



St Kentigern's R.C Primary School

23.9.2022

Dear families of St. Kentigern's,

This week, all our Key Stage 2 children joined together in church to celebrate mass. Thank you to Mrs Mort's class for leading it so reverently and thank you to Fr. Michael for making the mass so warm, welcoming and inclusive.

Reception places in September 2023

If you wish to apply for a place for your child in our Reception class for next September (2023), the application process is now open through the Local Authority. Even if your child currently attends our Nursery, **you will not be automatically allocated a place** - you must apply for it. This year, our Reception class is oversubscribed with many children on the waiting list. If you have any queries about the process, please ask either Mrs Murray or Mrs Kiefer who will be happy to help.

https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500321/primary_school_admissions

For those families who are considering applying to St. Kentigern's we are hosting an information meeting on **Tuesday 8th November at 4.00pm**. Families will meet our Reception team and will get a flavour of the outstanding curriculum that is offered throughout our Early Years provision.

Phonics Workshop

We would like to invite our Reception parents and families to a Phonics Workshop. It will take place on **Thursday 29th September at 3.45pm** in the Reception classroom. This workshop will provide you with all the information you need relating to how your child is taught phonics and how you can support them. Additional information will also be provided on how to use Seesaw.

We learn and pray, in faith and love

MacMillan Coffee Morning and Cake Sale

Our Macmillan fund raising coffee morning will take place on **Friday 30th September** between 9.00-10.00am in the school hall. Everyone is welcome! As usual, we will also be holding our children's cake sale throughout the day. Cakes will be sold to the children for 50p each. I would be very grateful if you could please send cakes in with your children that morning or the day before. For those of you who are baking experts, we would love it if you could make a "special" bake which we will then raffle off alongside our staff "special" bakes. Raffle tickets will be sold during the coffee morning.

Well done, Mr Ching!

This week we received the wonderful news that St. Kentigern's has, again, secured the Platinum Award for Sports. As you will already know, our school has a proud sporting history and we are delighted to be able to continue to provide such a high level of Physical Education to our very talented children.



World Food Day

Our annual World Food Day event will take place on **Thursday 6th October**. On this day, the kitchen staff will serve a hugely popular range of national dishes including vegetable curry, samosas, chow mein with spring rolls, Italian pasta with garlic bread as well as hot dogs and burger in a bun. Vegetarian options are also available. We will also be serving American Doughnuts! If your child usually has a packed lunch, we would encourage you to switch on that day to a school dinner so that they can join in this fun eating experience with their friends. You can book online using the World Food Day Form or you can call into the school office to reserve your school meal at a cost of £2.30 per child unless your child is eligible for free school meals. The last day to book this is Thursday 29th September (4.30pm) as the kitchen need to place the food order that evening.

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Please note, you only need to do this if your child usually has a packed lunch. If your child normally has a school dinner, no further action is required.

Extension to the length of the school day

The Government has instructed schools that the children must now be in school for 32.5 hours a week. The link below will provide you with all the necessary information.

Therefore, when we return to school after the October half term, the school opening hours for all year groups, including Nursery and Reception, will be as follows:

8.50am – 3.20pm

Please note that the gates will close at 8.50am sharp so please make the necessary arrangements to ensure your child arrives to school on time. Families will be able to drop their children into school from 8.40am.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/length-of-the-school-week-minimum-expectation>

It is vitally important that your child is in on time every school day. I have attached some facts which show clearly how much learning time is lost over the year, even if you are only dropping your child to school five minutes late each day.

Pantomime

Our annual KS1 and KS2 trip to the Pantomime will take place in the morning of **Friday 9th December** at Stockport Plaza to see Cinderella. The cost is £13 per child and this has been heavily subsidised by school. There is the opportunity to pay for this online on School Money. Part payments can be made up to Wednesday 30th November. Full payment must have been made by that date otherwise the trip might not be able to go ahead. Our Early Years children will attend a Pantomime in school. This will be in the afternoon of Tuesday 6th December. The cost will be £5 per child. Again, this has been subsidised by school.

Every Day Matters

At St.Kentigern's, your child's attendance and punctuality is very important to us. We appreciate that the last school year was a difficult year for all of our children but we hope to see an improvement in attendance across our whole school in the next twelve months. We

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will be monitoring attendance on a daily and weekly basis to ensure that all of our children are in school and reaching their target.

We very much want to work together with all of our families to help support children's attendance at school. If you would like to discuss your child's attendance further, please do get in touch. As the chart shows, reduced attendance has a significant impact on the amount of lessons your child access. Your children are incredibly important to us and we want them to have the very best start in life to enable them to have the successful future they deserve.

Everyday at School Matters

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent Days	Equivalent Weeks	Equivalent number of lessons missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons



Every Minute Counts

If your child arrives late to school, their learning begins to suffer. Below is a graph which shows how being late to school every day over a school year adds up to lost learning time. For those children who are late to school every day, the negative impact on their learning is considerable.

Impact of Lateness

Being 15 minutes late each day is the same as missing 2 weeks of school

Lost Minutes = Lost Learning



Message from Fr. Michael

Hello and I hope everyone is well and looking after one another. We are now well into the new school year and first term and this start has been dominated by the death of Queen Elizabeth II. As we get used to saying "King Charles III" I think it is worth taking time to appreciate Queen Elizabeth's example of "Service!" In all that we say and do as the family of St Kentigern, surely "service" is at the heart of it all. The example of the Queen (and now King) is that we are all being called to "serve" is a great teaching for us all. This is the essence of the Gospel, the essence of good society and I think that is where we are to focus our attention when we listen to our lord Jesus Christ. As we begin this new school year, may we let the teaching of Our Lord and the good example of Queen Elizabeth inspire this historic time in our lives. I think we are so blessed in our school staff, as each and every one of them follow this principle, as they lead by example for the children. Have a good weekend. St Kentigern, pray for us.

With continued best wishes,

Madeine Muldoon

Mrs Muldoon

Headteacher