



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Ayr Drive, Jarrow NE32 4AW Tel. 0191 4898336

Executive Head Teacher: Mrs. M. Graham

Head of School: Mrs. J. Colley

soffice@stmarysjarrow.co.uk www.stmarysjarrow.co.uk



Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust

Date: Monday 21st October 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are writing to you to launch our new exciting attendance initiative 'BINGO'. The children have been introduced to the initiative and have enjoyed seeing who can get BINGO to have a special reward for their class.

Classes with 100% attendance each day will 'splat' a letter from their bingo card. When the bingo card is full, the class will get to spin the prize wheel, to reveal their whole class prize. These prizes have been decided by the children for the prize wheel, we have had ideas such as extra break, sweet treats and golden time. We have already had classes earn themselves extra breaktimes, for filling their bingo cards. The class with the most bingo cards completed each half term will be awarded an additional prize.

We will continue to award our attendance trophies to the classes with the best attendance and also to the class with the most improved attendance each week.

At St Mary's, attendance continues to be one of our main priorities to ensure that our pupils are reaching their full potential. It is vital for our children to attend school every day and on time as this will make a huge difference to how well they achieve. Our whole school target is 97% and by working together with all families I am certain we will be able to achieve this.

I am sure that I can count on your full support with this by ensuring that your child attends school and arrives on time. I do appreciate that children may not always be able to attend 100% of the time due to illness and as a school we want to support all families with this.

We are aware that some children find it more difficult to attend school than others and we will continue to work with families to remove any barriers to attendance by developing solid and trusting relationships and provide support wherever we can.

As parents/ carers, ensuring your child's regular attendance at school is your legal responsibility and permitting absence from school without a good reason creates an offence in law and may result in prosecution. Children who are absent from school frequently or arrive at school late frequently develop large gaps in their learning which will impact on their progress and their ability to meet age related learning expectations.

If a leave of absence request has been submitted and the leave has not been agreed and meets the threshold for the family to receive a penalty notice, this will be submitted following the child(ren) returning to school from their leave of absence. Parents will always be informed in writing of the decision made by school, in relation to their leave of absence request.



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We will continue to work closely with the Local Authority to support our school attendance. At times, we may need to refer into the service for additional advice and support around barriers to school attendance. We will always speak to parents and carers before a referral is made.

Please do not hesitate to contact school for an appointment if you would like to discuss attendance issues or concerns further. Mrs Myhill is the attendance officer for the school and has successfully supported many families in the past, she is available to meet on Mondays and Thursday.

Thank you for your continued support
Yours faithfully
Mrs Colley



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