

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

15th September 2017

September Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year



Our new school year together is now in full swing and it's been wonderful to see everyone and welcome you back to St Joseph's.

On behalf of all of the staff, a big thank you for your thoughtful cards, wishes, conversations and gifts at the end of the summer term. We are very honoured and very grateful and your wishes are much appreciated and very encouraging.

This newsletter is accompanied by the important diary dates for the term. It's a good idea to keep your copy of the diary dates. **In particular make sure you check the dates for our Nativity plays in December – we know that lots of you have to make work arrangements so we hope you find it useful to have these confirmed dates and times now.**

In this newsletter you'll also find useful information about the new school year and as always we are very grateful for your cooperation in helping us to keep the school running smoothly. If I haven't seen you yet so far this term I look forward to seeing you around school in the coming weeks. For now, I would like to welcome you back to our school and wish you and your family all the best for the new school year together. We are all delighted to be working with you and your children and we all promise to do the best we possibly can to help your children to be safe, happy and successful at St Joseph's.

News and important information

Healthy Eating

Please help us to be a healthy school. Please do not send your child to school with any junk foods for playtime or lunchtime. Please avoid high calorie, high fat or high sugar content food and drink. We encourage you to send your child with fruit as far as possible. Small, simple biscuits or small bags of reduced fat snacks are acceptable. Fizzy drinks are not allowed. Please only send no added sugar diluted cordials or fruit juice. **We will not allow any oversize snacks, crisps, bags of sweets or large chocolate bars and we will ask for these to be taken home.** Please also remember that fruit is provided free of charge in EYFS and Key Stage 1 – so you do not necessarily need to send in a playtime snack.



Exercise and activity



Look out for details of some new sports and exercise clubs that will be starting later on in the term. This week lots of the children have been following online exercise classes led by Joe Wicks 'The Body Coach' as part of Schools Fitness Week. Joe Wicks' YouTube channel (The Body Coach TV) broadcasts short, simple exercise classes for adults and children that can pretty much be done anywhere! The children have thoroughly enjoyed these classes and we encourage them to keep up the classes at home.



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Vacancy for an elected Parent Academy Committee Member

We have a vacancy for an elected parent academy committee member. The role requires attendance at up to 2 afternoon / early evening meetings per term plus time spent visiting the school to observe and monitor its work. Full support and training is given and this role is ideal for a parent who feels able to volunteer their time to support the continued improvement of the school. Applicants must observe strict rules of confidentiality, trust and conduct. If you are interested in applying to the Archbishop to be considered for the role please see Mr Hinton. An election may be necessary if there are high numbers of applicants where parents will be asked to vote. You will be well looked after and the role is nowhere near as daunting as it might sound! Complete support of the Catholic mission of the school is essential.



Vacancies for Directors of our Academy

A number of roles are available on our Board of Directors which oversees the work of all 3 schools in our academy – St Joseph’s, St Chad’s and Bishop Milner. We are particularly in need of Directors with Human Resources / Personnel experience, financial experience and Health and Safety Experience but this is not necessarily essential. All positions except the elected parent Director post are only for practising Catholics – however Directors **do not** need to be parents of pupils in the academy. These are voluntary positions and involve attendance at up to two afternoon / early evening meetings per term and some time spent visiting the schools to observe and monitor their work. Full support and training is given. Complete support of the Catholic mission of the schools is essential. If you are interested in applying to the Archbishop to be considered for the role please see Mr Hinton.

New parent meeting room

Building work has just finished on a new room at the side of the school office. If you pop in to see your child’s teacher, school nurse or need a quick chat in private – we now have a pleasant room where we can meet. This will avoid us having conversations in the main entrance corridor of the school and give everyone a little more privacy and comfort!



Helping your child at home



If you need any help or advice on how to support your child at home please see their teacher or speak to Mrs Bowen our new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDSCO) or see Mr Hinton or Mrs Chapman. We are often asked for advice and we are happy to help. One of the easiest ways to help your child is to READ STORIES AND BOOKS TO THEM and LISTEN TO THEM READ. In Maths the best things to do are PRACTISE COUNTING, COUNTING IN STEPS OF 2,5,10,3,4 and so on and PRACTISE TIMES TABLES EVERY DAY. Doing a little bit of reading and maths each day as well as their homework makes a BIG DIFFERENCE. Also, please make use of our online EDUCATION CITY resource which is provided for home use – you should have received your login details – contact school if you need a reminder.

Please send us all of your forms back



We have sent out a number of 'new school year' forms and we really need them to be filled in and sent back as soon as possible. Please look out for a 'student update form' where we will ask for updated family / address / contact number information which is vital in an emergency. We realise it might seem you are repeating lots of the information – but please understand we have to collect your details to store on various systems and it's important that we collect this early on in the school year. Please send everything straight back to us as soon as you possibly can. **THANKS FOR YOUR PATIENCE!**

Medical Conditions and Allergies - IMPORTANT

If your child suffers from any medical conditions such as asthma or epilepsy or has any allergies please contact the school. Please ask to speak to Mrs Chapman or myself or ask Miss Dunn to relay the message to us. It is important that we know about all health conditions so we can ensure your child is kept safe. **Even if you have informed us before please call us or pop in to MAKE SURE we have the right information.** Parents are responsible for informing the school about medical conditions and allergies every year and parents are also responsible for keeping the school supplied with medicines that are in date at all times.



Email copies of school letters

In recent years we have tried to provide an email facility for school newsletters. To be honest – it hasn't worked very well! Our school email system makes it very difficult to send messages in bulk and so we have decided to return to sending a letter home with every child in every class. We realise this might mean you receive many copies of the same letter but on balance this is the easiest and quickest way to make sure we are reaching everyone with our letters. Thanks for your understanding.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation Mass Dates

Year 3 First Holy Communion Mass will be on SATURDAY 19th May at 10am. This is a new day and time for this special Mass. In common with many Catholic schools we have moved the Mass to a Saturday primarily because of major congestion at the Sunday Mass when all of the parishioners are in attendance as well. We should have far more room to allow everyone to sit in comfort as a result of the change. We also know that there are family gatherings, meals and parties for First Holy Communion and Saturday is a more convenient day for these events. Moving the Mass to 10am means there will be plenty of time for photos after Mass before everyone moves on to their family functions (it also means that the children have 1 hour less of 'keeping out of mess' in their beautiful clothes before Mass starts!)



Year 6 Confirmation Mass will be on Wednesday 11th July at 6.30pm in Church. The Sacramental Mass will be celebrated by Bishop David McGough.

The Enrolment Mass for both First Holy Communion and Confirmation Mass will be at a Sunday 11am Mass in Church after Christmas. We'll let you know the date for the Mass, as well as dates for the Parent's Meetings well in advance but they haven't been set just yet.

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium Funding



Are you entitled?

Every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 is entitled to a FREE school lunch every day and our pre-order system means your child is guaranteed to receive the meal of their choice from the menu. Why not our meals out? They are very popular and there is an extensive choice of menu including jacket potatoes with fillings.

Some families are eligible for free school meals and pupil premium funding in Years 3,4,5 and 6 and some families in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 qualify for Pupil Premium Funding for the school.

We are in desperate need of this precious funding. If you receive any of these benefits, you could be entitled to free school meals AND the school could receive pupil premium funding if you fill in the confidential application form. YOUR CHILD DOESN'T NEED TO TAKE THEIR FREE SCHOOL MEAL IN ORDER FOR THE SCHOOL TO GET PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING – YOU ONLY HAVE TO FILL IN THE CONFIDENTIAL APPLICATION FORM.

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit Run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

Apply online:

<https://dudley.firmstep.com/default.aspx/RenderForm/?F.Name=jmP96xBCnth&HideToolbar=1>

We will text you this link. Please apply if you think you might be eligible – the pupil premium funding we will receive will help us to keep on investing in keeping St Joseph's as one of the best schools anywhere in the country.

WE WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT. ALL AGE GROUPS FROM RECEPTION TO YEAR 6 NEED TO APPLY IN ORDER FOR SCHOOL TO RECEIVE PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING

Parentview

Ofsted collects the views of parents via Parentview. Responses on Parentview are archived every academic year and also after 365 days. It is important that we receive regular feedback on Parentview. **All we ever ask**

is that you bring any problems to our attention beforehand so that we have the opportunity to put things right. Please always see the headteacher or deputy headteacher in order to resolve any problems with school. Please go to www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk and submit your review. If you are not already registered with an email address you'll need to do this. It shouldn't take you long – and we are very, very grateful for your support.



Keep in touch



Nothing is more important to us than the happiness, safety, wellbeing and academic progress of your children. We want you and your family to be very, very happy at St Joseph's. We're proud to be an Ofsted Outstanding school – but that doesn't mean we are a perfect school – no school in the world ever can be! What's important is that if things go wrong – which they do from time to time – you can be assured we are here to help sort things out quickly. Never let problems or worries build up – come and see us and we will work hard to sort them out.

You can see your child's teacher after school or you can call the school and they will call you back when they are not teaching the class. We also have a number of senior staff in school who are available to help you. Any one of us can help to resolve any problems that you might have:

Miss Wisniewski (pronounced Vish-nee-eff-ski) is the acting head of Nursery and Reception Class

Mrs Cheema is our senior teacher

Mrs Chapman is the Deputy Headteacher

Mr Hinton is the Headteacher

The head and deputy are the most senior members of staff and one of us can normally see you immediately. If we can't see you (which we normally can) we will either call you straight back or you can see one of the senior teachers. If something is bothering you – no matter how small – please just let us know straight away – don't let any issues build up into something bigger. **WE ARE HERE TO HELP**

Thanks for taking the time to read this newsletter. We look forward to working with you this term.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr M Hinton,

Principal

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Diary Dates for Autumn Term 2017 – September Version (updates will follow later in the term)

Please keep these dates handy for your information!

SEPTEMBER 2017

Friday 15th September: Year 5 Assembly, 2.30pm

Friday 22nd September: Year 6C (Mrs Cheema's Class) Assembly at 2.30pm

Tuesday 26th September: 9.15am Mass: We will be presenting Father Emmanuel with a gift for his 40th anniversary since ordination. If you would like to bring / send cards or gifts please do so today.

Tuesday 26th September: Year 5 Catholic children will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) after Mass.

Wednesday 27th September: Today is Father Emmanuel's 40th anniversary since being ordained a Priest, marking a lifetime of service to others and to the church. Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Victoria Road Tipton at 7.30pm.

Thursday 28th September: Individual Photographs for all years! If you would like a photo with younger or older siblings not in school please arrive first thing at 8:30am. Siblings within the school year groups will have photo together during the school day.

Friday 29th September: Year 4 Assembly



OCTOBER 2017

Sunday 1st October: School and Parish Mass at 11am in the Church. All welcome. Miss Wisniewski will be in touch with more details about readers and choir. Please support this school and parish link.

Wednesday 4th October: Parent's Evening from 3.30pm to 6pm. Appointment letters will be sent out shortly.



Friday 6th October: CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY. Everyone is asked to fast (give up) their playtime snack and give some pennies to CAFOD for the world's poor and starving this harvest. Envelopes will be sent out for the children's pennies.

Friday 6th October: Year 6M (Mrs MacDonald's Class) Assembly at 2.30pm



Monday 9th October to Friday 13th October is a BRILLIANT IN BRITAIN WEEK in school where children will learn about lots of the different world faiths celebrated in Britain today. We will also be joined during the week by the headteacher and 6 teachers from our partner school, SP118 in Wroclaw, Poland.

Monday 9th October: MASS will be celebrated on Monday this week. It will be our HARVEST MASS and we invite you to donate TINS OF FOOD for the Harvest that will be donated to the GOOD SHEPHERD SHELTER in Wolverhampton.



Monday 9th October: The visiting teachers from Poland will be at St Joseph's today. They will be with us for Mass and visiting classes throughout the day. They will also be on duty with our staff before school so please come and say hello. The same group have been visiting us every Autumn since 2014 so you will see some familiar faces.

Tuesday 10th October: There will be NO MASS today because Mass has moved to Monday 9th October.



★ **Thursday 14th December:** KEY STAGE 1 NATIVITY PLAY AT 5.30pm. Children need to be back at school for 5pm.

★ The hall will also be open for you to take your seats from 5pm. **Please don't come back to school before 5pm.**

★ **Monday 18th December:** OWN CLOTHES DAY FOR ALL CHILDREN TODAY!

★ **Monday 18th December:** In the morning all of the children will enjoy a fun version of the nativity story performed

★ by The B-Tales theatre company.

★ **Monday 18th December:** DISCOS for all children today. Please donate £1 towards the cost of the Disco.

★ **Monday 18th December:** NURSERY DISCO 1.15pm – 1.45pm (Morning Nursery are welcome

★ to come back!) KEY STAGE 1 DISCO 1.45pm – 2.30pm and KEY STAGE 2 DISCO 2.30pm –

★ 3.15pm. All children need to be picked up at the normal time.

★ **Monday 18th December:** CHRISTMAS PARTIES for all classes today. School will provide pop

★ and biscuits for everyone – please contact us if your child has a food allergy so we can make

★ specific arrangements. Thank you.

★ **Monday 18th December:** On this special, fun day in school ahead of our Christmas

★ holidays, we invite you to donate a TIN OF FOOD for the GOOD SHEPHERD SHELTER so

★ that we can help to care for those who are not as lucky as we are this Christmas. This is a

★ simple but very useful ADVENT OFFERING that we invite you to undertake.

★ **Tuesday 19th December:** END OF TERM CHRISTMAS MASS at 9.15am all welcome

★ **Tuesday 19th December:** MERIT AND ATTENDANCE AWARDS at 11am all welcome

★ **Tuesday 19th December:** CAROLS AROUND OUR CHRISTMAS TREE at 2.15pm all

★ welcome

★ **Tuesday 19th December:** SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AT 3.15pm

★ **JANUARY 2018**

★ **Thursday 4th January 2018:** SCHOOL REOPENS TO CHILDREN AT 8.45AM

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