school, please call at the School Office.

Please note dogs are not allowed on the school premises at any time.

Attendance and Holidays during term time

As you will be aware, the rules around holidays in term time have now changed and we **are no longer allowed to authorise any holiday requests except in exceptional circumstances**. Families, who take holidays in term time, will be contacted by Halton's EWO service, which **may** result in the issuing of a fixed penalty fine. If your child is off with illness for any length of time, then you must send in medical evidence for their absence. Thanks for your help in this matter. You understand that the best way for children to achieve well at school is for them to have a good attendance and that means 95% +



Swimming Lessons

This year we have been given four swimming slots.

Wednesday: Year 4 (2.15pm - 2.45pm) and Year 5 (2.45pm - 3.15pm) **Thursday:** Year 3 (2.15pm - 2.45pm) and Year 6 (2.45pm - 3.15pm). We need your continued support for the voluntary contribution of **£1 a week**. We have not changed this price for the last 16 years but I still feel it is good value. If you would be available to volunteer to walk the children up to the Baths please let your child's teacher know.



Diary Dates

Wednesday 12 th September	Mass for Karen Hughes	9.15am
Friday 21 st September	Sponsored Dance-a-thon Day	Times throughout the day
	Macmillan Cancer Care Day	All day in the Cafe
Friday 19 th October	Half term holiday	3.15pm
Monday 29 th October	Children return	9.00am
Wednesday 31 st October	All Saints Day Mass	9.15am
Friday 3 rd November	St Martin's Feast Day - Bring in a bottle for extra play	
Friday 9 th November	Infants' Cinema trip - Sherlock Gnomes	
Tuesday 20 th November	Juniors' Cinema trip - The Greatest Showman	
Friday 23 rd November	Inset Day - School closed	
Wednesday 5 th December	Infants' Advent Service	10.00am
Thursday 6 th December	Non uniform day for cakes	
Friday 7 th December	Christmas Fair	1.30pm
Wednesday 12 th December	Juniors' Nativity	2.00pm and 6.00pm
Wednesday 19 th December	Advent Mass	9.15am
Friday 21 st December	Early closing Christmas holidays	2.30pm
Monday 7 th January	Children return	9.00am

I have tried to give you as many dates as possible for the rest of the term, some could be subject to change but I will try to keep you as informed as possible.

Many thanks for your continued help and support. Please do not forget that if you have any problems, worries or ideas to contact me.

May God bless us all,
Yours sincerely,

Mr P D Hallman
Headteacher