

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

10th January 2020

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2020

First half term



Hillcrest Road, Dudley,
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Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school after the Christmas holidays. We would like to wish all of our families a very happy new year!

Along with this newsletter you will find the Diary Dates for Spring Term – this tells you all of the important dates and times of various special events taking place this term. We are very much looking forward to working with you again this term and seeing you in school.



Thank you for your kind words, cards and gifts at Christmas

Everyone at the school would like to send home a massive 'thank you' for the kind words, cards and gifts you shared with us at Christmas. We are very grateful and very appreciative of your generosity – which is by no means ever expected. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and for taking the trouble to be so kind. We cannot emphasise enough how much we appreciate it.

Our Values this half term: Compassionate and Loving

Our Catholic School's Pupil Profile Values this term are Compassionate and Loving. The children will be learning to be even more COMPASSIONATE towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and LOVING in their actions and by the way they treat each other.

Mini Reports are coming out Friday 24th January for Reception to Year 6

As part of our ongoing commitment to making sure you are kept up to date about your child's attainment, progress and behaviour we will be sending out a mini report on Friday 24th January. This will be followed later in the term by our Parent's Evening. Please check to make sure you receive your child's mini report.

School and Parish Mass on Sunday 26th January at 11.00am in Church (Dudley)

Everyone is very welcome at this important event and we would really appreciate your support. A letter will be sent out soon asking for volunteers for choir, offertory, readings and bidding prayers. Being part of the Parish is a fundamental part of life at St Joseph's – please come to Mass if you possibly can.





First Holy Communion and Confirmation

If you are the parent of a child in Year 3 or Year 6 who is intending for your child to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion or Confirmation you should have received a letter detailing all of the parent meetings, confessions, retreat days and Masses for your child. PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED THIS LETTER. In addition, please remember that Fr Louis expects to see all families of First Holy Communion and Confirmation children at Mass each Saturday evening or Sunday morning. There will be a signing in sheet at the back of the Church. If you and your child are not attending Mass, Father may refuse to offer the Sacraments – so it is very, very important that you contact him if you need to discuss the matter. Please remember this is a Church matter and will need to be discussed with the Parish Priest, not the school.

Uniform, hair colouring and earrings / jewellery

Please can we remind you that only the school uniform listed below is acceptable. We have a strict uniform policy and we do ask you to support this. We contact parents by telephone to ask them to address any uniform breaches as this is the only way we can uphold our smart uniform policy. Colouring of hair, hair strings, outsize bows and headbands, earrings and jewellery are strictly not allowed. Please do not send your child to school in earrings as you will be required to remove them for safety reasons.

Correct Uniform to be worn at all times at St Joseph's is as follows:

Royal blue St. Joseph's pique polo and sweatshirts are available from the suppliers – Oakes Ltd in Dudley, and Totally Uniform in Kingswinford, as well as our online service via myclothing.com



Boys

Royal Blue St Joseph's pique polo shirt: either plain Royal Blue jumper or Royal Blue St Joseph's sweat-shirt: grey trousers. Sensible black shoes

Summer Alternative: Knee length grey shorts, sensible shoes (no flipflop sandals)

Girls

Royal Blue St Joseph's pique polo shirt: either plain Royal Blue jumper or Royal Blue St Joseph's sweat-shirt: grey skirt/grey uniform trousers. Sensible black shoes.

Summer Alternative: Blue Gingham dress: either plain Royal Blue jumper/cardigan or Royal Blue St Joseph's sweatshirt, OR knee length grey shorts. Sensible, flat-heel shoes. (no flip-flop sandals)

PE Kit

All children should have: Plain black shorts: a plain white T-shirt and a pair of pumps: all kept in a PE bag.

Children are welcome to bring tracksuit bottoms and tracksuit tops for outdoor PE during the cooler weather.

Trainers, boots or fashion shoes are not allowed.

Hair Styles and Nail Varnish

Hair shaving and sculpting (eg. tram lines, ticks and other shavings) are not allowed. Hairstyles must be smart and neat. Use of gels or styling products should be minimal. For safety reasons all long hair (boys and girls) must be tied back at all times. Highlights, dyeing and colouring of hair is not allowed. Nail varnish is not allowed.

Jewellery

As a safety precaution and to prevent accidents during PE and other activities, the wearing of any item of jewellery in Nursery or Main School is strictly forbidden without exception.

Parentview

Please let us know your thoughts on the quality of provision at St Joseph's by rating us on Parentview. All we ever ask is that if you are not happy for any reason, please let us know first so we can sort things out for you. We would be really grateful if you could find the time to submit your views to help us know where we are getting things right and where we could do even better in the future. Please use the website www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk



Do you receive some benefits? If you do you could help us get extra funding for the school!

In order for the school to receive pupil premium funding, you need to complete a simple online form. If your child is eligible, pupil premium funding brings thousands of pounds into the school for up to 6 years – with major budget cuts and redundancies in the past, we need this precious funding to spend on the children. PLEASE take a moment to apply, the application is a quick process. If you qualify, your child will also be entitled to free school meals every day. If you get ANY of the following support payments your child may be entitled to receive free school meals:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit Run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit



Are you entitled?

Applying online is quick and easy and you don't have to produce any documents. Please visit this website and apply – there is nothing to be lost by applying and you could help us to access precious extra funding for the children.
<https://customer.dudley.gov.uk/free-school-meals/create/>

School Closures in bad weather

At St Joseph's we open the school if it is safe to do so and if we can make sure we can get enough staff into the school to look after the children. The decision to close is never taken lightly and we consider the safety of you and your children walking or driving to school and also the weather forecast for later in the day. We try to give you plenty of notice and will normally decide to close the school well before the day starts. Very rarely we may be forced to close the school even after the children have come in – for example if we lose heat, power or water supplies, or if the weather worsens after school has started.



- We will send you a text message or message you via the Xpresssions App.
- We will post a message on the school website.

If we know school won't be open at all we will text / message you and put the information on the website by 7.00am in the morning.

If the weather is bad but we are opening, we will also put a message on the website and send messages by 7.00am in the morning to keep you updated.

Bear in mind if the weather worsens, we may have to close the school part way through the day and you will need to collect your child early. We seek to avoid this happening wherever possible.

Please check the school website (at the top of the home page) for the latest info in any bad weather. You should also receive a message.

Let us know if your details change!

If you change your address, phone number, doctors etc PLEASE let the office know as soon as possible so that we have up to date contact details for your child/ren.



**Keep in touch**

We want you and your children to be happy at St Joseph's. In fact, nothing is more important to us. We try hard to be an Outstanding school BUT WE KNOW WE ARE NOT PERFECT – NO SCHOOL EVER CAN BE! Everyone at St Joseph's wants our school to be the sort of school we would want our own children to attend – so you can be assured we will always listen carefully and do everything we can to resolve any problems, however small. Never, ever hesitate to get in touch.

Mrs Chapman (Head of School) can normally see you or speak to you on the phone straight away and Mr Hinton (Executive Headteacher) is frequently in school and able to speak to you too. We are the most senior leaders in school and we are always more than happy to see you to resolve any matters. You can normally see the class teacher after school or you can book an appointment to see your child's teacher if you prefer, just let the office know. Mrs Cheema is our senior teacher and she is available to help you as well.

See you soon

Please have a good look at the diary dates sent out with the newsletter. We very much look forward to working with you this term and we look forward to seeing you in school during the coming weeks.

All the best and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Chapman
Head of School

Mr M Hinton
Executive Headteacher