

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Summer Term Newsletter 2017

5th May 2017

Dear Parents,

Summer Term Newsletter and Diary Dates

The new term is now in full swing and it's great to see everyone back at school after Easter and the long May Day weekend. This letter includes all of the important dates for the term that we have so far together with some news and information from the school.

There are also 4 requests for your help – these are genuine requests that will really help with the smooth running of the school. From time to time (occasionally!) we need to think about making changes to help the smooth running of the school for everyone. Hopefully this letter will explain exactly why I need to ask for your help. Your support, as always, is very, very much appreciated.

Our Diocesan Virtues and Values this half term are COMPASSIONATE AND LOVING

The children will learn about what it means to show compassion for others – having sympathy, empathy, care and respect. They will also learn about the many ways we can be loving people – caring for others, our family and our friends. Learning to follow the example of God's love for us and sharing God's love with everyone we encounter. A focus on kindness, care, respect, forgiveness and equality.

Diary Dates

Monday 8th May: Clubs Start this week

Tuesday 9th May: There will be NO MASS this Tuesday due to SATs Tests in Year 6

Tuesday 16th May: There will be NO MASS this Tuesday (Mass is moved to Friday 19th)

Thursday 18th May: Please donate FLOWERS for our May Service in honour of Our Lady.

Thursday 18th May: 2.30pm May Service / Procession in honour of Our Lady. ALL WELCOME.

Friday 19th May: Mass at 9.15am, all welcome.

Friday 19th May: Year 4 Assembly at 2.30pm.



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Kind hands, kind words...like Jesus

Part of St John Bosco Catholic Academy Company
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Thursday 25th May: Ascension Day. We celebrate the day Jesus ascended into heaven.

Friday 26th May: Break up for Half Term Holiday 3.15pm

Monday 5th June: School reopens at 8.45am

Wednesday 7th June: Class Photos (no individual photos) will be taken on this day

Monday 12th June: All of the clubs finish this week – last club day this week

Friday 16th June: Year 2 Assembly, 2.30pm

Monday 19th – Friday 23rd June is Anti Bullying, Anti-Racism and Internet Safety Week all week

Friday 23rd June: Please donate good quality **CUDDLY TOYS** for the stall at the Summer Get Together, if you can.



Friday 23rd June: 9.15am Special Assembly to celebrate our work in anti-bullying, anti-racism and internet safety week, all welcome

Friday 23rd June: Year 6 Assembly, 2.30pm

Thursday 29th June: St Peter and St Paul Day: All of the children will learn about these important Saints of the Church

Friday 30th June: Please donate **BAGS OR BARS CHOCOLATE** or **BAGS OF SWEETS** for the stall at the Summer Get Together, if you can.



Friday 30th June: Reception Class Assembly 2.30pm

Wednesday 5th July: Parent's Evening 3.30pm – 6pm – Booking forms will be sent out later

Friday 7th July: Please donate BOTTLES OF WINE, POP, BEERS, CIDERS or SPIRITS for the stall at the Summer Get Together, if you can.

Friday 7th July: Year 5 Assembly, 2.30pm



Monday 10th July – Friday 14th July is BRILLIANT IN BRITAIN WEEK learning all about BRITISH VALUES and MULTICULTURAL BRITAIN

Tuesday 11th July: There will be NO MASS today because it is Year 6 Confirmation Mass in the evening.

Tuesday 11th July: Nursery and Reception Sports Day:

Morning Nursery Sports Day: 10am – 11am

Reception Sports Day: 11am-12pm

Afternoon Nursery Sports Day: 2pm-3pm



If it is raining there will still be races for each class in the hall at the times stated.

Wednesday 12th July: Year 1, 2 and 3 Sports Day:

Year 1 Sports Day: 9.15am-10.15am



Year 2 Sports Day: 10.15am – 11.15am

Year 3 Sports Day: 11.15am – 12.15pm

If it is raining there will still be races for each class in the hall at the times stated.

Friday 14th July: Please donate TEA, COFFEE, LONG LIFE MILK, SUGAR and BISCUITS for the Cage at the Summer Get Together, if you can.



Friday 14th July: Brilliant in Britain Week Performances:

9.15am: Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Performances at 9.15am (hall opens at 9.10am)

2.20pm: Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 Performances at 2.20pm (hall opens at 2.15pm)

3.30pm: Our annual **Summer Get Together** after school. Café, Bottle Stall, Chocolate Tombola, Cuddly Toy Stall, Raffle and Bouncy Castle. A chance to get together after school before the summer holidays. Pocket money prices and all proceeds to school fund.



Wednesday 19th July: Own Clothes day for the Discos – Please donate £1 towards the Disco

All Discos take place during the afternoon. Morning Nursery are welcome to come back for the Nursery and Reception Disco from 1.15pm – 1.45pm. Year 6 will be having a separate Leaver's Disco after school.

All children except Year 6 should be picked up at the normal time of 3.15pm on Disco Day. Thank you!

Thursday 20th July: Year 6 Graduation Ceremony at 2pm

Friday 21st July: Merit and Attendance Awards Assembly at 11am

Friday 21st July: Assembly for the end of the school year at 2pm

Friday 21st July: End of Term. School closes for Summer Holidays at 3.15pm.

Monday 4th September: School reopens to children at 8.45am.



Please can I make 4 support and



requests for your help, understanding?

1, We really need your help and support – important – voluntary contributions

As a school we have always tried our best to limit the cost of trips, visits and activities. For example, we make no mandatory charge for any of our clubs, we often fully fund local trips and visits and we try to subsidise trips to make them more affordable. Swimming is another example – we ask for a contribution of £2 per week when the actual cost of booking the pool, a swimming teacher and a coach is considerably much more expensive.



Unfortunately our school budgets are being reduced in real terms and we are no longer able to provide all of these activities without sufficient parental contributions.

Nobody will ever be excluded from anything at this school if they genuinely cannot afford to pay.

However – as our funding is being reduced – **we cannot continue to subsidise trips and activities to the extent we currently are.** If we do not receive sufficient contributions towards the cost of trips, visits, clubs and swimming we may have to cancel them for everyone – which would be a great shame.

2, We really need to ask for your help and support – before and after school – children playing

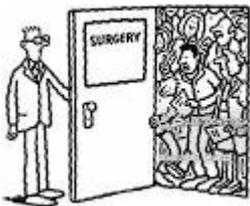
For safety reasons – children are not allowed to play on the Early Years play equipment before and after school. Please do not allow your child to play on the climbing equipment or soft play areas before or after school.

A number of Key Stage 2 (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6) children are venturing into the Early Years area and playing on the soft play. This is not allowed for safety reasons – older children are too big to be playing around our youngest children and this can be very frightening for our 3 and 4 year olds. Please talk to your Key Stage 2 children and make sure they remain at the front of the school OR under your strict supervision at all times.



3, We need to ask for your cooperation – the gateway and the office lobby area

Please can we ask you to make sure that the entrance gateways are kept clear at all times so that people can freely enter and leave the school. Occasionally children are congregating around the gate and making it difficult for others to walk up or down the drive. We appreciate your help.



• Please can we also ask that the small lobby area adjacent to the office hatch is kept clear? We understand parents have been gathering here during cold weather instead of waiting under the shelter. This has been fine but unfortunately we need to now ask you to use the shelter instead and keep the lobby space free.

There are a number of reasons why we need to ask you to do this:

- Parents who come to the hatch to talk to Miss Dunn or another member of staff have a right to privacy – we cannot provide this if parents and children are gathered in the lobby
- Some parents and visitors find the overcrowding of the lobby to be intimidating and it is putting them off coming to the office
- Overcrowding of the tiny lobby space is making it difficult for visitors to get into the school.

We're sorry we don't have more room and we hope you understand why we have to keep the space clear. Apologies for any inconvenience and thank you for your support.

4, (Lastly!) We need to ask for your help and understanding – large bows / ribbons in hair

The fashion for large bows in girls' hair has been gathering pace! The ribbons can look very smart and we know the girls are very much enjoying the fashion.

But it's time for us to ask for your support in thinking about the reasonableness of the size, proportion and colour of the ribbons / bows.

In many cases, the bows are now so large that they are obscuring the view for children sat behind them in assembly. **Large ribbons / bows are not included as part of the school uniform.** We need to ask you to think reasonably about the size and in some cases the brightness of them. A *reasonably sized* bow in royal blue school colours or another plain colour that will not obscure the view of someone in assembly is fine – a large, bright or glitter bow – whilst very fashionable and suitable for a party or family meal – is not suitable for school.



Please think reasonably about this. Remember that we would not allow a bandana or a hair string from the seaside – nor do we allow any hair colouring, dying or shavings. We don't allow any jewellery or nail varnish. The size, colour, proportion and brightness of bows needs to be reasonable and appropriate for school.



A BIG AND GENUINE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING WITH ALL 4 REQUESTS

School news and information

Mrs Hancox

Mrs Hancox will be leaving us to start her maternity leave on Friday 5th May. We wish Mrs Hancox and her husband every happiness as they await the arrival of their baby.



Senior Team at the School

Miss Blanchette is covering Mrs Hancox as the Head of Early Years from now until the end of term in July. Please see Miss Blanchette for any concerns or issues relating to Nursery or Reception, or come and see me or Mrs Chapman (Deputy Head)

Mrs Cheema is our senior teacher. Mrs Cheema is available to help you with any concerns or issues alongside myself and Mrs Chapman. You can ask for Mrs Cheema at the office or see her before / after school.

There is always a senior member of staff at school during our opening hours so there is always someone in authority here to help you 8.45am – 3.45pm. Never hesitate to get in touch if you need help with anything – no matter how small – we want to make sure the children are safe and happy and we will do everything we can to help you. We know that things can and do go wrong – and we treat sorting things out quickly very seriously – so please, always let us know.

Flowers for Our Lady on Thursday 18th May



We're having a special service / assembly in honour of Our Lady on Thursday 18th May. Please, if you can, donate some flowers for us to bring up to the statue and to decorate the hall. The children will be helping to create some beautiful displays with the flowers and everyone is welcome for the service at 2.30pm.

Summer Get Together Donations

We'll be having our annual summer get together after school on Friday 14th July and we would be very grateful for your donations. As always, please donate if you can – there is no expectation for you to donate if you are unable to for any reason. Anything you can send is always much appreciated.



School Council Update – sun shelter and picnic benches



The school council asked us to consider providing a sun shelter for the playground. We're delighted to let everyone know a brand new awning and picnic benches will soon be fitted to the playground in Key Stage 1 and 2! Early Years already have the story cottage and outdoor classroom for shade and our lovely courtyard garden by the dinner hall is fitted with a sun awning and picnic benches for outdoor lunches in nice weather!

Coming Soon – Meeting Room for parents

There will be a little bit of internal building work going on soon to create a room where staff can meet parents in the mornings or after school. This will be alongside Miss Dunn's office and will offer a quieter, more private space for you to meet with staff as opposed to the busy school entrance by the sofa. We hope it will be more convenient and comfortable for everyone.



Hot Weather – sun cream, sun hats and drinks!



When we are lucky enough to have some hot sunshine please remember to apply high factor sun cream to your child before school. Please send a cap or sun hat that will provide shade. Please also remember that your child is provided with a drink bottle. This needs to be taken home and washed each night and refilled for the next day. If your child has lost their drink bottle please see Miss Dunn at the office. We are now happy to allow the children to bring either water or no added sugar diluted squash in their bottles. Please only send no added sugar diluted squash - juice or fizzy pop or any high sugar drink is not allowed.

Sun Cream

A large pump of sun cream is provided in each class for top ups and anybody who might have forgotten to put some on. **PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU DO NOT WISH YOUR CHILD TO USE THIS FOR ALLERGY OR OTHER REASONS.** Please also remember to apply sun cream at home each morning as well.

Parentview

Thank you to everyone who has submitted their review on 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 –Thanks for your support.

Safeguarding

The Designated Safeguarding leader in school is Mr Hinton and Mrs Chapman is the deputy. Our safeguarding policy is available on our website.

THANK YOU!

I really want to thank you for persevering and reading this long newsletter and thank you for your support. Everyone at the school is looking forward to working with you this term and we all know that we have the honour of working with fantastic children and families. We never take this for granted and we assure you of our commitment and care at all times. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr M Hinton, Principal

