

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

January Newsletter 2018



Dear Parents,

Spring Term Newsletter

Happy New Year and welcome back to the Spring Term in school. This newsletter gives you important updates and information for the Spring term. Please also look out for your copy of the Spring Term Diary Dates and the Holiday Dates January 2018 – July 2019 – you should have received your copy of all of these so please let the office know if you haven't. We very much look forward to working with you and your children this term and assure you that we are all here to help you. Please never hesitate to ask for help even with the smallest matters.

Thank you very much

Thank you very much for your Christmas cards, gifts and kind words offered during the festive season. Your kindness is very much appreciated by everyone and we would like to say a big thank you and wish you a happy and healthy 2018.

Thank you for your generosity towards others

Thank you for your very generous donations of tins of food for the Good Shepherd Shelter in Wolverhampton. Your donations have provided food for the homeless and poor of the local area.

Thank you for your support of the Christmas Fair

Thank you for your generous donations for the fair and also a big thank you for your support of the event. We raised £600 which was all put into the school fund to pay for extras for the children.

Our values this half term are GRATEFUL and GENEROUS

GRATEFUL for the many blessings God gives us: health, a loving family, a safe place to live, and unconditional love from God. GENEROUS with the gifts God has given us: our kindness, helpfulness, sympathy, friendship and the ability to bring God's love to others through something as simple as a smile or kind word.

You are welcome at our weekly events

Everyone is welcome to join us for our whole school Mass every Tuesday at 9.15am and also for the weekly merit assembly on Fridays at 2.30pm. We welcome parents and family members and encourage you to be part of the school community. It's unusual that these events are cancelled but if there are any changes we try to send a text to let you know. You can always phone the school to double check before making a special journey.



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Kind hands, kind words...like Jesus

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Company
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Sunday 11th February – School Parish Mass in Church at 11am



Please join us for this half term's School Parish Mass. Mrs Chapman has sent out invitation letters and an appeal for readers, choir members and offertory children. These Masses are a special part of our school and everyone is encouraged to attend. Everyone is welcome.

Sponsored Pancake Flip / Lent Fundraising

On Shrove Tuesday 13th February we will be holding our annual sponsored pancake flip. The children are invited to collect sponsor money in return for completing our fun 'pancake flip' assault course in the hall. All of the money we raise is split between school fund, the church and a range of local and international charities. Parents are invited to come in and watch their child take part in the assault course and all of the children can enjoy a pancake in their classroom afterwards. We'll send you the timetable for the day a bit nearer the time.



Parent's Evening – Thursday 15th February

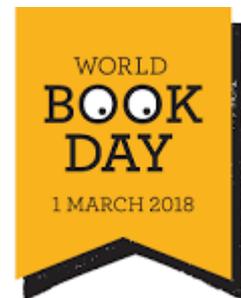


We will send out a booking form shortly for our Spring Term Parent's Evening. A crèche will be provided for you to use **for children who attend St Joseph's whilst you are present in the building. Please note we cannot look after your children between the finish of school and you arriving for your appointment.** All of the children must be collected at

3.15pm and may use the crèche whilst you attend your appointment. Mrs Bowen, our Special Needs Co-ordinator will be available for appointments.

Thursday 1st March – World Book Day

Children can dress up as their favourite book character from any suitable book or story (including any cartoon characters who will of course have their stories in books as well as on screen!) Any child that doesn't want to dress up can wear their OWN CLOTHES on this day.



Monday 19th March – Friday 23rd March – MISSION, VALUES, PRAYER and VOCATION WEEK

We celebrate our 'Brilliant in Britain' weeks in Autumn and Summer Terms and during Lent we focus on some of the core values of our school. There will be visitors, groups and activities all week culminating in performances from all of the children on Friday 23rd March. Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will perform in the morning and Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will perform in the afternoon. All timings are in the 'Diary Dates' calendar.

Year 3 First Holy Communion and Year 6 Confirmation Enrolment Mass: Sunday 25th March

Sunday 25th March at 11am in Church. Children who will be receiving First Holy Communion and Confirmation this year need to attend the Enrolment Mass to be enrolled for the Sacraments.



Father Emmanuel also asks that all Communion and Confirmation candidates attend weekly Sunday Mass and sign in at the back of Church. If you attend a different Catholic Church please ask the Priest to sign the weekly bulletin and give this to Father Emmanuel as evidence

of your attendance at Mass. This is a very important matter and you should speak to Father Emmanuel directly if you have any queries.

Pupil Premium Funding

We recently messaged you the link for online applications for free school meals. If you are eligible it is really important to apply because the school will be given up to 6 years of additional funding for your child. School budgets are increasingly stretched and we need every penny of funding in order to continue providing the best possible education for the children. Please apply for funding if you think you might be eligible – no paperwork is required and it's completely confidential. As we are a cashless school – receiving free school meals is also completely confidential for the children. Please support the school and apply for the funding if you think there is a chance you are eligible – we would be very grateful indeed.

Support we can offer you



Our school nurse, Mel Dowling, is available for appointments and runs regular drop-ins. Just ask at the office if you'd like to see Mel (she is excellent). In addition, if you have any concerns about your child's learning, progress or emotional health and well-being our SENCO, Mrs Bowen, is here most Tuesdays and Fridays and can offer a range of help and support as well as arranging appointments wherever necessary. If you feel you need any help or support just let us know – come and see Mr Hinton or Mrs Chapman and we will do our best to arrange the best support we can.

Is everything OK?

Does your child receive their homework and is it marked? Is your child's reading book changed regularly? Have you been treated with the care and dignity we pride ourselves on? We need to know! Little things can and do go wrong in school - the important thing is we will always try our best to sort them out. If something isn't right, if you are upset or if you just need a bit of help – contact the school straight away. You can contact the class teacher or if you have a more pressing problem you can always see Mr Hinton (Head teacher) or Mrs Chapman (Deputy Head teacher) Mrs Cheema is the senior teacher and Miss Wisniewski is the acting head of nursery and Reception. We are all here ready to help you.



Let's treat each other with respect

It's very important that the school looks after families with the highest level of respect. We are very grateful to you for treating us with respect and care too. Even when you are upset about something – please remember we will do our best to sort it out for you. Treating each other respectfully is an important part of life at St Joseph's and it's important we look after each other well. A big thank you for your ongoing support. Please pass this message on to anybody who comes to the school on your behalf e.g. grandparents, uncles and aunts – it's important that everyone treats each other respectfully at school.



ParentView



Ofsted collects the views of parents via ParentView and as a school we use ParentView to help us monitor our performance. We encourage you to share your views about our school. All we ever ask is that you let us know first if you have any problems so we can try to sort them out. We're really proud of the feedback we receive on ParentView but we don't take it for granted. It's important to us and we are constantly trying to improve the school.

We are about to 'lose' a number of reviews because they become archived after 365 days. We need lots of new reviews to keep our Parentview results up to date. Please go to www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk and submit your responses. If you are not happy with school for any reason – please tell us first – and we will do our very best to sort things out for you.

Thank you for your support.

Keep in touch



We want you and your child to be happy and doing well at St Joseph's. That's what we are all here for. Mr Hinton is the Head teacher and Mrs Chapman is the Deputy Head teacher. We can normally see you immediately to help with any matter. Mrs Cheema is the senior teacher and Miss Wisniewski is the acting head of Nursery and Reception. There is always a senior member of staff at school between 8.45am and 3.30pm to help you. You might also like to see your child's class teacher – just ask at the office or see the teacher after school. Teachers can't always see you between 8.45am and 3.15pm due to their class commitment but they will see you as soon as possible outside of these hours.

See you soon

We very much look forward to working with you this term and look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks. Don't hesitate to get in touch if you need help with any matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr M Hinton,
Principal

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Diary Dates for Spring Term 2018

Please keep these dates handy for your information!

DIARY

★ **Wednesday 17th January:** 3.30pm Open classrooms – drop in and have a chat with your child's teacher between 3.30pm and 4.30pm – last entry at 4.15pm and session finishes at 4.30pm. It's an informal drop in so please be mindful of the fact each parent needs their chance to talk to the teacher – it **isn't** a formal parents evening.



★ **Tuesday 23rd January:** Year 5 Mass 9.15am followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation – all welcome

★ **Tuesday 30th January:** Year 3 Mass 9.15am – all welcome

★ **Wednesday 31st January:** St John Bosco Day (patron Saint of our academy)

★ **Friday 2nd February:** Year 6C Assembly 2.30pm – all welcome

★ **Tuesday 6th February:** Key Stage 1 Mass 9.15am – all welcome

★ **Tuesday 6th February:** Safer Internet Day – Activities in school

★ **Friday 9th February:** Year 3 Assembly: 2.30pm – all welcome

★ **Sunday 11th February:** School Parish Mass in Church, 11am all welcome



★ **Tuesday 13th February:** Shrove Tuesday: No Mass in School – sponsored pancake flip for Lent Charity fundraising – timetable and sponsor form to follow. Come and watch your child take place in the pancake flip assault course. There will be a pancake for every child after the course! The sponsored pancake flip is one of our Lenten acts of 'giving alms' and we donate 50% of all of the sponsor money to charities and 50% goes to school fund to pay for extras for the children such as subsidising the cost of trips.

★ **Wednesday 14th February:** The Holy Season of Lent begins. Period of praying, fasting and giving alms. Ash Wednesday – children will receive the ashes at a service in school. Adults should attend Mass in the Church please as the service is only for the children.

★ **Thursday 15th February:** Parent's Evening 3.30pm – 6pm. Booking form to follow.

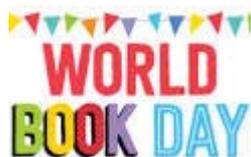


★ **Friday 16th February:** Year 2 Assembly, 2.30pm – all welcome

★ **Friday 16th February:** School closes for half term, 3.15pm

★ **Monday 26th February:** School reopens, 8.45am

★ **Tuesday 27th February:** Year 6 Mass at 9.15am followed by Reconciliation – all welcome



★ **Thursday 1st March:** World Book Day. Children can dress up as their favourite character from any book or story (including any cartoon characters who will of course have their stories in books as well as on screen!) Any child that doesn't want to dress up can wear their OWN CLOTHES on this day.

★ **Friday 2nd March:** We will celebrate CAFOD LENT FAST DAY on this day (Cafod's official fast day is during our half term) Everyone in school is asked to FAST by giving up their playtime snack and GIVE ALMS by donating some pennies to CAFOD instead. CAFOD supports the poor and starving of the world and is the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. By taking part in the FAST DAY the children live in solidarity with the world's hungry for a short time and help them by donating some pennies (GIVING ALMS)

★ **Tuesday 6th March:** Year 5 Mass – all welcome



★ **Friday 9th March:** Year 1 Assembly, 2.30pm – all welcome

★ **Tuesday 13th March:** Year 4 Mass, 9.15am – all welcome.

★ **Friday 16th March:** Reception Class Assembly, 2.30pm – all welcome.

★ **Monday 19th March:** St Joseph’s Day – Patron Saint of our School. Special Assembly at 9.15am and a treat for everyone to eat during the day! All welcome to join us for assembly at 9.15am.

★ **Monday 19th March – Friday 23rd March is our MISSION, VALUES, PRAYER and VOCATION week** – lots of activities, visitors and learning about the heart of our school community.



★ **Monday 19th March:** We will be sending out **mini reports** to keep you updated about your child’s learning and progress.

★ **Tuesday 20th March:** Year 3 Mass, 9.30am – all welcome.



★ **Wednesday 21st March:** 3.30pm Open classrooms – drop in and have an informal chat with your child’s teacher between 3.30pm and 4.30pm – last entry at 4.15pm and session finishes at 4.30pm. It’s an informal drop in so please be mindful of the fact each parent needs their chance to talk to the teacher – it **isn’t** a formal parents evening

★ **Thursday 22nd March:** Year 6M Assembly 2.30pm – all welcome

★ **Friday 23rd March:** 9.15am NURSERY, RECEPTION, YEAR 1 and YEAR 2 will present their performances for MISSION, VALUES, PRAYER and VOCATION week (singing, dancing, acting, miming) (hall opens 9.10am)

★ **Friday 23rd March:** 2.20pm YEAR 3,4,5 and 6 will present their performances for MISSION, VALUES, PRAYER and VOCATION week (singing, dancing, acting, miming) (hall opens 2.15pm)



★ **Sunday 25th March:** School Parish Mass at 11am in Church. Enrolment Mass for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Palm Sunday – the beginning of HOLY WEEK. All welcome.

★ **Monday 26th March:** 9.15am YEAR 3 will act out the events of PALM SUNDAY – all welcome



★ **Tuesday 27th March:** Key Stage 1 Mass, 9.15am – all welcome

★ **Tuesday 27th March:** 2.45pm YEAR 4 will act out the events of the LAST SUPPER – all welcome

★ **Wednesday 28th March:** 9.15am YEAR 5 will act out the events of the AGONY IN THE GARDEN – all welcome

★ **Thursday 29th March:** Merit and Attendance Awards at 11am

★ **Thursday 29th March:** 2.15pm YEAR 6 will act out THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS – all welcome

★ **Thursday 29th March:** School closes for Easter Holidays, 3.15pm

★ **Monday 16th April:** School opens for Summer Term, 8.45am

