



St Ursula's Catholic Primary School

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

8.9.23

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the start of a new academic year to those returning as well as those new to the school. A particularly warm welcome to children and parents in our Nursery and Reception classes in EYFS. We hope your association with St Ursula's is a long and happy one!

As always, it was wonderful to welcome back all of our pupils this week – they have settled extremely well in their new classrooms and are engaged in their learning. We started our week with a Gospel Assembly, both in KS1 & KS2, where we discussed our school Gospel Values and their meanings. We also spoke about the challenges we may face at the start of a new year and then explored what was exciting about returning!

This week's newsletter includes reminders regarding uniform and food as well as key dates for the Autumn Term. Mr Ashburn

PARENTS' EVENINGS—OCTOBER 2023

This academic year, all parents' evenings will be face to face. Please see dates below.

KS1 & KS2 Parents' Evening	16 th – 18 th October 2023	3:30-5:30pm
KS1 & KS2 Celebration Afternoon & End of Term report	7 th December 2023	3:30-4:30pm
KS1 & KS2 Parents' Evening	12 th – 14 th February 2024	3:30-5:30pm
KS1 & KS2 Celebration Afternoon & End of Term report	28 th March 2024	3:30-4:30pm
Meet your new teacher Afternoon & End of Year reports	11 th July 2024	3:30-4:30pm

Please be aware that teachers will not be arranging appointments out of these allocated times. It is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure arrangements are made so they can attend. I am providing these dates in the first week to allow parents and carers time to make these arrangements. The booking system for the first Parent's Evening will be open on Friday 29th September. Separate meetings will be arranged with parents of children in Nursery & Reception to discuss progress. More information will follow.

AUTUMN TERM – KEY DATES 2023

Masses

5th Oct: Harvest Mass
20th Oct: St. Ursula's Feast Day Mass
1st Nov: All Saints Mass
15th Nov: Remembrance Mass
1st Dec: Advent Penitential Mass

Assemblies

3rd Oct: Year 2 Harvest Assembly
3rd Oct: Year 4 Harvest Assembly
7th Nov: Year 1 Remembrance Day Assembly
7th Nov: Year 6 Remembrance Day Assembly
28th Nov: Year 3 Advent Assembly

Dress-up Days

13th Oct: Wellbeing Week, Non Uniform Day
20th Oct: International Day
13th Nov: Anti Bullying Week, Odd Socks Day
13th Dec: Christmas Jumper Day

Please continue to check the calendar on the school website for updates and times of events.

PUNCTUALITY MATTERS

As well as coming to school every day, it's important that children arrive on time too. Check out the chart to see how many days of learning a year can be lost if a child is always late:



Attendance TOP FIVE

1	St Margaret's	100%
2	St Thomas'	99.33%
3	St Anne's	96.67%
4	St Catherine's	95.86%
5	St Martin's	95.33%

BREAKFAST CLUB

The Breakfast Club is open. To book a place for your child/ren please use our Schoolcomms booking system. If you require any help or guidance with this booking system, please contact the school office on 01708 345200.

UNIFORM

We expect all children to be well dressed in our smart uniform. This includes smart haircuts and appropriate hair accessories. Uniform plays an important role in establishing the ethos of the school and we know that it instils a sense of pride that promotes more effective teaching and learning. It also ensure the health and safety of students is protected. Jewellery is not allowed, this includes **earrings**. Long hair should be tied up (both girls and boys). Hair accessories should be red, white, black or grey and be discreet.

LUNCH & SNACKS

We are a Healthy Eating School and our commitment to this ensures the physical well-being of your children, and supports their ability to thrive. We therefore ask you to support our school policy regarding school lunches and break time snacks.

May I remind you no fizzy drinks, no chocolate products or crisps are allowed in school. Water is preferable for lunch, rather than the high sugar juices.

Bottles taken into class must only contain water. We do allow cakes on a Friday for desert.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Online Safety Tips for Children

Wow, it's September already! The month when autumn officially starts and ... oh yeah, the beginning of a new school year. Every cloud has a silver lining though! Another term means new friends to make, different stuff to learn, fresh online trends to jump on and exciting new games to play on your phone, computer or console. We've compiled a list of our top tips to ensure that - whether you're going online to chat, research things or just have fun - you can do it safely.

Be cautious with your profile

Be careful not to give out too much info on your social media or gaming profiles. Details like your full name, address or school's name could all help strangers to actually find you offline. A trusted adult can help you make your profiles private - so only your family and actual friends can contact you.

Lock your devices

Taking your phone or tablet to school? Turn password protection on. It keeps your private info safe and stops anyone accessing your device without permission. Passwords should be memorable to you - but difficult for anyone else to guess. Get a trusted adult to write it down in case you forget it!

Be smart with screen time

Too much screen time, especially just before bed, can affect your quality of sleep. Losing sleep, or not sleeping well enough, messes with your concentration and energy levels. Try muting notifications so you don't get pinged late at night; you'll feel fresher and more focused the next day.

Know how to deal with bullies

Sadly there are people online who enjoy picking on other users. If you ever feel like you're being bullied online - by anyone, not just someone from school - talk to a trusted adult about it. Together, you can discuss possible steps, such as blocking or reporting the person who's targeting you.

Manage online relationships wisely

Most people in a relationship chat to their partner online. Just be mindful that once you send a pic or message (even if it's private), you no longer control who else might see it. Messaging someone you've never actually met - and who might not be who they say - is definitely best avoided.

React well to inappropriate content

When you're researching something online, there's always a chance of finding content that makes you feel uncomfortable or upset. If this happens, you can report it as inappropriate and (hopefully) get it taken down. Tell a trusted adult what happened: they'll help you decide what to do next.

Report offensive in-game chat

If you game online with your mates, you'll know things can get competitive and heated on the in-game chat. Playing against people you don't know (especially if they're older) raises the risk of offensive comments and even threats. Our advice? Find out how to block or mute those bad losers.

Learn to spot fake news

If you're looking into a topic for homework or a project, be careful not to get taken in by fake news: content that's deliberately created to mislead people. Check the story with credible sources, like the BBC or Sky News. Trust your instincts, too - if it seems too unbelievable to be true, it's probably fake.

Keep it 'real' with online friends

Everyone enjoys adding friends and followers on social media. It's important, though, that the people you interact with online really are your friends. If they're just random people you've connected with to increase your contacts, you don't know if they could be trolls or bullies (or worse).