

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

4th September 2015

Dear Parents

A warm welcome to the Autumn term in school both for those of you who are returning and to all of our new parents.

This first newsletter gives you some important diary dates and other useful information about the school. There will of course be more diary dates to follow but hopefully advanced notification of these dates will help you to

Diary Dates

Tuesday 8th September: Please donate FLOWERS to decorate the hall and classrooms in honour of Our Lady's birthday. There will be a special assembly in honour of Our Lady at 10am – all welcome. No Mass today as Fr Emmanuel has a hospital appointment.

Wednesday 9th September: Meet the teacher and see the classroom drop in after school **3.15pm – 3.45pm**. The classrooms from Reception to Year 6 will be open and teachers available to say hello and answer any questions or deal with any concerns. Drop in and say hello and see your child's new classroom.

Thursday 10th September: Red, White and Blue Clothes day. All of the children can wear their own red, white and blue clothes to celebrate Queen Elizabeth the Second becoming the longest reigning British Monarch ever! Her Majesty will reach this milestone on Wednesday 9th September so on Thursday we will wear our British flag coloured clothes and there will be a free of charge DISCO in the afternoon for all of the children to celebrate! Later in the year, during Brilliant in Britain week, we will present each child with a special commemorative medal of this historic event for our country.

Friday 18th September: 2.30pm Year 1 Assembly

Monday 28th September: Please donate TINS OF FOOD for the homeless of The Good Shepherd Shelter

Tuesday 29th September: HARVEST MASS and visit from Good Shepherd Shelter representative to receive the tins of food for the shelter.

Month of October: Month of Our Lady, Black History Month

Thursday 1st October: Photographer in for individual photos

Friday 2nd October: CAFOD Harvest Fast Day: Everyone is encouraged to give up their playtime snack and donate the pennies saved to CAFOD in order to help the world's poorest people.

Friday 2nd October: 2.30pm Year 6 Assembly

Friday 9th October: 2.30pm Year 4 Assembly

Sunday 11th October: School Parish Mass in Church 11am



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Kind hands, kind words...like Jesus

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Registered in England and Wales No. 08608177

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Monday 23rd – Friday 27th November: Brilliant in Britain Week

Friday 27th November: Please donate good quality cuddly toys, games, other toys and children's books for the Christmas Fair if you can

Thursday 3rd December: 2.30pm Year 5 Assembly

Friday 4th December: Please donate your choice of: instant coffee, teabags, longlife milk, biscuits and cakes for the Christmas Fair if you can. Cakes for the Cake Stall are appreciated.

Friday 4th December: Christmas Fair 3.30pm

Wednesday 9th December: 2.20pm Key Stage 2 Christmas Play (please do not arrive before 2.10pm)

Wednesday 9th December: 5.30pm Key Stage 2 Christmas Play (children back and hall open to parents from 5.15pm – please do not arrive before 5.15pm)

Thursday 10th December: Morning Nursery and Reception Christmas Play at 10.45am (please do not arrive before 10.35am)

Thursday 10th December: Afternoon Nursery and Reception Christmas Play at 2.20pm (please do not arrive before 2.10pm)

Friday 11th December: 2.30pm Year 3 Assembly

Monday 14th December: 2.20pm Key Stage 1 Christmas Play (please do not arrive before 2.10pm)

Monday 14th December: 5.30pm Key Stage 1 Christmas Play (children back and hall open to parents from 5.15pm – please do not arrive before 5.15pm)

Wednesday 16th December: OWN CLOTHES DAY FOR THE CHILDREN, Parties and Discos. Please donate £1 towards the cost of the Disco if you can. The teachers will let you know about party food and drinks. Please donate a tin of food if you can for the homeless at The Good Shepherd shelter.

Thursday 17th December: Carol Concert in Church at 6pm (children in Church at 5.45pm)

Friday 18th December: Merit Assembly at 11am, Carols by the Christmas Tree at 2pm, Break up for Christmas Holidays at 3.15pm

Tuesday 5th January: School opens to children at 8.45am

Some important messages for the start of term

Attendance and holiday in term time

New regulations came into force in September that children whose attendance drops to 90% or below will be 'persistent absentees' whose cases have to be referred to the local authority for investigation.

The threshold was previously 85%. We have updated our attendance policy and you will shortly receive a letter with more information.

Headteachers are not allowed to authorise holidays in term time. If you take holidays in term time without authorisation the matter will be referred to the local authority who may issue a penalty fine. Please note that unfortunately parents at this school have already received penalty fines for unauthorised holidays in term time.

Collecting children on time after school

Last term we had a few problems with a small number of children repeatedly being left at school at the end of the day. We know sometimes this is unavoidable and you must never worry if you are occasionally late – however repeatedly picking the children up late is not fair and is not acceptable. New procedures are in place and you will shortly receive a letter explaining how the new procedures are designed to ensure fairness to everyone.

Safeguarding

Schools, along with doctor's surgeries, hospitals, health visitors and other public agencies are required to follow the strictest safeguarding procedures ever. We follow the procedures correctly and unfortunately this means that parents are sometimes very upset and offended that we have not consulted them first. We cannot normally do this and we always seek the advice of Children's Services. If we have to refer a disclosure made by your child please understand that it is confidential and we also know that, thankfully, most of the time the disclosure is a misunderstanding on the child's part and is easily resolved once social workers chat with the parent. Please do not be offended and please do not expect us to deviate from the correct procedures – we are not allowed to. Please look out for a separate letter with more details.

Other news

Cashless School

We now operate a cashless system for the payment of dinner money, trip money and swimming money. All payment for these items is made online via your 'ParentPay' account. If you have any problems with ParentPay or need help logging on please don't hesitate to contact the school office for help. Cash is no longer accepted for dinner money, trips or swimming. We will still collect cash for charity donations and school fund donations such as for Discos, fairs and sponsored events.

Improvements to the building

The picnic benches have been installed in the quad garden and we are waiting for the builder to install a safety rail around the balcony and for the new planting to be installed. Soon the children will be able to use the space as an outdoor classroom and a picnic area at lunchtime.

The Key Stage 1 and 2 toilets have all had bright new flooring installed in both the Boys and Girls toilets.

The top standard of cleanliness

Last term our cleaning staff achieved a milestone 100% score in their termly cleaning inspection by the local authority. Thanks and congratulations to Mr Gilbert our site manager and our team of excellent cleaners: Mrs Prince, Mrs Hinc and Mrs Harris. We are all really grateful for their hard work and dedication to making St Joseph's a clean and attractive place to work and learn.

Come and join us

Parents are always welcome to come and join us for Mass every Tuesday at 9.15am and for our class and merit assemblies every Friday at 2.30pm. We rarely need to cancel these events and we will send a text if we do – no Mass on Tuesday 8th September.

Keep in Touch

All we want is for your children to be safe and happy and learning as well as they possibly can be. We treat the happiness and safety of our children and parent satisfaction with the utmost importance and we are always here if you need us. No problem is too small and the sooner we are made aware of any issues, however small, the sooner we can resolve them. We will always listen and we will always try our best to solve any problems you may have.

You can normally see your child's **teacher** at the end of the day. They may not be able to see you in the morning as they are busy getting the classroom prepared but always pop in or phone and the teacher will arrange to meet you as quickly as possible.

Mr Hinton (Headteacher) **and Mrs Chapman** (Deputy Headteacher) will always try their best to see you immediately. In the unusual event that one of us cannot see you straight away we will phone you as soon as we possibly can.

Mr Seex is a senior teacher and head of inclusion and support. He is our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities coordinator and Pupil Premium Coordinator. He is available to help you with any concerns whether they are related to Special Needs or more general matters relating to any of our children.

Mrs Hancox is a senior teacher and head of Early Years. Mrs Hancox is in charge of our Nursery and Reception unit and she is available to help you with any concerns whether they are related to Nursery and Reception or more general matters relating to any of our children.

There is always a senior member of staff in school who is available to help you so please never hesitate to come in and see us straight away.

We really look forward to working with you this term.

Yours sincerely

M Hinton
Principal