

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Catherine Sergeant

Autumn Term 2
December 2016



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TERM DATES
2016/17
Academic Year

Autumn Term

School will close for the Christmas
break on Wednesday 21st
December 2016 at 3.20pm

Spring Term

4th January to 13th April 2017

Half Term

20th February to 24th February
2017

Summer Term

24th April to 20th July 2017

Half Term

29th May to 12th June 2017

May Day

2nd May 2016

INSET DAYS

9th June 2017

21 July 2017

1 Inset day still to be arranged

Dates to remember

21st DECEMBER

Christmas Party Day – children to
wear own clothes

School closes for Christmas at
normal time on 21st December.
There is no After School Club on
this day.

Headteacher's News

Dear Parents

On behalf of the Governors and staff, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas and to thank you for the many Christmas wishes and cards which we have received during this period.

I would also like to thank parents for supporting all of the Christmas activities throughout December. It has been wonderful to have so many parents in school and I know that everyone who came enjoyed their child's Christmas play, nativity or carol service.

As you know we have used advent as an opportunity to collect food and essential items for the homeless. Your response has been fantastic and I would like to thank you all for your generosity. The Whitechapel Centre visited school on Monday to collect the class hampers and they asked me to pass on their thanks as all of the food will be used over the holidays to provide Christmas meals for the homeless and vulnerable from our local community.

Mrs. Catherine Sergeant

School Office times

From January the **school office will be closed** to parents from **9.30am to 3pm**. Parents can ring to make an appointment if they need to speak to a member of staff or to the admin team during the school day. If your child has a medical appointment within the school day, please inform the office staff in advance with evidence of the appointment for our records.

Parents will need to ensure that their child has everything that they need for school that day including PE kits, packed lunches, homework and reading folders. Thank you for your co-operation

Information regarding Christmas Masses.

Our Lady of Reconciliation Church at 6.00pm on Christmas Eve

St Anthony's Church at 8.00pm on Christmas Eve

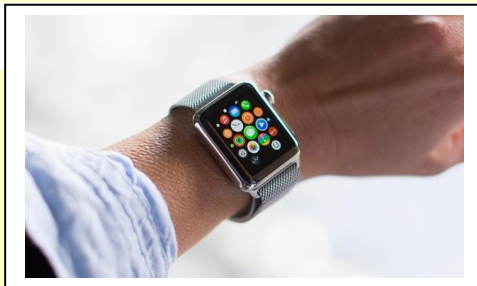
Traditional 1st Mass of Christmas and 9.30am on Christmas Day

Our Lady Immaculate Church at 11.00am on Christmas Day -A Family Mass

Smart watches and Smart Phones

Some children in school especially in Key Stage 2 have told staff that they have asked for a smart watch or a smart phone as part of their Christmas list this year.

I would just like to take this opportunity to remind parents that in line with our Internet Safety School Policy we kindly ask that you to not send your children to school in January with an smart watch, a smart phone or any device that links to the internet.



Smart watches and smart phones have the potential to be a major distraction from school work and many schools have already banned them from the classroom.

As these watches and devices are particularly expensive we cannot guarantee the safety of them and it may accidentally get damaged or broken during the school day. As a school we cannot be responsible for making sure this does not happen.

If your child does wear their Apple Smart Watch or brings a smart phone to school they will be asked to hand the item to myself for safe keeping and it will be returned to an adult at the end of the school day.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding in this matter.

Have you looked at our website recently?



There are lots of photographs on our website of the children over Christmas. The staff work hard to keep the website up to date with current information and news for parents.

Our Glee club performed Christmas songs and carols twice last week. At Anfield Football Club for their Christmas party for the local community and then at the Royal Hospital for families and patients. There are lots of photographs on the website and we also received lots of compliments about their singing and their excellent behaviour. www.oliprimaryschool/news

You can also check our website for lots more information on supporting your child with their learning at home. www.oliprimaryschool/curriculum/reading

School Uniform reminder

I would like to please remind parents that PE kits are an essential requirement for your child's PE lessons and are part of the school uniform. On PE days **children must come to school in their school uniform** and they should bring their kit and trainers in a bag so that they can get changed for their PE lesson. PE is a major part of the curriculum and children are expected to wear a full school PE kit for these lessons. **Football kits or dance kits are not allowed for PE Kit.**



Our school APP- improving communication and saving costs

As parents are aware from the media, school budgets are being cut and so as a school we are looking at ways to ensure that we are being cost effective and efficient so that our school budgets can be spent on the children. Next term we will be reducing the amount of paper based letters sent home and instead parents will receive a message on the school app which will take you directly to the letter on the website.

Paper copies will be available in the school office and from staff on request. **For this to work effectively we need families to download the school App and register their details** as the school can then track who has the App and follow up families who haven't.

The School App allows us to contact parents, **free of charge** directly to their phone and it allows parents to

- link easily to the school website,
- Receive messages, reminders and dates of events in school.
- It alerts parents when there is new information on the school website
- Parents are also able to use the APP to inform school of their children's absence, any changes in contact details and they can return permission slips and book parent evening times directly back to school via the APP from their phones.

The App is for both Apple and Android phones and can be downloaded from the App store by searching for **"Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School"**

I have attached a leaflet with clear instructions. When you download the App please make sure that you register with your details. **If you have the APP already you can download the new version which allows you to register your details.**

Even if you have previously registered your details, it is important that you download this new version and re-register as the App has been upgraded to allow the school more flexibility when communicating with families.

Year 6 Tutoring Sessions

Last year we provided weekly tutoring sessions to all year 6 children and they proved to be a great success and prepared the children extremely well for their SATS in May.

The sessions will begin the 10th January 2017 and they will take place every Wednesday until May. The session lasts 1 hour and parents can collect year 6 children at 4.30 pm from the school office. The children will receive a snack and a break before each session begins.

I would like to thank the year 6 staff who will be giving their time each week in order to support the children's learning and ensure that they are fully prepared for their SATS.

Road Crossing Vacancy

We received a call this week from the schools crossing patrol service to ask us to let parents and families know that there is a vacancy available. If you or a friend is interested in this very important role, please contact.

Rose Crossland, Road Safety Officer

Liverpool City Council, Cunard Building, Water Street Liverpool | L3 1DS

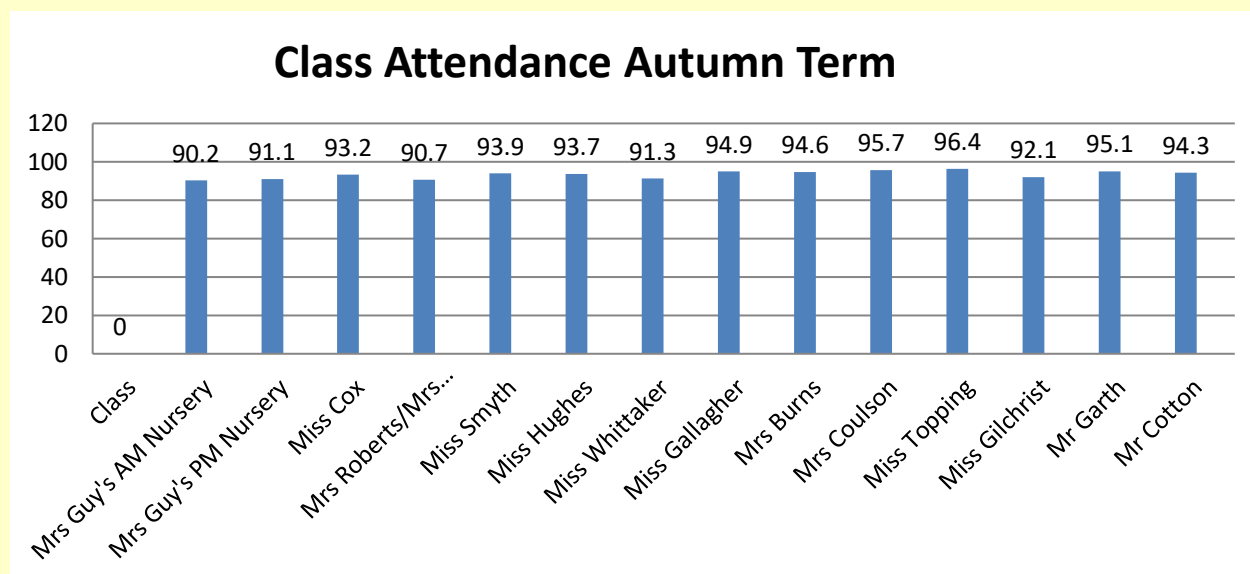
T: 0151 233 0275 E: rose.crossland@liverpool.gov.uk



Average Attendance for Autumn Term

(1st September 2016 to 19th December 2016)

Our average attendance is 93.37% this still remains below the local authority target of 97%



Attendance monitoring. We need your help to do better!

Last week I wrote to all families whose child's attendance fell below 97%. This is the local authority target for all schools in Liverpool and you will see from the charts above we are falling well below this level at the moment.

For your child to reach their potential in school they need to be in every day and be on time. The more time a child misses in school the more gaps they will have in their learning which can be hard to catch up with. Also children find it difficult to settle back into the school routine after periods of absence and this can impact upon their friendships and their well-being.

The only way we will improve this attendance figure for the school is by ensuring that your child comes to school every day next term. Please support us and your child education by aiming for 100% attendance. Your child and their class will also be rewarded for 100% attendance each term so make sure that they have a chance of winning.

Of course children who are really sick need to stay off school. If your child is off school parents must inform the school office or send a message via the school App with the reason for absence by 9.30am. If we do not have a reason by 10.30 am we are expected, as part of the schools and Liverpool's safeguarding procedures, to make a home visit.

I'm sure by working together we can improve children's attendance levels to 97% and ensure that the children are all maximizing all of the learning opportunities available to them in school.

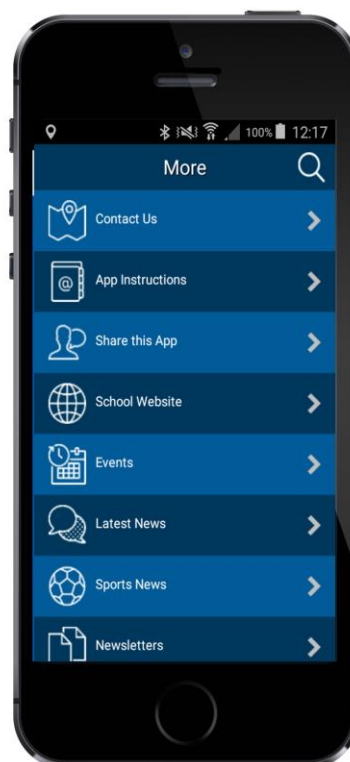
**The staff and governors at OLI would like to wish
all of our families a happy and peaceful Christmas.**

**We look forward to seeing you all on
Wednesday 4th January 2017**



Download our new School App!

Search for 'Our Lady Immaculate' on the app store.



Access term dates and events.

Receive important messages from the school.

Report your child's absence.

Direct link to school website.

Parent Evening Booking System.

Fill in booking and consent forms.

Read school newsletters.

Update your contact details.

Breakfast Club and After School information.

And much, much more...