

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

## Spring Term Newsletter



Dear Parents,

### Welcome back to the Spring Term

School is back in full swing after the holidays and we wish you a very Happy New Year. This newsletter contains important diary dates for the term ahead together with important news updates from school. We very much look forward to working with you during the term.

### Our Focus values this term

This term, along with all Catholic schools in the Diocese we are focussing on being GRATEFUL and GENEROUS. GRATEFUL for the many gifts God gives us: family, friends, love, and friendship and GENEROUS with our God given gifts: our kindness, our time, our friendship and sharing what we can with those less fortunate.

### Diary Dates

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January:** Year 5 Assembly, 2.30pm

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January:** School Parish Mass at 11am concelebrated by Bishop McGough

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January:** Drop-in with School Nurse Mel at 3:00pm

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January:** Year 2 Assembly, 2.30pm

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January:** Clubs start this week

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January:** Year 6 Assembly, 2.30pm

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February:** Safer Internet Day

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February:** Parent's Evening 3.30pm – 6pm

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February:** Drop-in with School Nurse Mel at 9:15am

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February:** Year 4 Assembly

***Kind hands, kind words...like Jesus***



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**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February:** All clubs end this week

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February:** Break up for half term

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February:** Back to School

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February:** Sponsored Pancake Flip – come and watch the event and enjoy a pancake!



**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February:** Year 3 First Holy Communion Parent's Meeting 3.30pm until 4.30pm

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March:** Ash Wednesday: The Holy Season of Lent begins

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March:** Year 3 Assembly, 2.30pm

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March:** CAFOD Lent Fast Day- Children will give up their break time snack and donate pennies to CAFOD instead.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March:** School, Parish Mass at 11am. Year 3 First Holy Communion Enrolment, Year 6 Confirmation Enrolment

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March:** Year 1 Assembly (for St Joseph's Day which falls on Sunday)

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March:** There will be no Mass in school on this Tuesday.

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March:** Drop-in with School Nurse Mel at 9:15am

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March:** Reception Class Assembly, 2.30pm



**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April:** Year 3 will act out the events of PALM SUNDAY at 2.45pm

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April:** Year 4 will act out THE LAST SUPPER at 2.45pm

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April:** Our Lenten CHURCH SERVICE where the children will act out the events of HOLY WEEK. Mrs Hancox will send out details. Children at Church for 5.30pm – starts at 5.45pm until approx. 6.30pm. Children need an adult to be in the congregation at all times.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April:** Year 5 will act out THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN at 9.15am

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April:** Merit and attendance assembly at 11am.

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April:** Year 6 will act out THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 2.15pm

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April:** Break up for Easter Holidays

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April:** Back to school

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April:** Drop-in with School Nurse Mel at 9:15am

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May:** School closed for May Day Bank Holiday



## **Thank you so much**

Once again a very big thank you for your kind words, cards, messages and gifts at Christmas. It was great to see everyone in school in the weeks leading up to Christmas. All of your kind thoughts, gifts and wishes are very much appreciated and mean a lot. Thank you again from the entire staff.

## **An important Mass this Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 11am in Church**

Bishop David McGough is visiting the Parish this weekend. We have organised a special school Parish Mass to mark the visitation and show him how much the school is a part of Parish life. Please join us at 11am in Church if you can.

## **Congratulations to Mrs Hancox**

Mrs Hancox is expecting a baby later this year and we are all delighted for her and her husband. The baby is due in May and Mrs Hancox hopes to be with us until as close to that time as possible, all being well.



## **Reception Maternity Cover – May to July**

Once Mrs Hancox goes on her maternity leave Reception Class will be taught by Miss Blanchette and Mrs Bunn on a job share basis. Nursery will also share Miss Blanchette and Mrs Bunn. Each teacher will work half of the week in Nursery and half of the week in Reception. Miss Carre will support in Reception alongside an additional teaching assistant and Miss Link will continue to support in Nursery. Miss Blanchette will be the lead teacher in Early Years once Mrs Hancox goes on maternity and will be so until September.

## **Reception Maternity Cover September 2017**

From September 2017 Miss Wisniewski will be the Reception Teacher for the whole year through to July. She will also be the Acting Early Years Leader from September until Mrs Hancox returns. Miss Bullock will be the Year 1 teacher from September 2017 for the whole year through to July. All other class teachers will be finalised and notified to parents in the Summer Term.



## **The back gate**

We are experiencing problems with unauthorised pedestrians using the school as a short cut. We cannot allow strangers to use the school as a short cut between Hillcrest Road and Watsons Green Road. In order to address this the back gate will only be open from 8.20am each day and it will be closed at 9am. It will be opened from 3.05pm until 3.30pm each day.

If your child is attending a club, tuition or booster classes – you will need to use the main gates on Hillcrest Road as the back gate will be closed at 3.30pm each day. Thank you for your support in this matter – we hope you understand why we have to restrict access to the school in order to keep the site safe.

## **Parking and Road Safety**

The area outside the school is busy and congested. It is an offence to park or stop on the yellow zig zag lines during the school day. Please take extra care when parking and pulling off. An accident could be devastating both for the victim and the driver. We have received complaints about aggressive driving, use of bad language and dangerous parking. We have contacted the Police and asked them to patrol the area around the school in order to enforce parking regulations and keep everyone safe. Please do not drop off or park on the yellow zig zag lines and please drive, park and pull off with great care as there are hundreds of children using our school and Beechwood Academy over the road. Please keep everyone safe and be considerate. Thanks a lot.

## Reading Books – please help us!

We are currently losing a lot of reading books each term – especially in Year 1 and 2. This means reading books are being taken home and not being brought back to school. This is costing £500 per term and is not sustainable.

We pride ourselves on providing a reading book for every child but we do need to ask everyone to make sure these books are brought back to school.

Please check at home and if you find some of our books – please send them back. They are valuable to us.



If your child repeatedly fails to bring back reading books we will unfortunately have to introduce an arrangement for them where they have to keep their reading book in school. We will still hear them read but they won't be able to take their book home. This will be a great shame if we have to start doing this – but we cannot afford £500 every term to replace books that are not being returned.

Please help and support us by making sure your child's reading book is returned to school. We realise books can get lost or go missing now and then so don't worry if this occasionally happens. Our main issue is too many books are not being returned and it is costing us lots of money to replace them. Most of these books must be at home – please have a hunt and send them back! Thanks ever so much!

## Keep in touch



At St Joseph's we are genuinely committed to making sure your children are safe and happy. We try our best to prevent any problems from arising but inevitably things **can** and **do** go wrong from time to time. If something goes wrong, if there is a problem or if you or your child are unhappy for any reason it is vital you **let us know straight away**. No problem is too small and the quicker we know about things the quicker we can sort them out.

### School Leadership Team

Mr Hinton (Head teacher) and Mrs Chapman (Deputy Head teacher) are the two most senior staff in the school and we can normally help you immediately – so don't hesitate to come and see us or phone us. If we can't speak to you there and then we will always call you back as soon as we possibly can.

### Acting Assistant Head teacher and Senior Teacher

Mrs Hancox has been promoted to the position of Acting Assistant Head teacher and she is also the Head of Early Years. She is also available to help you with any concerns. We are also supported Mrs Cheema who is our senior teacher. Both Mrs Hancox and Mrs Cheema are available to help and you can ask to see them at any time. There is **always** a member of the senior team in school during school hours so there is **always** someone here in authority to help you. Just let us know.

## Parentview

We desperately need some more reviews! **All we ask is that if you have any problems with the school you let us know first so we can try to put things right.** Just go to [www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk) –Thanks for your support.

## Mrs Cardy – our SENCo



Our new Special Educational Needs coordinator is Mrs Cardy, who is also the SENCo at Bishop Milner. Mrs Cardy will be at St Joseph's on Mondays and Fridays and you can book in to see her or just pop in before or after school. She is often outside on Monday and Friday morning as well.

If you have any concerns about your child whatsoever please talk to their teacher or Mrs Cardy immediately.

As an alternative or indeed following your discussions with your child's teacher you can speak to myself or Mrs Chapman (Deputy Head) at any time. Pop in before or after school or call us by telephone – we will always try to see you immediately or we will call you back as soon as we possibly can. Between us we can help with learning difficulties, social and emotional difficulties, pastoral welfare matters, health matters and indeed any concern you may have – however small.

## School Nurse



We can ask our lovely school nurse, Mel Dowling (who has been with us for many years) to contact you at any time if you have any health concerns about your child. In addition Nurse Mel is here once a month and you can simply book to see her via the school office.

Mel can support you with a full range of health matters and can make referrals to other health professionals. For example she can provide help with children's sleep matters, behaviour at home, eating concerns, bed wetting, nightmares, glue ear, skin conditions, on-going health matters and so on. If Mel can't help you herself she will help you to access the appropriate care from another healthcare professional.

## School closures due to bad weather – check for a text and check the website on the day

If the weather is very bad i.e. heavy snow, we occasionally have to make the decision to close the school. This decision is never taken lightly but we have to consider whether staff and children can safely get to school and if enough staff can get to school on time to look after the children.



If we have to decide to close the school **we will text you no later than 07:30 on the day**. We will also post a note at the top of the **home page of our website no later than 07:30 on the day**. We will try to inform you of school closures much earlier than this. If you haven't heard from us by 07:30 and there is no notice on the website then we are open. **It's really important we have your up to date mobile number.**

We very much look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks.

Yours Sincerely,

M Hinton,

Principal