

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

17th October 2017

October Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Dates for this week – the children break up on Wednesday 18th October

Wednesday 18th October: Merit Assembly at 2.30pm – all welcome

Wednesday 18th October: Children break up for Half Term at 3.15pm

Monday 30th October: School reopens to pupils at 8.45am

Wishing you and your family a happy and safe half term



Half term has rolled round quicker than ever and the children break up this Wednesday 18th October at 3.15pm. The school reopens to children on Monday 30th October at 8.45am. This half term letter is to wish you all a very happy and safe half term and also includes some useful information about school.

Parent Academy Committee Member for St Joseph's (Parent Governor)

Further to our request for expressions of interest in the last newsletter, the deadline for letting school know if you would like to apply to become a Parent Academy Committee member for St Joseph's is Monday 30th October at 9am. Please ask to speak to Mr Hinton or Mrs Chapman.

Parent Directors and Foundation Directors (Board of Directors for Bishop Milner, St Chad's and St Joseph's)

Further to our request in the last newsletter, there are vacancies on the Board of Directors for an elected parent and foundation Directors. Foundation Directors must be practising Catholics and all Directors must be fully supportive of the Catholic mission of the schools. Please ask to speak to Mr Hinton or Mrs Chapman.

Please provide us with an email address and mobile phone number to use as your username and password for our new App service - XPRESSIONS

We will soon be communicating with you via an App called **XPRESSIONS**. Wherever possible messages will be sent to you via push notifications on the **XPRESSIONS APP**. **This will save the school a considerable amount of money compared to sending texts!** In order for us to register you for XPRESSIONS we need an email address and mobile number that you will use as your username and password.



Many of you provided this information at Parent's Evening. If you did, please now go ahead and **download the XPRESSIONS APP and log in using the email address and mobile number you provided**. You can start receiving messages straight away and will help save the school cost of texts. All money saved will be spent instead on the children!

If you haven't sent us your email address and mobile number for the XPRESSIONS APP – please fill in and return the attached form.



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Please return your details no later than Friday 3rd November. We will let you know the date of the switchover to XPRESSIONS soon afterwards!

Please note that XPRESSIONS will automatically send a text if the APP is not accessible or working for any reason so you won't miss out on messages if you have no internet connection.

Clubs

Clubs start week beginning **Monday 30th October (first day back) and finish week ending Friday 1st December**. Places have been allocated and you should have received notification of your child's place. **Places in clubs can unfortunately be withdrawn in the case of bad behaviour or if a child is repeatedly collected late. Clubs finish at 4.15pm and children need to be collected by an adult.** Please call the school if your child is not being collected by someone on your list of approved adults.



We really appreciate your **£2.00 donation towards the running of the clubs**, this can be made on Parentpay in the 'Termly After School Club Donation' payment item. Please note **you only need to pay once** – if you have paid the item still appears on your account as it is a repeatable option to pay all year round, whenever you want to donate.

Supervision of children before school

Parents are responsible for the supervision of their children before and after school. Even if your child is older and walks to school on their own or if you drop them at school before 8.45am – **parents are still responsible for their child's behaviour and safety**. If you are not present to supervise your older children – please impress upon them the need for good, safe and sensible behaviour. Some unsupervised older children have been found being silly before school and this cannot be tolerated.



Younger children

Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 must be handed over and collected by an adult. They cannot be left to walk up the drive themselves nor can an older school child hand them over. A responsible adult must hand them over to the staff at the entrance to Nursery, Reception or Key Stage 1. At home time we will only release your child to a responsible adult on your list of approved adults. If you are sending another adult to pick your child up you must notify us.

We need to ask again for your help and understanding – large bows / ribbons in hair



The ribbons can look very smart and we know the girls are very much enjoying the fashion. **But it's again 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 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.

It's not fair if one or two children don't follow the guidelines – everyone needs to follow the guidelines. We will be phoning home to ask for bows to be removed if the problem continues. Please support us and please help us with this matter. Thank you ever so much!

Free School Meals – you could help the school to get Pupil Premium Funding to spend on the children



We recently text you the link to apply for free school meals. If you receive certain benefits – you probably qualify for free school meals. Even if you don't want your child to take the free meal – applying for and being entitled to free school meals will bring precious extra funding to the school for six years. School budgets are much tighter these days and every penny helps. Applying online is simple and you do not need to produce any documents. Just Google **DUDLEY MBC FREE SCHOOL MEALS ONLINE APPLICATION**

Parentview

Thank you for your new reviews this half term. Parentview archives reviews after 365 days and many of your reviews are about to expire. We would be grateful if you could share your feedback again. All we ever ask is that you speak to Mr Hinton or Mrs Chapman first if you have any problems, worries or concerns with the school. Please visit www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk and fill in your review. If your review is nearly a year old it will soon expire – please could you spare a few minutes to submit another one? THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

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.

HERE
TO HELP

You can see your child's teacher after school or you can call us and the teacher 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

There is always a senior member of staff present during normal school hours.

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.**

Our focus values for next half term

Learned and wise

Have a safe and happy holiday. When we return after the holidays our Diocesan values from the Catholic School Pupil Profile will be **LEARNED AND WISE**. **LEARNED: FINDING GOD IN ALL THINGS WE LEARN AND WISE: WISE IN THE WAYS WE USE OUR LEARNING ABOUT GOD FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS**

Yours Sincerely,

Mr M Hinton, Principal

XPRESSIONS APP USERNAME AND PASSWORD

Name/s of your child/ren:

Class:

Email address (must be working) you will use as your username:

Mobile number (must be working) you will use as your password:

Your name:

Relationship to child/ren:

Please return this form to the school straight away and no later than Friday 3rd November. Thank You!