

St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

Headteacher,
Mr. R. Hughes
B.A. Hons, PGCE, NPQH



08 September 2017

Welcome back!

Welcome back to term, the children seem to have had a busy summer, judging by all their wonderful stories! A special welcome to all our new Reception children, who are just settling in. Also we welcome Alex and Anna, twin girls in Year 5, who have made a fantastic start to life at St. Mary's!

This term, we are delighted to welcome a great new teacher in Year 4, Ms. Pyke; and a new teaching assistant, Ms Hennessey. Welcome to you both! Miss Thwaite is also our acting deputy this term, whilst we have advertised for a new deputy headteacher, following Mrs Atkinson's retirement.

Dates coming up....

We have arranged a **School Mass**, in St Mary of the Angels church, on **Sunday 24 September at 9.00 am**, to welcome everyone back to school and to our parish family. If you can come, please come in school uniform, and the teachers will be on the altar with the pupils. Everyone welcome, whatever faith or none!

There are lots of dates ahead, which will be going on our online diary, on the school website, on its homepage, within the next week few days. Please check regularly for updates

New school 10th anniversary!

At October half term, ten years ago in 2007, our beautiful new school building opened. That's gone quickly! We will be celebrating this event with a party day in October more details soon!

Holidays and similar unauthorised absences in term time.

Overleaf you will find a letter reminding you of the policy for fines and prosecutions for children being taken out of school for unauthorised absences. We informed you last term that this would happen from September 1st.

Don't forget – we have termly and annual rewards for those who have 100% attendance. Ava Quilty in Year 1 won the 100% attendance reward in July – and a £50 prize; well done Ava!

Parking problems already.

PLEASE DO NOT PARK ACROSS ANYONE'S DRIVEWAY OR ON WHITE OR YELLOW LINES IN THE CLOSE. One poor lady has to leave her house in the afternoon and has not been able to get her car off the path. Another lady who wanted to get to her house in the close was shouted at by a parent for blocking the road, when she drove to her driveway at 3pm. *Please remember – people do live in the close – and don't all drive into school!*

If parents and others didn't park on the road, there would be a two way system outside, and easy flow. Please park somewhere else! Inside school or in Tesco's! God help us if an emergency vehicle has to come up here, when these people are parking outside.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'R. Hughes'.

EDUCATION FIXED PENALTY NOTICES.
ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL.

8/9/17.

The law empowers designated Cheshire West and Cheshire Officers, head teachers – including their nominated deputies – and the Police to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to parents of children who have unauthorised absence from school, with fines up to £120. Regular and punctual attendance in school is a legal requirement. Non-payment will result in prosecution.

The background to this is that Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 makes it a criminal offence for a parent to fail to secure their child's attendance at the school where they are registered, where that absence is not authorised by the school.

If unauthorised absence occurs (such as taking holidays in term time or keeping a child off school without authorisation from the headteacher), a fixed penalty notice will be issued to the parent/carer of the child(ren).

St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School agrees that there is a correlation between situations where parents take pupils out of school without authorisation and underperformance of pupils.

All requests for authorisation of absences will require parents to make a personal appointment with the school headteacher, Mr Hughes (or his deputy, in his absence), in order to ascertain the reason for the request; and to see if it will be approved. Please ring or email the office for an appointment.

There are very few circumstances where headteachers have the discretion to approve a holiday request. Pupils already have 14 weeks' holidays per year. Two weeks of missing taught sessions of mathematics, for example, can be very damaging to a child's progress – and also their self esteem, if they see other pupils having made rapid progress, whilst they were not in school.