Sacred Heart Catholic Primary
Heys Street
Thornton-Cleveleys
FY5 – 4HL
Tel: 01253 821392

Headteacher – Mr P Eaton

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back!
We hope everyone has been looking forward to starting the new term. We intend to give lots of opportunities again to all of our children this year, with lots to look forward to over the next 12 months.

We want to continue to buck the national trend and continue to get excellent attendance by our children, very good behaviour and high standards of work. We have ensured that since the pandemic, we have continued to see our children make good progress, be active, take part in lots of activities and events, and give them the aspirations to be successful at high school and beyond.

We will endeavour to participate in every competition and festival that we are invited to, and we have already begun training for tag rugby and football. There are many clubs starting across the school year to complement our PE and sport in school.

We have a number of coaches working with the children across school, across the year. These include Mrs Halstead (swimming), Mr Cooke (Swimming and Athletics), Tom from Blackpool FC (Sport and PE), Wyre and Fylde Sports Partnership (Sport and PE), Fylde Rugby Club for Tag Rugby and Mr Gilbert (Cricket). This makes excellent use of the school sport funding given to primary schools.

We are continuing to support music teaching and learning to play instruments across school. If your child is interested in learning to play keyboard or guitar, or develop their singing, please let the office know, as we continue to work with RAD Music and Mrs Bowden. Mrs Bowden will also be continuing with her choir, and will be teaching Music in several classes. We are also continuing with our Electronic Dance and Hip-hop music technology in Key Stage 2 with Francis!

Later in the year we will also plan for a stage show led by our KS2, following the success of Annie this summer.

We are continuing to keep the price as low as possible for school meals for children in Key Stage 2, at £1.90 per meal. All infants are still entitled to a free meal every day. We are also keeping the prices low for Breakfast Club at £3 per child (including breakfast) and After School Club at £6 per child.

We will also be hosting Chocolate Bingo before the end of September, and we hope to see as many families as possible for a really enjoyable evening (well, late afternoon!).

We will be having our first parents' evening before half term this year, to allow Miss Darville the opportunity to discuss progress before...

Miss Darville is expecting her first child in November!

We are very excited for Miss Darville and her partner, and we wish her the best for this life changing time!
We have a job advert out currently for a maternity cover teacher, and we are looking to welcoming a new teacher to support Reception through their first year, after Miss Darville goes on maternity leave.

Yours sincerely

Mr P. Eaton
Headteacher

ps!

Some Reminders!

- Please report any absences to the school office by 9.15am of each morning of absence. If term time holidays are required, there are green holiday forms to complete available from the office reception area. Please see the additional guidance issued by the Government regarding penalty notices.
- Our teaching staff are available to talk to at the beginning and end of each school day, we really appreciate the courteous nature of this arrangement (many schools do not do this!)
- Please ensure that PE kits are in school every day, as we have lots of activities and coaching sessions through the year, and sometimes we have emergency PE lessons! (on the rare occasion that the sun comes out)
- All payments for school lunches, trips and Breakfast and After School Club are on ParentPay. Please give 96 hours notice for the Club bookings, if possible (there are no refunds for missed sessions).
- We continue to ask that children do not have shaved patterns or dye in their hair, thank you for your continued support on this.
- Please avoid parking on the yellow lines or zigzags, the Council have issued a number of penalty notices around school recently (please don't park too close to Brian or Alison, so they can cross safely!)
- Please wear helmets when cycling to school, it can be life saving, even on pavements. As cyclists, we can't trust car drivers, we need to protect ourselves. On entering the school premises, please do not cycle on our playground, field or paths, as there are many pedestrians there.

Important Update – Changes to Education-related Penalty Notices

Information for Parents

You may be aware that the Department for Education has recently announced national changes to penalty notices issued for unauthorised absence in term time. These changes will come into effect on 19 August 2024.

The changes to be aware of are:

· Penalty notices issued for offences that take place after 19 August 2024 will be charged at a new rate of £160 per parent per child. This can be paid at £80 if paid within 21 days.

· Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160 to be paid within 28 days with no option for a discounted rate.

· The threshold at which a penalty notice must be considered is set at 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period1. This may include absences as a result of arriving late after the register closes. The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.

· A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another course of action will need to be considered (such as prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions).

· Only penalty notices issued for absences taking place after 19 August 2024 will count towards the above thresholds.

Absences can have a lasting effect on learning Missing a week of school means your child will miss around 25 hours of learning This creates gaps in their knowledge and could mean they will not meet their full potential.