St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

Half Term Newsletter

We have nearly completed the first half term of the year and it was great to see so many of you at Parent's Evening recently. We would also like to say a huge thank you to the entire community for making our Polish visitors so welcome. The whole school community came out in force that week and the visitors were very, very touched and taken aback by the warmth of the welcome – thanks to everyone for your friendliness. Here are the diary dates for you and some other useful information.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 22nd October: Children Break up for Half Term (23rd and 24th are staff training days).
Monday 3rd November: School reopens to children after Half Term.
Friday 7th November: Please donate good quality unwanted gifts for the tombola at the Christmas Fair.
Friday 7th November: Reception Class Assembly, 2.30pm.
Friday 14th November: Please donate books, games and toys for the fair.
Friday 14th November: Year 2 Class Assembly, 2.30pm
Sunday 16th November: School Parish Mass in Church, 11am – please join us.
Monday 17th – Friday 21st November: Anti Bullying, Anti Racism and Internet Safety Week all week.
Monday 17th November: Anti Bullying Assembly 9.15am – all welcome.
Friday 21st November: Please donate chocolate bars/boxes/selection boxes for the fair.
Friday 21st November: Year 6 Class Assembly (Anti Bullying) 2.30pm.
Monday 24th November: 9.15am Anti Bullying Week Celebration Assembly.
Friday 28th November: Please donate bottles of wine/pop/beers/spirits for the fair.
Monday 1st December – Friday 5th December: 'Brilliant to be in Britain Week' all week in school – more details below.
Friday 5th December: Please donate tea, coffee, long life milk, sugar, biscuits and cakes for the fair.
Friday 5th December: Christmas Fair after school at 3.30pm. Stalls, raffle and Father Christmas!
Wednesday 10th December: Key Stage 2 Nativity at 2.15pm (Please don't arrive before 2.05pm).
Wednesday 10th December: Key Stage 2 Nativity at 6.00pm (Children back and hall open for parents 5.30pm)

Kind hands, kind words…like Jesus

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Registered office:
Burton Road, Dudley DY1 3BY

Wednesday 17th December: Please donate £1 towards the cost of the Disco, if you can.
Wednesday 17th December: Own Clothes Day in School all day for parties and discos.
Wednesday 17th December: Christmas Parties – teachers will let you know about food/pop donations.
Wednesday 17th December: 1.15pm – 2.15pm Nursery (am and pm) and Reception Disco.
Wednesday 17th December: 2.15pm – 3.15pm Year 1 and Year 2 Disco.
Wednesday 17th December: 3.15pm – 4.15pm Years 3,4,5 and 6 Disco after school (optional).
Thursday 18th December: St Joseph's Children's Carol Service in Church 6pm (children back to Church at 5.45pm – must have an adult in the audience at all times)
Friday 19th December: End of term merit assembly 11.00am – all welcome.
Friday 19th December: Christmas Carols in the hall 2.00pm – all welcome.
Friday 19th December: Break up for Christmas Holidays.
Monday 5th January: School reopens for Spring Term.

Christmas Fair Donations

Please support our Christmas Fair by donating goods each Friday from Friday 7th November **if you can.** There is no pressure to donate but we really do appreciate your generosity in helping us to make the Christmas Fair a success.

Our link with SP 118 Primary School in Wroclaw, Poland

Year 6 are the first class to be working on an e-twinning project supported by the European Union. They are working with Year 6 children in Poland and are producing a shared project together using a 'twinspace' provided by the EU. This is a new and exciting venture for the school and some other classes will soon be involved in Christmas and Easter projects. This is a good example of how our school is promoting tolerance, respect and understanding amongst all people of the world and we are very proud of this project.

Anti Bullying, Anti Racism and Internet Safety Week 17-21 November

The first of our twice – yearly anti bullying focus weeks – this one coincides with the national anti bullying week but as you know in our school we think it's such an important topic – we have 2 anti bullying weeks! One in autumn and one in summer! There are some special assemblies that we invite you to join us for and there will be lots of learning and visitors all week for the children.

Brilliant to be in Britain Week 1-5 December

This is a new event that we will also be celebrating twice a year in addition to our existing multicultural week in Spring and Multifaith week in Summer. Brilliant to be in Britain week will teach all of our children about British values of democracy, equality and tolerance. The children will learn how laws are made in Britain and about our Government and Monarchy. Every child will learn about the multicultural population of our Country and about some of the main religions in Britain: Christianity, Islam, Sikhism and Hinduism. There will be plenty of opportunities to experience the diversity of Britain as well as learning about some historically British traditions. This is a very important week of learning because this school is proud to be a Catholic school that is enriched by families from many different religions. Jesus taught about respect, understanding, love and equality. By following the teachings of Christ, we ensure that St Joseph's is a place of safety, respect, peace and kindness for

everyone – regardless of their religious beliefs or ethnicity. We look forward to this week and more details will be available soon!

The new playground

The playground is completed and is up and running. We would like to invite everyone to come and have a look at the amazing play facilities we have to offer on the following days:

Wednesday 5th November at 9am **Wednesday 5th November at 3pm**

Thursday 6th November at 9am **Thursday 6th November at 3pm**

We will meet our guests at the gate where Year 3,4,5 and 6 come in to school and take you down to the play facility. Please do not meet at the gates until 9am in the morning as we need to have admitted the children first. Please wait at the shelter until 9am. In the afternoon please wait at the shelter until 3pm and then come down to the gate where we will meet you and show you the facility. The tour will be finished before 3.15pm so that you can pick your children up after school. We very much look forward to showing you our amazing play facilities which we think are absolutely 1st class!

Parentview

Over the last two years many of you have spared the time to submit a review of our school on Parentview. We need to ask you to do this again for us as the website removes reviews that are more than a year old! So, in other words – we need to submit your reviews every year. All we ask is that if you tell us first if there is anything you are unhappy about so that we can try our best to put it right. It would help us greatly if you could spare the time to submit your view on Parentview. You need an email address and the whole process of submitting your view takes 15 minutes. The web address is www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk. If you would like to use our computers or if you need any help, just ask at the office.

Uniform

A big thank you to everyone for ensuring the children come to school in the correct uniform. In particular, thank you for ensuring that the children do not wear any jewellery or earrings to school. We just wanted you to know that we appreciate the support you've shown since September!

Holidays in Term Time

We need once again to make it absolutely clear that holidays in term time cannot be authorised. In addition we must advise you that any holiday or time of that is taken unauthorised WILL be automatically referred to the local authority who can issue penalty fines or prosecute. PLEASE understand that we cannot authorise holidays in term time and that we will automatically refer absence or notification of absence. We do not have flexibility to make exceptions any longer so please, please do not take holidays in term time for any reason.

Church Fundraising

There will be a Bee Gees Tribute night on Saturday 6 December 2014 to be held at Tipton Church Hall, adults £5, children £2, tickets available from the school office. There will also be a Christmas Ball for the children on Saturday 20 December, again in Tipton, tickets are £5 which includes a buffet. All profits raised are for our church building fund, please attend and support these events if you can.

Keep in touch

We pride ourselves on our open door policy where we will endeavour to see you immediately if you need our help for any reason. Mrs Chapman (Deputy Head) and myself can usually see you straight away. If we are not available then our senior teachers, Mr Seex and Mrs Hancox will always be available. You can usually see the class teacher on the same day but we may ask you to wait until after school if they are already teaching. In any case – never, ever delay in letting us know if you or your child is unhappy, worried or concerned – tell us and we promise we will always try our very best to sort things out.

Have a happy half term

We wish everyone a safe and happy half term and we look forward to seeing you in school during the next, busy half term. Thank you as always for your support of our school – and a polite request once again to go on Parentview if you can find the time. It's really important that OFSTED get to hear about the good things that are happening in our school. Thanks very much once again.

Yours sincerely

M Hinton
Principal