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12 September 2018

Dear All

Hello and welcome back to school for the start of another academic year. It was lovely to see so many parents and children last Tuesday and I want to extend a huge warm welcome to the new families joining us throughout the schools.

### **Welcome**

I also want to congratulate all of the new children and parents that have started in the nursery, Reception and a couple of children in other classes across the schools. I do hope you settle very quickly into school and make the most of your time with us by getting involved in school events, joining the Parent Teacher and Friend Association, and coming along to all the wonderful things we are busy planning for this year. We will confirm when the first meeting has been arranged. It would be fabulous if you could join because they organise such lovely events for the school and they are a supportive group of people who are a friendly face of the school.

### **Staffing**

I want to extend a huge welcome to our new members of staff. We have Miss Carabine in Year 3 and Mr Hunter in Y1. Our new School Direct Trainees are Miss Sarah Phillipson in Year 6 and Miss Chloe Cunningham in Year 2. They have made a great start to their teaching careers.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Miss Barrett as she got married over the summer. When she returns (January 2019) she will be Mrs Fenwick. Congratulations also goes to Miss Holway who also got married in the summer and she is now called Mrs Cawthorn. Over the summer two of our staff, Mrs McDermott and Miss Clarke, gave birth to beautiful baby sons; they are called Dillon (Mrs McDermott) and Sam (Miss Clarke).

### **First Communion**

Children in Y4 have the opportunity to make their First Communion. If you would like your child to make their First Communion and you have not completed the form, please phone the church office. We have our launch Mass on Monday 17 September at 6.00 pm in the Church hall. It is expected each child attends with an adult.

### **Your children make me proud**

I regularly tell you that I have the best job in the world because I get to work with wonderful children, hard working staff and supportive parents. Each day, myself and the leadership team go into every class two or three times and I'm always looking at your children's work and judging the quality of it. It's been a privilege to visit the classes over the last few days, the children are all working hard on their presentation (their handwriting and the way their work looks) and I know that if they continue as they have started the term, the school will continue to excel and achieve the amazing results we have done for a number of years.

### **Uniform**

Thank you all so much! Your children look wonderful for the start of term. All of the staff and visitors commented on how smart the children looked in our first assembly of the year on Tuesday. I am delighted with the support you

have shown in ensuring the children have the correct uniform, equipment and sensible dark school shoes (no trainers!) Please note that if your child wears a tie for school, they are expected to be able to fasten it themselves.

### **Earrings and Haircuts**

Could I remind parents that children should not wear earrings. The only exception is if they have been recently pierced. If this is the case, we ask you to cover them up with a plaster. Where this has happened your child will be allowed to wear their earrings for a very limited period. Could I also remind parents that we don't allow extreme haircuts. This means we do not expect patterns shaved on to pupils heads and hair dyed in colour. Where this has happened we will ask you to let it grow out and to not do it again during term time.

### **Good luck and Farewell to the new Year 7 pupils! (our old Year 6!!)**

We had a fantastic end to the Summer term when our Year 6 pupils left. Our previous Year 6 worked so hard all year and achieved some wonderful academic results. As national results are now starting to emerge, I can tell you all, we did fabulously well! We are significantly above national averages in all aspects of Maths, Reading, Writing and Grammar and Punctuation. For a full analysis of the results please check out our website under the performance section.

### **Walking home from school**

We expect children from Nursery to Y4 are picked up from school by a known adult. Some parents want to encourage independence when their children reach Y5 and Y6 and they start to allow their children to walk home. This is a parental decision, we will only allow this to happen if the parent signs a form to indicate they are happy for this to happen. Please pick up one from the office.

### **Photograph Consent**

Parents of Y1-Y6 children will have received a Student Update Form to complete and return by Friday 14 September. (Nursery and Reception have already completed these). Would you please ensure you fill out the **Parental Consent** section. In order to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) we are now required to seek parental permission in order to allow use of photographs for use on the school premises, school website and social media etc, along with additional permissions. (In the past we operated an 'opt out' system whereby parents were required to inform us in writing that they did not want their child's photograph to be used in any or all social media).

As you know the school has a website (st-alloysius.co.uk), a facebook page (St Aloysius Federation), a twitter account (@stalloysiusfed) and a school App. All photos are used sensitively, promoting the excellent work and experiences that your children partake in during their time in school. With your permission, children's photos may be used on our website, Facebook and Twitter pages, as well as the local press. (When children attend residential or externally organised events you will be asked to sign a separate consent form for the company involved with that particular activity.)

### **School Admissions**

Please note that the deadline date for Y6 children transferring to secondary school in September 2019 is **4.30 pm on Wednesday 31 October 2018**. For your information, St Joseph's Catholic Academy are holding an open evening on Thursday 4 October 2018 from 6.00-8.00 pm.

The deadline for Nursery children applying for a Reception place and Y2 children transferring to Junior School is **4.30 pm on Tuesday 15 January 2019**.

### **Sending Money into School**

Would you please ensure that all monies sent into school are put into an envelope clearly marked with your child's full name, class and the amount enclosed. Dinner Money envelopes are available from the school office. Please make dinner money cheques payable to **South Tyneside Council**.

**Please park with consideration for our neighbours and keep our children safe. Please do not use the staff car parks when dropping children off for Breakfast Club or collecting from After School Clubs.**

### **Dates for your diary**

<b>Start of Half term Holiday</b>	<b>Week beginning Monday 22 October</b>
<b>Return to school</b>	<b>Monday 29 October</b>
<b>Teacher Training Day (School Closed)</b>	<b>Monday 12 November</b>

With my very best wishes to you all for another successful week and year ahead at St Aloysius. If we can help in any way, please contact us.

Yours Sincerely



N Conway  
Headteacher



