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Dear All

It has been a joy to welcome all of our pupils back to school after the half term break. I hope you all managed to enjoy some of the lovely sunshine. Let's hope it is here to stay a little longer. Our pupils have settled back into school with the same positive attitude they have displayed all year. We continue to be very proud of each one of them.

Thank you!

Thank you for the kind words and good wishes on the yard. I am delighted to be the Acting Headteacher of St Aloysius and am excited for our future. Since joining St Aloysius almost 7 years ago, I have been privileged to share in our many achievements. We have an incredible team of staff, the most amazing children and huge support from our families and wider community. I am confident St Aloysius will continue to thrive.

Primary School of the Year

This week we appeared in the <u>Evening Chronicle</u>. We are very proud to be shortlisted for the award of Primary School of the Year. Please have a read.

COVID update - Message from South Tyneside Director of Public Health

I'm sure you'll already be aware that a COVID-19 variant of concern has been confirmed within our region. The variant, first discovered in India and now named 'Delta' by the World Health Organisation, does not appear to cause more severe illness than other strains and thankfully, the number of overall cases remains relatively low.

Early evidence suggests this variant transmits more easily than other variants circulating in the UK but there is currently no evidence to suggest it is more resistant to vaccination. Schools and businesses across our region and in South Tyneside have been affected by small, localised outbreaks and as we know from previous experience, this is likely to result in spread among the wider community.

This means that an outbreak in your school amongst your staff or pupils is likely to affect more people than before, increasing the risk of disruption to our schoolchildren and the wider workforce.

As a school we must continue to operate with caution. Please maintain social distancing at all times in and around the school grounds. Please also continue to promote good hygiene with your child, with regular and thorough handwashing. Lateral flow tests are readily available for all secondary aged pupils and adults from local pharmacies.

Outdoor Adventure

Unfortunately, our residentials in KS2 were cancelled this year as a result of national restrictions. However, that has not stopped our pupils enjoying some fabulous outdoor activities. This week Y3 pupils tackled the climbing wall. Y4 will have their turn next week and Y5 and Y6 will soon take to the waters canoeing. Watch out for the photos on our social media and website.

St Aloysius Feast Day

On Monday 21 June we will be celebrating the feast day of St Aloysius in school. This year has presented real challenges to all of us and as a school we are still unable to operate as we would like to. Usually, at this time of the year, we would be holding our annual Summer Fair to raise funds for school. As it is not yet possible for us to hold a large community event we will be putting on some small stalls and games as part of our St Aloysius feast day celebrations for our pupils to enjoy. Pupils will also be invited to wear their own clothes to school that day. Your support as ever will be greatly appreciated. We will write out to you again with further details closer to the time.

Reception Intake September 2021

Next week we will be publishing our Virtual Reception Welcome Pack. This will include an information brochure and a short video for parents and pupils on what to expect in Reception class. If you have any further questions following this or feel you need to discuss any particular needs regarding your child, prior to them starting in September, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

The sun is out!

Thankfully the weather is warming up and we are enjoying some fabulous sunny days. We have limited suncream in school. Could you please make sure your child is prepared for being outdoors in the nicer weather by coming to school with suncream on and with a sun hat and water.

Congratulations

I have heard lots of exciting stories from our pupils of special events happening over the coming weeks, including welcoming new babies home and preparing for family weddings. It is lovely to hear the positive news, so if you are celebrating at the moment - Congratulations!

We have an exciting and full half term ahead of us.

Enjoy a lovely weekend in the sunshine!

Kathryn Fenwick

