

Dear Parents/Carers

I spoke to the children in assembly this week about celebrating all the good events in their lives from 2017, learning from any mistakes they made and then looking forward to the many exciting opportunities to come this year. I hope very much that this is a good year for our school and would like to wish you all a happy and fulfilling New Year.



St Alban Catholic Academies Trust (SACAT)

After a number of delays, we are now, as of 1st January 2018, officially a member of the St Alban Catholic Academies Trust. This is great news for the school as we enter into a formal partnership with other Catholic schools. Hopefully, this will allow us to work together even more closely to improve the educational experience for all our children. The schools in the Trust are:

St Vincent's Primary
St Mary's Primary
St Martin de Porres Primary
St Margaret of Scotland Primary
Cardinal Newman High

I recently received a letter from Andrew Selous MP and Justine Greening, Secretary of State for Education, congratulating us on our new academy status. Mr Richardson, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Trust, has written to all staff and governors to welcome us and looks forward to us working together to help our children fulfil their dreams. He says:

“At the starting point of our journey together, it is worth reflecting on the mission statement of the Trust:

‘Working to achieve infinitely more than we can dream or imagine’

These words, taken from St Paul's letters, say so much about what it is to be involved in education. Our children are full of dreams and imagination and education is the gift that carries each child towards the realisation of their dreams.”

So I hope very much this is a good year for us all and that we see a real positive impact from being part of the Trust.

Electronic Emails

Please be aware that, from now on, **all letters will be sent home via email**. Many parents have indicated they would prefer to receive communications this way and, as well as reducing the amount of paper we are using, the system will mean fewer lost letters in transit (or in the depths of a child's bag!).

You will receive a letter shortly asking for you to confirm your email address. Please ensure that you respond so you will receive future letters. It is a good idea, when you receive your first letter via email, to save the address in your favourites. This will make access easier and avoid them becoming SPAM.

Parent Questionnaire Comments

At the end of last term I sent out the results of our Parent Questionnaire and said that I would also feedback on some of the comments sent in. Below I am covering two of the issues raised and will cover the rest at this term's Parent Forum. Please bear in mind that most of the comments made were positive!

Communication

It was suggested by two parents that communication was sometimes a little "last minute". Whilst I recognise that this is sometimes the case these are often reminders of an event or happening that has already been communicated to parents.

In order to remind parents of events that are pending, each Friday afternoon (starting from Friday 19th January) we will send out, on the school APP, a reminder of events/activities coming up in the following week that will affect you or your child.

Homework

Homework is always a contentious issue and we had some comments saying there is too much and others saying there is too little. We believe that the amount we currently send home is appropriate as it is enough to support the learning that takes place in school whilst allowing children time to play and take part in other activities outside of school. We did send a letter to parents in September explaining what homework will be sent home with the children so I have attached this to the newsletter as a reminder.

Reading Books

Thank you for returning your child's reading book at the end of last term. We have now reviewed the books and will be replacing some and adding new ones. Your child should come home with a reading book this week.



Dates this term

Dates for this term are now on the website. I would like to advise you of the following important events that you might want to put in your diary:

Monday 15 th January	Parent Forum
Friday 9 th February	Half term
Monday 26 th February, 4-6.30pm	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 28 th February, 4-6.30pm	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 14 th – Friday 16 th March	Year 6 to Caythorpe Court, Lincolnshire
Tuesday 20 th March, 2.30pm	Year 3&4 Easter Reflection
Wednesday 21 st March, 6.30pm	Year 3&4 Easter Reflection
Friday 23 rd March, 9.05am	Year R-2 Celebration Assembly
Friday 23 rd March, 10.00am	Year 3-6 Celebration Assembly

Thursday 29 th March, 1.30pm	The Passion
Thursday 29 th March, 2.15pm	End of Term

I look forward to meeting you all at some point during the term, especially at one of the Parents' Evenings.

Kind regards

J P Carroll
Head Teacher

Wednesday 10th January 2018