

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

18<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## September Newsletter

### Autumn First Half Term Newsletter



Dear Parents,

The Autumn Term is now in full swing and we hope your child has settled in well to school if they have joined us for the first time in Nursery and Reception and we hope that all of the children who have returned back to us after the holidays are settling into their new classes. This newsletter gives you some important information for the half term ahead of us.

Also with this newsletter, as a handy separate document that

you can keep near your calendar – please take a look at the 'Diary Dates' Please check especially the dates of the Christmas Nativity performances in case you need to arrange any time of work. It'll be here before we know it.....!

### Our Values for this half term

Our values this half term are **Compassionate and Loving**. **Compassionate** towards others in all that we do – showing sympathy, empathy, tolerance, understanding, kindness and forgiveness. **Loving** towards all that we encounter, with our families and those we know as well as those we don't know. Showing the love of Jesus in all that we do and say. These values are set by the Archdiocese and all Catholic Primary Schools in the Archdiocese focus on the same set of values, which are changed each half term. The values are drawn from the Catholic Schools Pupil Profile, which is on display throughout the school and in the main lobby area by the offices.

### Religious Education, Catholic Life and Collective Worship Inspection 26/27 September. Mass next Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

It is 5 years since our last inspection and all Catholic schools have an R.E, Catholic Life and Collective Worship Inspection from the Diocesan Education Service every 5 years. We will be inspected next Wednesday and Thursday by two Diocesan Inspectors. We will be sharing all of your feedback from R.E Parent Workshops and the R.E. Parent's Survey. Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September and as usual parents and parishioners are warmly welcomed. Please do join us for Mass if you can and meet and welcome the inspection team to our school.

### Father Emmanuel's Retirement



We are very sad to let you know that we will be saying goodbye to Father Emmanuel in October. Father Emmanuel is retiring so that he can be a full time carer for Father Ben. We are so sad to be losing Father Emmanuel who has been an extra special Chaplain to the school as well as Parish Priest for the last 11 years. Father Emmanuel has done so much to help bring everyone in this school closer to God and has been an exceptional example to all of us. He is a most kind, understanding and caring Priest and will be very much missed by everyone – including all of the children. At the same time, it is typical of Father Emmanuel's generosity, kindness and compassion that he has chosen to retire from the role he loves in order to give care to the Priest that looked after him and taught him as a young seminarian (trainee priest)

### A Goodbye gift for Father Emmanuel



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Father will be moving to Coventry and will need to set up his new home. With this in mind we will be giving Father Emmanuel a cash gift or a voucher to spend on his new house to say goodbye. We realise many of you will be donating to the collections taking place in Church, but if you would like to make a donation towards Father's leaving gift, we would be very grateful for your contribution. Please send in any donations in an envelope marked 'FATHER EMMANUEL'S LEAVING COLLECTION' and add your child's name or your family name so we can acknowledge receipt. We will combine donations with the donations from all of the staff and make a presentation to Father at his last Mass in school.



### **Father's Last Mass at St Joseph's School – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 9.15am**

Father Emmanuel will celebrate his last Mass as our school chaplain on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. We will make our presentation to him after Mass and there will be tea and coffee available for everyone afterwards to enjoy with Father and the opportunity for you to say goodbye and thank you. Please join us if you can.

### **Father's Last Mass in the Church – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 11am – School Parish Mass**

Father's last Mass in Church will be on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 11am and this will be a school and parish Mass. Mrs Chapman will be in touch soon to organise readers, offertory bearers and the choir. Please come and join us for this special Mass.



### **We welcome Fr Louis in October**

Father Louis will join the school and Parish on 9<sup>th</sup> October and will celebrate Mass for the first time in our school on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October**. As a school we are very proud of the strong relationship we have with our chaplain and Parish Priest and we look forward to working closely with Father Louis and making him welcome. Come along to **Mass at 9.15am on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October** and help us to welcome him to our school.

### **International School Award Success!**

We are very proud indeed to have been awarded with the **INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD** for 2018-2021. This award is in recognition of our work to teach all pupils about the wider world, particularly through our partnership with **SP118 Primary School in Wroclaw, Poland**. Congratulations to **all of the children** for all of the excellent project work they complete each term and special, grateful thanks to **Miss Wisniewski**, our International Links Leader whose total dedication to the link with Poland has been recognised with this very prestigious award. We very much look forward to the formal presentation ceremony in London later this year.



### **Allergies**



If your child has ANY allergies please check and double check that the school has these on our records. Check, amend and return the pupil information sheet. Call in or phone the office to **DOUBLE CHECK** your child's allergies are fully known to the school. Thank you for your help.

### **Mission Awards**

Our awards scheme that recognises children's commitment to living out the mission statement of our school has been very popular with several medals presented last term. Now that everybody has moved up a class – there is a new opportunity to apply for the award for their New Year group! Applications can be made once per half term and there is one Mission Award to apply for throughout the year. The children can apply in October, December, February, April, May or July – once they are successful they will be awarded the Mission Award medal for that year group. Application forms will be coming out soon and the Mission Team (pupil group) will assess all of the applications with Mrs Chapman ready to present the medals before the half term holidays. The deadline for returning the application forms this half term is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October. Please bear in mind that the criteria for the mission awards are challenging and must be evidenced – you may need to help your child with their application. Any children whose application does not meet the standards will be supported and helped and encouraged to reapply in December.



### **Dropping off on the zig-zag yellow lines**



It is an offence to stop or park on the zig zag yellow lines outside schools – this includes stopping to drop off children or passengers. The zig zag yellow lines are there to minimise road accidents by keeping roadways clear for children to be able to cross the road. There are regular mobile CCTV vehicles patrolling the area around the school and a number of parents have been fined so far this term. More importantly, stopping on the yellow zig zag lines makes the road around the school dangerous for the children and is an offence in law.

Please, please drop off or park elsewhere where it is safe and legal to stop. Please think carefully about the potential danger stopping in the restricted area causes.

### **School Nurse Drop Ins**

Our lovely School Nurse, Mel Dowling, is available to see you upon request (just see the office) or at her regular drop in sessions. Dates for these sessions are listed in the Diary Dates document. Mel can help you with the full range of child health issues – physical, mental and emotional and is lovely to work with. Please feel free to make use of this very precious service.



### **Holidays in Term Time are not authorised – please do not break the law**



Please remember that government legislation means holidays in term time are not authorised. Taking a holiday without authorisation (an unauthorised absence) can lead to a penalty fine and / or the school taking your child off the register and you having to find a new school upon your return. We automatically refer all unauthorised absence to the local authority Education Investigation Service. Fines are collected and retained by the local authority – the school does not receive any income from fines. As a school we simply operate as the law sets out and we do this because it is important that children are in school during

term time. Our classes are fully operational right up until the last day of each term – we don't have 'toy days' or 'wind down weeks' – we treat our responsibility to educate your children very seriously and our classes run as normal right up until the end of term. If you take your child out of school for an unauthorised absence they really are missing out on learning – even if it is at the end of a term.

### **We are here to help you – keep in touch**

The learning, safety and happiness of your child/ren are our top priority – that is why we are all here. We try our best to be the most effective school we can be but it is inevitable that things will go wrong from time to time. The important thing is that you know we will always try our best to sort out any problems or difficulties as quickly as possible.

Everyone is on hand to help you. You can see your child's teacher after school and you can always leave a message for them as well. Mr Hinton and Mrs Chapman (Deputy Head) will always try to see you immediately – never hesitate to come and see us. The senior teachers are Mrs Cheema (Year 6 Teacher) and Mrs Hancox (Head of Early Years) who are both also available to help you.



It is very important if you have any worries or niggles – however small – to let us know straight away. We will do everything we can to help and we have an excellent track record of being able to sort things out. Never let anything fester – it's always best to sort things out and it's our pleasure to help you. All you ever have to do is LET US KNOW!

### **Parentview**



For those parents of children who have returned to Year 1 or above – we need your help! Many of you kindly submitted reviews of the school on Parentview last year – thank you so much. We now need to ask you to complete another review as all reviews are archived after 365 days. We really need to attract some new reviews to give OFSTED an accurate picture of our school. All we ever ask with Parentview is that if you have a problem – please **LET US KNOW FIRST SO WE CAN TRY TO SORT THINGS OUT!** Obviously, if you are happy with the work of the school – we would really appreciate it if you could share your views with OFSTED via PARENTVIEW. **THANKS SO MUCH!**

[www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk)

We very much look forward to working with you this half term and we look forward to seeing you in and around school. As always, you only have to ask if we can be of any help and never forget we are here to help you if you need us.

The head and deputy are the most senior staff in the school and will always do their very best to help resolve any problems or worries – come and see us!

Yours Sincerely,

Mr M Hinton,  
Principal

## Diary Dates for Autumn Term



Our values this half term are **Compassionate and Loving**. **Compassionate** towards others in all that we do – showing sympathy, empathy, tolerance, understanding, kindness and forgiveness. **Loving** towards all that we encounter, with our families and those we know as well as those we don't know. Showing the love of Jesus in all that we do and say.

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September:** Please send in a tin of food for our Harvest Mass (which is on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>) The tins of food will be donated to the Good Shepherd Shelter in Wolverhampton which is a shelter for the poor, homeless and anyone in crisis.

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September:** Year 4 will lead the Harvest Mass 9.15am.



**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September:** School Nurse Drop In Session from 9.15am. Drop in or let the office know in advance– our school Nurse Mel will be here for you.

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October** is Mission, Values, Prayer and Vocations Week for the Autumn Term.

A week of celebration and learning about our school mission and values, a time to focus on our vocation – what God is calling us to do and on prayer.

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October** is Best of British Menu Week, for this week the usual school Menu will change to a special menu of British Classics of food and puddings each day. We will be sending a flyer to let you know the Menu for this week.

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October:** Year 3 will lead Mass: Father Emmanuel's last Mass in school before he retires. We will be making a presentation to Father and there will be tea and coffee served after Mass if you'd like to stay and say goodbye and thank you to Father Emmanuel.



**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October:** Year 6 Assembly at 2.30pm.



**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October:** CAFOD Harvest Fast Day. Children are asked to FAST by giving up their playtime snack and to donate some pennies to support CAFOD's work with the poor, starving and marginalised.

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October:** Whole school retreat day led by One Life Music. Parents please come and join the final gathering of the day at 2.30pm.

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October:** School and Parish Mass in the Church at 11am. This is Father Emmanuel's last Mass in the parish before he retires. Please come along and help us to make it an extra special celebration for him. Everyone is welcome.

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October:** No Mass today because Fr Emmanuel and Fr Ben are leaving for Coventry and Fr Louis is moving to Dudley and Tipton.

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October:** School Nurse Drop In session at 9.15am. Drop in or let the office know in advance – our School Nurse Mel will be here for you.

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October:** Year 1 Assembly, 2.30pm.





**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October:** Year 6 Mass – Fr Louis' first Mass in our school. Please come along to welcome him to our school.

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October:** Parent's Evening 3.30pm – 6pm. More details will be sent out nearer the time.

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October:** Year 5 Mass. 9.15am.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October:** Children break up for half term at 3.15pm

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November:** School reopens for the new half term.

**Our values this half term are: FAITH FILLED AND HOPEFUL: Faith filled so that we are proud of our faith and living examples of the way of Jesus to all we meet. Hopeful and trusting that God's love will prevail in all things and our faith will shine out to others as examples of his love.**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November:** No Mass today as Mass will be celebrated in school on Friday which is The Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November:** Please donate good quality unwanted gifts such as perfume, toiletries, gift packs, hand cream etc for the tombola at the Christmas Fair.



**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November:** Year 4 Mass for the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica.

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November:** Year 3 assembly at 2.30pm.

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November:** Anti Bullying, Anti-Racism and Internet Safety Week



**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November:** Flu Vaccines for Reception to Year 5. NHS will be in touch with information and consent forms will be sent out in October.

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November:** Year 3 Mass, 9.15am.

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November:** Please donate CHOCOLATES and SWEETS for the chocolate tombola at the Christmas Fair.



**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November:** Assembly in Celebration of our work in Anti Bullying Week, 2.30pm

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November:** Key Stage 1 will lead Mass. 9.15am.

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November:** Please donate clean, good quality CUDDLY TOYS for the toy tombola and please donate clean, good quality TOYS AND GAMES for the toy shop stall.

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November:** Year 2 Assembly, 2.30pm



**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November** is BRILLIANT IN BRITAIN WEEK where we learn about OTHER FAITHS and FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES.

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November:** Year 6 Mass, 9.15am



**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November:** Please donate bottles of pop, wine, beer and spirits for the bottle stall at the fair.

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November:** Reception Class Assembly, 2.30pm.

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December:** First Sunday of Advent: Holy Season of the Church.

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December:** Year 5 Mass, 9.15am.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December:** School Nurse Drop in Session at 9.15am. Drop in or let the office know in advance – our School Nurse Mel will be here for you.



**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December:** Please donate tea, coffee, sugar and long life milk together with biscuits / cakes for the Café at the Christmas Fair.



**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Fair with Father Christmas 3.30pm – 5pm.

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December:** Key Stage 2 Nativity Performance at 2.20pm. The hall will be open from 2pm – please don't arrive before this time as we need time to clear up after lunch.

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December:** Key Stage 2 Evening Nativity Performance at 5.30pm. Children need to be back at school and the hall will be open to parents at 5pm. Please don't arrive before 5pm as we may not have enough staff available to look after everybody. Every child in the evening performance needs an adult in the audience at all times.



**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December:** Year 4 Mass, 9.15am.

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December:** Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Performance at 2.20pm (hall opens to parents at 2pm – please don't arrive before this time as we need to clear up after lunchtime!)

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December:** Year 1 and Year 2 Evening Nativity Performance at 5.30pm. Children will need to back and the hall will be open for parents from 5pm. All children will need an adult in the audience at all times. (Please don't arrive back at school until 5pm as we may not have enough staff on site to look after everybody)



**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December:** Morning Nursery and Reception Nativity Performance at 10.45am. The hall will be open at 10.30am – please don't arrive before 10.30am as the children will still be practising.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December:** Afternoon Nursery and Reception Nativity Performance at 2.20pm. The hall will be open from 2pm – please don't arrive before this time as we need to clear up after lunchtime.

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December:** Please donate a TIN OF FOOD for the poor and homeless this Christmas. We will display all of the tins ready for Mass on Tuesday and our assemblies on Wednesday before we send them to the GOOD SHEPHERD SHELTER in Wolverhampton.



**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December:** Year 3 Mass, 9.15am.



**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** is OWN CLOTHES DAY AND CHRISTMAS DISCO DAY. There will be parties in class – no need to send in any pop or food – the school will provide pop and biscuits for everybody. Morning Nursery are welcome to come in for the Nursery Disco from 1.15pm – 1.45pm. Please donate £1 towards the cost of providing the Disco if you can. Thanks so much.

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December:** 5.30pm in Church: Christmas Carol Service. Children need to be at Church for 5pm – please do not arrive at Church any earlier as it will be closed. Every child in Church will need an adult in the audience at all times.



**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December:** Merit and Attendance Awards Assembly at 11am.

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December:** Carols and Readings around the Christmas Tree at 2pm. Please join us.

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December:** Children break up for Christmas at 3.15pm



**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019:** School reopens for the Spring Term.