

Dear Parents/Carers,

Wednesday 20th December 2023

Attendance

Regular attendance at school is significant to a child's educational development and progress. When a child's attendance falls to 90% or below it is classed as persistent absence. We hope that by working together, attendance will improve and children will achieve fully in school. The school's policy for attendance is available on the school [website](#). We reward good attendance each week and are aiming for at least 96%.

Our Year 2 class had the highest attendance last week and have knocked Reception class off the top spot, well done Year 2 with **98.8%** attendance! Other classes attendance was follows: **Y5 - 98.7%, Y3 - 96%, R - 95.4%, Y4 - 95.2%, N - 94.9%, Y6 - 93%, Y1 - 91.7%.**

The classes in **green** are above our target of **96%** and those in **red** are below, some significantly below. We will be targeting those with poor attendance.

Parents can notify school of their child's absence through the School Spider App. You will need to log into School Spider to do this, if you need help logging in, please let school know.

If you are unable to call school, e.g no credit on your phone, please use School Spider.

Be in to win!

Thank you to all families who supported the 'Be in to Win' event for November. Last November we had 82 children in for the whole month. This November we had **147!** A staggering improvement, so well done everyone! It was so successful we are trying again this month – the children are really keen to earn themselves a selection box on the last day of term.

Same rules apply: **Every child** who is **in school** for the **whole of December** will receive a **selection box on the last day of term – 22nd December**. They **MUST** be in school every day for both morning and afternoon sessions to win the advent calendar – not off with a valid reason, but in every day. We will see if we can get as many children as possible to attend school every day this month. If your child has an appointment they must come to school prior to present and get their mark and return to school straight after.

School Meal Price Increase from January 2024

Unfortunately, Sefton have miscalculated their costs and are now claiming back over £6,000 which we have not budgeted for. As you can imagine we are as annoyed and as disappointed as you are about the increase in costs and will be doing all we can to fight this. However, it does mean we will have to increase the school meal costs again from 8th January 2024 to £2.50 per day.

Christmas Trees

We have two real Christmas trees which are available to families if you would like them, one is 6 ft and the other 8ft. These need to be collected on Friday 22nd December. Please get in touch with school if you would like a tree.

Swimming in January 2024

Year 3 will swim every day from our first day, Monday 8th January until Thursday 11th January and then the same the following week Monday 15th to Thursday 18th January. Swimming kit information can be found [here](#). Year 4 will continue to swim each Wednesday from 10th January until Wednesday 7th February 2024 inclusive.

PFA Fair

We raised £1120. Thank you – your support is greatly appreciated. This money will buy the children more equipment for the playground.

Courageous Advocacy/ Making Positive Change

Our vision leaders are looking to support St. Oswald's Foodbank by taking part in the Reverse Advent Calendar event. They are going to provide each class with a box for food donations. Tomorrow they are aiming to deliver 8 hampers to the Foodbank with all the generous donations that have been sent in. Every child that has taken part has picked a number (see the advent calendar below) and have been bringing in a tin/packet as a donation. In return they have received a raffle ticket. Tomorrow, the winning ticket will be selected and the winner will win a treat for their class.

South Sefton foodbank **Reverse ADVENT CALENDAR**

Please, bring your donations to
St. Leonard's Youth & Community Centre, 60 Peel Road, L20 4RW
or Waterloo Town Hall, 26 Great Georges Road, L22 1RD
by 4th December 2020

						1 TINNED VEGETABLES
2 TINNED POTATOES	3 TINNED TOMATOES	4 TINNED FRUIT	5 INSTANT MASH	6 INSTANT NOODLES	7 INSTANT COFFEE	8 TINNED RICE PUDDING
9 TINNED TUNA	10 BISCUITS	11 LONG LIFE JUICE	12 TINNED RICE PUDDING	13 INSTANT MASH	14 FESTIVE BISCUITS	15 CHOCOLATE ADVENT CALENDAR
16 TINNED SALMON	17 JAM	18 TINNED HAM	19 SELECTION BOX	20 TINNED POTATOES	21 TOILET PAPER	22 TINNED FRUIT
23 TINNED MEAT	24 TINNED RICE PUDDING	25 TINNED TOMATOES	26 INSTANT NOODLES	27 JAM	28 TOILETRIES	29 INSTANT COFFEE
30 CRACKERS	How it works: 1. Grab a box and a marker 2. Each day place the specified item in the box		3. Tick it off on your Reverse Advent Calendar 4. Once you are done, bring the box to the foodbank		Why do it in November? It takes time to get the donations processed, if you were to donate in late December, they would only reach our Clients in the New Year.	

Children's University Winter Challenge

Details of the winter holiday challenge was attached to the newsletter last week and again today. Children can collect extra Children's University credits during the Christmas holiday by completing this challenge. Each activity is worth 1 credit.

Send evidence of your activity to this [email](#). This could be a photograph, video, a work sheet, or writing about what you did. Remember to include your name and the name of our school in your email!

Our Appreciation

As we approach the end of term we're aware of the heightened financial pressures that many of you are facing at the moment.

As such, we want to emphasise that our staff are not expecting any 'thank you' gifts from pupils and parents. Should you still wish to say 'thank you', we always appreciate:

- Homemade cards and letters, or a spoken 'thank you' – kind words mean a lot!
- Donations to the local foodbank
- Paying it forward – volunteering your time to help others

We would like to wish you and your family well over this Christmas holiday and thank you for your continued support.

Dates for Next Year

For school term dates and upcoming events please see the school calendar on our [website](#).

December

21st – Starry Night - Nativity for whole school
 22nd – **9.45am** – End of term service
 TT Rockstars competition for KS2
Finish at 2.00pm.

January

8th All children back to school at the usual time
 Year 3 swimming every morning Monday – Thursday for the first two weeks
 9th Year 3 & 4 start gymnastics in the afternoons every Tuesday for this half term – all children need their PE kits in school
 10 Year 4 continue to swim each Wednesday afternoon for this half term
 15th Mini church for EYFS – 11.15am at church
 16th Year 5 & 6 team to Sports Hall athletics

17th 10.00am – Year 1 to Year 6 Communion at church – all welcome
19th Year 2 to Jodrell Bank – wrap up warm!
26th TT Rockstars competition for KS2

Christian Values

This month's Christian Value is **Compassion**

"The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion." **Psalms 116:5**



Article 31

Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

A Prayer for our School

*This is our school,
Let peace dwell here,
let peace begin with me.
Let the room be full of contentment
Let love abide here
Love of human kind, love of life itself
And love of God
Let us remember that as many hands build a
house,
Many hearts build a school.
Amen*

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Murtagh'.

Miss E Murtagh
Headteacher

