

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

10 January 2013



Dear Parents,

Welcome back and Happy New Year.

Thank you

From both myself and the staff can I say a special thank you to the children and all the parents and families for your kindness at Christmas time. We received many generous words, wishes, cards and gifts and we have all been overwhelmed by your kindness. We all want you to know that your kind words and thoughts are always very much appreciated. THANK YOU.

Office Refurbishment

The work is well underway and within 4 weeks we hope to have a modernised office to serve you from. When it is finished you will notice a much bigger 'hatch' to speak to office staff through as well as a much more modern look that is in keeping with the rest of the school. In the meantime, thank you for your cooperation whilst we have to use the temporary office and temporary entrance.

Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Chapman has been promoted to the position of Deputy Headteacher. Never hesitate to contact either of us if you need any help whatsoever – we would always much rather sort matters out than for you or your child to be unhappy. We can normally see you straight away but if not we will always call you straight back. The two senior teachers are also available to help you – Mr Seex and Miss Pugh can be contacted via the office if you need them.

Archbishop's Visit

His Grace, the most reverend Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham is coming to our school to celebrate Mass and bless our Early Years Foundation Unit. This very special event will take place on Tuesday 29th January. Mass will be at 10.30am in the hall and there will be tea and coffee and the opportunity to meet His Grace afterwards.

Hillcrest Road, Dudley,
West Midlands DY2 7PW

Headteacher:
Mr M Hinton, B.Ed. Hons, NPQH
Telephone:
01384 818925
Fax:
01384 818930
Website:
www.st-jo-dud.dudley.sch.uk
Email:
info@st-jo-dud.dudley.sch.uk



Kind hands, kind words...like Jesus

Homework

In response to parent's feedback we are launching a new homework scheme. Please look out for this in the coming days. It is designed to make homework clear and easy to understand and involves the use of just 2 homework books – 1 for English and 1 for Maths. The teacher will tell you which page/s your child needs to complete each week. More details to follow!

Grass outside Years 4,5 and 6 – please help us

Please can we ask you to do all you can to keep all children off the grass before and after school. Please ask your child to walk around the pathways and not to run across the grass. Lots of mud and grass is continually being walked into our new carpets and it's causing a real problem. There is also the risk of accidents because the grass is slippy and muddy. We'd be really grateful if you could support us.

Fundraising and donations

Thank you again for your generosity. The Christmas Fair raised over £1000 and the raffles at the plays raised over £200. Your generous donations of tins for the homeless were very much appreciated by the Good Shepherd shelter who always take the trouble to write and thank us at St Joseph's for the help we give. The 'pennies' that the children brought in for Children in Need amounted to £117.86 . Some of the money from the Christmas Fair has been used to purchase an iPOD docking station and sound system to be based in the Church for when we have Masses and Services.

Regular events in school

Mass

You are invited to join us each week for **School Mass on Tuesday mornings at 9.30am followed by refreshments for everyone**. You are welcome to wait in school from 9.00am onwards – please come in via the office so that we know you are in school. The Mass is a unique feature of our Catholic school and we are very proud to celebrate it especially during the Year of Faith. Our Masses are always led by the children and include beautiful readings, music, singing and prayers. You do not need to be Catholic in order to come along and join us for this special weekly celebration. People of all faiths are very welcome to go forward at Holy Communion time to receive a blessing if they would like to, though this is entirely optional. Why not come along in the Year of Faith and take part in this special weekly event? If you are not Catholic, come along and see and hear how beautiful this celebration is. If you are Catholic, why not come along as a special act for the Year of Faith. We promise you will be very welcome and there is tea and coffee for everyone afterwards.

Merit Assembly

Every Friday we have a weekly merit assembly and there is also often a class performance as well. You are warmly invited to these assemblies which celebrate the children's achievements. Assembly starts at 2.30pm, please

Diary Dates

Please look out for the diary dates for the term being sent out separately as well as another copy of the holiday's list for 2013/14 for your information. All of these dates will also be put on the website.

Bad Weather / Snow

In the event we have to make a decision to close the school we will put a message on the website. We will do this no later than 7.30am and will endeavour to do so earlier if we possibly can. We will also follow this up with a text – please make sure we have your up to date number. We will try to contact the local radio stations but this is very difficult because if the weather is bad, thousands of schools are also trying to contact them. **By far the easiest way to check is to use our school website**. If there is no message on the website at 7.30am – then the school is open. Check for texts as well – but this relies on us having your number in our system.

With every kind wish,

M Hinton
Headteacher