



# Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

As we reach the end of another academic year (where did that time go!?), our week has been full of joyful celebrations of the year just past and some preparations for the year ahead. Yesterday we celebrated the wonderful contribution to the school of Mrs Hanlon, Mr Stoeser and Miss Spicer who are leaving us this summer and we wished Miss Dunne every happiness in her forthcoming marriage – she will return as Mrs Toomey in September. Today, we also said goodbye, in a beautiful Leavers' Mass at All Saints church, to all of our Year 6 children, who are ready to fly at secondary school. We have asked God's blessing on all our leavers, praying:

*Bless them Lord as they leave us, with the legacy of all they have done here, ready to face new challenges and new adventures. And in the words of the ancient blessing: May the road rise to meet them, may the sun shine warm upon their faces and, until we meet again, may you hold them in the palm of your hand.*

As you know, there will be work going on over the summer holidays and so you will notice some changes when you come back. The key things that are happening are:

- After School Club moving from the Group Room to the current Red Class classroom, to give them more space and free up some space on the waiting list
- Phase 1 of the KS1 playground work will see the outdoor area for Reception and Year 1 being expanded to make a much bigger fenced off area at the top end of KS1 playground (from current Green to current Topaz classrooms). Phase 2 will (weather permitting) occur in October, when the old playframe will be replaced with a new one, generously funded by the Parent Association. Phase 3 will hopefully include new outdoor equipment for EYFS and Y1 in the new bigger area.
- Decoration of the current Red / Orange / Green classrooms
- New electric gates at the front of the school – these have been part-funded by our Governors' Fund and will make a big difference to the security of our site, as well as the aesthetic appeal of the school entrance.

Looking ahead to September, there will therefore be one or two small logistical changes:

- The top end of the KS1 playground will be fenced straight across from Green Class. YR and Y1 parents will go beyond the new fence, entering by a new gate nearest the school building. They should stand close in to the classrooms (there will be a new canopy by Reception classrooms).
- Y2 children will be in the current Orange and Yellow classrooms and will not be affected by the changes.

- There will be a second gate in the new fence, closer to the hedge which KS2 children will go through to come into school. KS2 parents should wait behind the fence in the morning and evening, like they wait behind the line now.

It is difficult to envisage with the current set up but should be straightforward when you see it in September.

A word about uniform:

- In September, children are welcome to come back in summer or winter uniform, but should be in winter uniform by the end of the October half-term at the latest.
- One uniform change is that, following pupil requests and after consultation with the PA, girls who would like to will be allowed to wear grey shorts (like the boys) instead of navy skirts with their SUMMER uniform (not with the winter uniform). Navy skirts and summer dresses will remain an option.
- It is noticeable, as we reach the last few days of term, that there are many children who are not wearing school shoes. This seems to be due to them having outgrown their previous shoes, but brightly coloured trainers don't match well with school uniform. In September, we would like to ensure we maintain our smart image as a school.
- We would be grateful if children could return to school in full uniform including black school shoes and hair accessories in the school colours.
- If you are thinking about buying new equipment over the summer holidays, could we also make a plea for smaller rather than larger school bags, to avoid congestion at the pegs. Thank you!

Just a reminder that Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September are INSET days and the children will return to school on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 8:40am.

And finally...

A huge thank you to all the parents who have helped out in school this year – in classrooms, as part of the PA, on school trips, moving furniture, assembling table tennis tables and all the myriad of other things you have supported with so brilliantly this year. It is a phrase often used, but we genuinely couldn't have done it without you! Thank you for all your help – parental support is a real strength of our community and we look forward to working with you closely to support your children again in September.

I wish you a wonderful summer with lots of special time with your children and families.

All best wishes

Catherine Burnham