

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Spring 2019 Newsletter



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Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term!

We hope you have had a very nice half term week together and we are delighted to welcome everyone back to school. This is always a very special half term at St Joseph's as we journey through the holy season of Lent towards Easter. It's also the feast day of St Joseph, our patron Saint, on 19th March as well. A full list of diary dates is enclosed for you to keep handy for the term.

Our Values for this new half term: Learned and Wise

Learned – finding God in all things and finding out more and more about God's love for all humankind.
Wise - in the ways we use our learning about God and from God in order to help others by being kind, charitable, forgiving and loving.

The holy season of Lent – 2019

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which is on 6th March this year. The season then takes us all the way to the great celebration of Easter. During this special season we are asked to pray, fast and give alms. There are many additional opportunities for the children to pray, fast and give alms at school during Lent and you will find full details in this newsletter. Lent is a special season and there are many special activities in school from the beginning of Lent right through to the Easter holiday.

Opportunities to pray more during Lent

There will be additional assemblies exploring the Stations of the Cross during Lent. This gives the whole community even more opportunities to pray together and helps the children learn about the Stations of the Cross in detail.



Kind hands, kind words...like Jesus

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Registered office:
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Opportunities to fast during Lent



Throughout Lent we encourage the children not only to 'give up' things but to 'start' doing better things instead. Of course, many of us choose to give up sweets or chocolate during Lent – but do we then do something good for others instead? If we give up treats – could we give some of the money we save to the world's poor and starving? Fasting in Lent doesn't *have* to relate to food or drink. We might choose to give up 10 minutes of television or gaming and spend time praying, reading or reflecting instead. We might choose to try give up certain behaviours – being impatient, gossiping or arguing and try to start being more tolerant, forgiving or patient instead.

We will also be taking part in CAFOD Lent Fast Day on Friday 15th March. On this day everyone is asked to give up (fast) their playtime snack and give some pennies instead to CAFOD. By fasting and experiencing relative hunger for just a short time we are showing our empathy and solidarity with the world's poor and starving. By giving money to CAFOD we are also giving alms.

Opportunities to give alms during Lent

As well as supporting CAFOD Lent Fast Day we will also be holding our annual 'sponsored pancake flip' where we invite the children to collect a bit of sponsor money in return for them completing our 'pancake assault course'.

The money we raise from the sponsored pancake flip will be shared between a number of good causes, as well as forming a donation to the Church maintenance fund. The children from each class will be invited to choose which charity they would like to support. We will also make donations to local, national and worldwide charities as a whole school.

Any sponsor money you can collect is very much appreciated. Small donations of 50p or £1 all add up – so please do not feel we are asking for lots of money. Whatever you can raise will be much appreciated and 100% of the money will be donated to good causes.

We also encourage the children to give alms in a way that costs no money or needs no material donation. We encourage them to give their kindness, respect, friendship, equality, tolerance and forgiveness. This kind of almsgiving costs nothing at all but means a lot to those who receive these gifts.

Other news and information

School uniform, shoes, hair, make up, nail varnish and jewellery / earrings



Please can we ask for your continued support with our uniform policy? We must remind you that earrings and jewellery are not permitted. Large ribbons, hairbands, strings and coloured (dyed) hair or highlights are not allowed. Hair engraving, sculptures, tramlines or Mohican style cuts are not allowed. Children must wear smart and sensible black school shoes – trainers, flip flops or jelly type shoes are not allowed. Smart, sensible, black boots are acceptable in winter only. Trainers are not allowed and should not be worn. We really do



appreciate your support in helping us to ensure St Joseph's is one of the smartest schools around – it's really important and we are grateful for your help.

School Trips

School trips for the summer term are all being booked and we will be able to give you many weeks of advanced notice of the trips for your child/ren. In doing so we hope that this gives you plenty of time to budget for the trips. Feel free to make payments in instalments via ParentPay and avoid having to find the full amount in one go. Look out for your child's summer trip letter which will be with you soon.

Archbishop's Mass

His Grace the Archbishop, the Most Reverend Bernard Longley will be coming to St Joseph's to celebrate Holy Mass on Friday 8th March at 10.30am. Please come and join us for Mass and the opportunity to meet Archbishop Bernard afterwards. This is a special day for the school and the entire community and everyone is warmly welcomed.



World Book Day: Thursday 7th March



We'll be celebrating World Book Day in school by learning about and talking about our favourite books and authors. We would also like to invite all of the children to dress up as their favourite book character or wear their own clothes for day if they prefer. Each child will receive a voucher for a free World Book Day book that can be collected from bookshops at Merry Hill or other local bookshops.

Sponsored Pancake Flip

On Shrove Tuesday, 5th March, all of the children will have the opportunity to have go at flipping a pancake (actually a beanbag on a tennis racquet!) around our fun assault course. We invite you to ask your family, friends and colleagues to pledge a small amount to sponsor your child as they complete the pancake flip. All money raised will go to good causes. Donations of 50p or £1 all add up so there is no need to feel obliged to collect big donations. The whole point is that we are trying to do so something good for people less fortunate than ourselves by raising and donating money to help. A sponsor form is included and we thank you for your support. Please send in your sponsor forms and any money you are able to raise by Friday 29th March so that we can let you know the final figure before we break up for Easter.



Year 3 First Holy Communion and Year 6 Confirmation Enrolment Mass – Sunday 10th March at 11am in Church



This important enrolment Mass for all children who are hoping to receive the sacraments of First Holy Communion or Confirmation is on **Sunday 10th March at 11am in Church**. It is essential that your child attends with you in order to be enrolled. If you have any difficulty – you must contact Fr Louis directly. Please note there is a signing in sheet at the back of Church where Fr Louis is checking to see if children and their families who hope to

receive the sacraments are attending Mass. If you attend a different Catholic Church you should send a copy of the church bulletin signed by the Parish Priest to Fr Louis each week. **If you don't attend Mass each week Fr Louis reserves the right not to allow your child to receive the Sacrament. It is vital that you discuss any difficulties with Fr Louis to avoid any upset or disappointment. Please bear in mind this is a Parish matter and must be discussed with the Parish Priest in person.**

Please help us to maintain a quiet and respectful atmosphere at assembly and Mass

Please can we ask you to support the children and the staff by keeping assembly and Mass as a **quiet and special time? Please avoid talking or using mobile phones and please supervise little ones as much as possible.** We obviously don't expect babies and toddlers to be silent all of the time but please feel free to take your little one out into the main entrance area to settle them down if need be. **Everyone of every age is always welcome for assembly and Mass but we do need to make sure it is a quiet and respectful time where all of the children and adults can concentrate and listen without being distracted.** Your support and understanding is very much appreciated.



Welcome to the head teacher and 7 teachers from our partner school in Poland

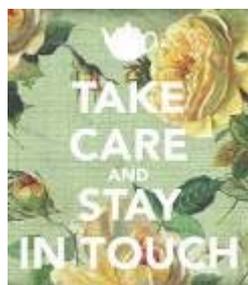


We will be joined by the head teacher and 7 teachers from our partner school SP118 in Wroclaw Poland later this half term. They will be with us from Friday 22nd March to Friday 29th March and will be spending time in all of the classes. This coincides with our mission, values, prayer and vocations week in school.

There will be special performances at the end of the week and we hope you will come and join us. Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 on Thursday 28th March at 9.15am and Years 3,4,5 and 6 on Friday 29th March at 9.15am. The dances are all based on aspects of the life of Christ and our faith and are set to some amazing music!

Keep in touch

Your child's happiness, wellbeing, spiritual development and academic progress are the reason why we are all here. We try hard to be the best school we possibly can be – but no school is perfect. We want to provide you with an outstanding school and that means listening carefully when things go wrong.



If you have any worries or concerns, however small, it's really important to let us know.

You can normally see your child's teacher straight after school. It's sometimes harder for them to see you before school, especially if the children have already come in – but you can always leave a message and the teacher will even call you back.

Mr Hinton (Head teacher) and Mrs Chapman (Deputy Head teacher) can normally see you straight away. If for any reason we can't see you immediately we will always call you straight back.

Mrs Cheema is the senior teacher who is also available to help and Miss Wisniewski is the lead teacher in Nursery and Reception.

There is always a senior member of staff in school during the day so please never delay in contacting us.

Have a good few weeks!

We look forward to working with you this half term and we very much look forward to seeing you in school at the various special events. Thanks for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr M Hinton,

Principal

Diary Dates for Spring Term 2019

Tuesday 5th March: Sponsored Pancake Flip (sponsor forms attached)-**No Mass today.**

Wednesday 6th March: Ash Wednesday – the holy season of Lent begins. This is the season to PRAY, FAST AND GIVE ALMS.



Thursday 7th March: World Book Day: **All children can DRESS UP as a book character or wear OWN CLOTHES today!**

Friday 8th March: 10.30am Special Mass in school celebrated by His Grace the Archbishop – please join us as **Year 4** help to lead this special Mass.

Friday 8th March: **Reception Class Assembly** at 2.30pm.

Sunday 10th March: School Parish Mass at 11am in Church (Dudley) **Year 3 First Holy Communion and Year 6 Confirmation Enrolment Mass.** All welcome – please come and join us.

Tuesday 12th March: Year 3 will help to lead mass at 9.15am. All welcome.



Wednesday 13th March: All after school clubs (Years 1-6) finish on this afternoon.

Friday 15th March: CAFOD Lent Fast Day 'Give it Up'. Everyone is asked to give up their playtime snack and give some pennies to CAFOD instead to help the world's poor and starving.

Friday 15th March: Year 2 Assembly at 2.30pm.

Tuesday 19th March: St Joseph's Day – our patron Saint and the patron saint of families and fathers.

Tuesday 19th March: Key Stage 1 will be helping to lead Mass at 9.15am. All welcome.



Friday 22nd March: Year 4 Assembly at 2.30pm.



Monday 25th – Friday 29th March: 8 Polish Teachers including the head teacher from our partner school SP118 in Poland will be joining us for the week in school – please come into the special events and meet them and help to make them welcome. They will be joining us for our MISSION, VALUES, VOCATIONS and PRAYER WEEK (MVVP Week)

Tuesday 26th March: Year 6 will be helping to lead Mass at 9.15am. All welcome.

Thursday 28th March: MVVP Week performances (music and dancing) from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at 9.15am. Please come and enjoy the performances!

Friday 29th March: MVVP Week performances (music and dancing) from Year 3,4,5 and 6 at 9.15am. Please come and enjoy the performances!

Tuesday 2nd April: Year 5 will be helping to lead Mass at 9.15am. All welcome.

Friday 5th April: Year 3 assembly at 2.30pm.

Monday 8th April: All of the children will enjoy a religious theatre group performance by the B Tales for Easter called 'What the Women Saw' based on the women of Jerusalem.

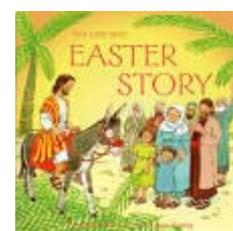


Tuesday 9th April: Year 3 will act out the events of PALM SUNDAY at 2.45pm. All welcome – please join us.

Wednesday 10th April: Year 4 will act out THE LAST SUPPER at 9.15am. All welcome – please join us.

Thursday 11th April: Year 5 will act out THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN at 9.15am. All welcome – please join us.

Thursday 11th April: CHURCH SERVICE at 5.30pm where the children will act out the Easter Story. Mrs Chapman will write to you separately nearer the time to ask for choir, actors and readers. Children must have an adult in the audience at all times and cannot come to Church unaccompanied.



Friday 12th April: 11am Merit and Attendance Awards, all welcome



Friday 12th April: 2.15pm Year 6 will act out THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS.
All welcome – please join us.

Friday 12th April: School closes for the Easter Holidays at 3.15pm.

Monday 29th April: School reopens for Summer Term.