

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Spring 2018 Newsletter



Dear Parents,

Welcome back

We hope you and your family had an enjoyable half term. Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term. This is always a very special time in school as we observe the holy season of Lent. There are all sorts of opportunities for the children to pray, fast and give alms during this season as we journey towards the most holy week of the year and Easter itself.

Diary Dates for this half term

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 was 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. Patron Saint of Families and Fathers. 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.



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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

Our values this half term are INTENTIONAL and PROPHETIC

INTENTIONAL: making a conscious decision to treat other people and our world in the thoughtful, kind and dignified way the Church teaches us to – this is our INTENTION.

PROPHETIC: By living in the way the Church teaches – we are prophetic through setting a positive example of our faith life to others – we become like a **PROPHET** who can set a good example of how to live in Christ.

The Holy Season of LENT is here



During the season of Lent we are reminded of the time Jesus spent in the desert being tempted to make wrong choices and turn away from God the Father. Jesus kept his faith, stayed strong and did not give into temptation. He did this for 40 days and 40 nights. In solidarity with Christ we are asked to pray, fast and give alms during Lent and there will be every opportunity for the children to do this in school throughout Lent – for example at CAFOD Family Fast Day, by collecting sponsor money for the pancake flip, special activities such as drama, dancing and prayers during mission week and during Holy Week itself our series of special assemblies culminating with the Stations of the Cross. Throughout Lent the children also have the opportunity to pray the Stations of the Cross both in extra assemblies and in their own classrooms.

World Book Day – This Thursday 1st March

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.



CAFOD Lent Fast Day – This Friday 2nd March



Fast, pray and give

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**)

Pancake Flip Sponsor Money

Please can you send in any sponsor money you have collected for the Pancake Flip as soon as possible? We would like to be able to distribute the sponsor money to good causes during Lent. Please send in the sponsor money you have collected by Friday 9th March. We will let you know the total and which charities we have sent the money to once it has all been counted. Thank you very much for your generosity.

Prayer Bags

Over the course of the year, every child will receive a gift from the school which will be a little prayer bag. Year 4 and Year 5 will be receiving theirs this half term. The bags contain a small holding cross made from the wood of real Bethlehem Olive Trees, a battery operated candle, a cloth and a souvenir bookmark. We would like the children to use their prayer bag to create a display focus and hopefully say some prayers with their family.

Prayer is universal and part of all faiths so if you are not a Christian family please make use of the cloth and the candle – you are welcome to keep the wooden cross as a gift if you would like to or you can send it back to school if you prefer – but please keep the bag, cloth and candle and let your child use it to make a display as a focus for praying together. Our aim is to encourage and promote prayer at home amongst the children and families – and prayer is central to all faiths – not just Catholicism. Please accept the gift and make use of it.



We'd be really grateful if you would send in some photos and write ups of how you've made use of the prayer bags – you'll find some paper in the prayer bag itself! THANK YOU!

Class Saint's Days



Every class in school has their own patron Saint. As a new initiative for this year we are allowing the children to wear their own clothes on their Saints days. To make it fair to everyone we have to do a bit of catching up as some classes have missed their Saint's days earlier in the academic year! Look out for a message about when your child's class are celebrating their Saint's day – and bear in mind that just between now and July – it might not match up with the official Saint's day if we are catching up! From next September the Saint's days will all match up closely! Thanks for your understanding!

NEW AND IMPROVED school meals service has started – and the children are impressed!

From this half term our school dinners will be provided by Bishop Milner's kitchen under the supervision of our catering manager, Trudy. **There is a brand new, child-friendly menu which includes a different hot meal every day with a range of side orders together with the option every single day to choose pasta, jacket potato or a sandwich. There is an extended range of pudding options together with the salad bar and fresh bread every day.** This is a major new improvement and Trudy herself will be down here at St Joseph's every week to ensure everyone is happy. **Please see the new menu and remember that everyone in Reception, Year 1 and 2 can have a free school meal every day.** Trudy was at parent's evening giving out free taster samples – everyone gave very positive feedback!



Please keep the space outside the office hatch clear

Please can we ask you to keep the small lobby by the office hatch clear? This is so that parents and visitors can speak to Miss Dunn in confidence without worrying about privacy. We know it's cold at this time of year but shelters are provided at all entrances to help keep everyone dry – please understand that we need to give everyone space and privacy when calling at the office or entering the building.

Uniform



Please support us with our high standard of uniform and dress. We don't allow any outsize hair ribbons or fascinators. We don't allow hair shaving, sculpting, dying, highlighting, colouring or engraving. Jewellery, make up and nail varnish are not allowed. Long hair must be tied back. Sensible school shoes must be worn – trainers are not allowed. Please support us and help us to uphold our very high standards. Thanks so much.

Parentview – we still need your reviews – please spare us 10 minutes to help!

We would be exceptionally grateful if you could place a review of the school on Ofsted's Parentview website. **We really need some more up to date reviews as old ones are archived after 12 months.** All we ever ask is that you tell us first about any matter you are unhappy about so that we have the opportunity to put things right for you. We recently sent you a link via Xpressions App / text message – www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

Free School Meals – apply online and get precious extra funding for the school – no paperwork needed!

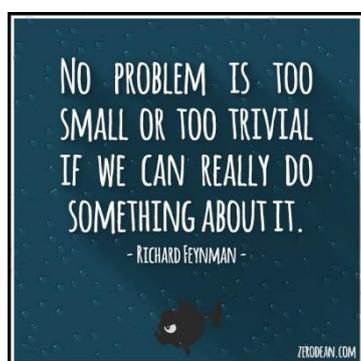
If you are eligible for free school meals it's so important that you register! Even if you don't take up the meal the school will receive precious extra funding for up to 6 years – all of which will be spent on providing the best education possible for the children.



Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically all receive a free meal – but if you think you are eligible for free school meals funding – PLEASE go online and apply! You will obtain precious funding for the school. We recently sent you the link via Xpressions App / text message – just google search 'Dudley MBC Free School Meals Online Application'

Applying is quick, confidential and requires no paperwork!

Your child's safety, learning and happiness are our top priority – we are here to help you



Nothing is more important to us – so if you need help with any matter – however small it might seem – it's always best to let us know straight away. The sooner we know about a problem (even a really small one) we can start to do our best to sort things out.

You can see your child's teacher or you can speak to a senior member of staff. In school hours there is always someone here to help. Mr Hinton is the headteacher, Mrs Chapman is the Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Cheema is one of our senior teachers and Miss Wisniewski is the acting head of Nursery and Reception. Never hesitate to get in touch – we want you and your children to be happy and feel well looked after.

We really look forward to seeing you between now and the end of term. Thanks so much for your ongoing support.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Hinton".

Mr M Hinton

Principal