

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

27<sup>th</sup> February 2020



Hillcrest Road, Dudley,  
West Midlands DY2 7PW

**Executive Headteacher:**

Mr M Hinton, B.Ed. Hons, NPQH

**Head of School:**

Mrs S Chapman, B.Ed. Hons

**Telephone:**

01384 818925

**Website:** [www.st-jo-dud.dudley.sch.uk](http://www.st-jo-dud.dudley.sch.uk)


**Email:** [info@st-jo-dud.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-jo-dud.dudley.sch.uk)

Dear Parents/Carers,

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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: Faith-Filled and Hopeful



### Faith-Filled

Being full of faith in God and sharing that faith with others through the way we treat each other, speak to each other and think about one another.



### Hopeful

Having hope in God, that he knows what is best for us and having hope in one another to follow the teachings of Christ.

## Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February - Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March. These two weeks support the mission of Fairtrade, ensuring that all farmers are paid fairly for their work and are able to earn a living income. The main focus for this year is West African Cocoa farmers. Children will be learning more about the importance of Fairtrade during their RE lessons as part of our work as a FairAware School.

## The Holy season of Lent - 2020

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which is on 26<sup>th</sup> February. 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.

## 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 6th 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

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.

## 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.

## Pancake Flip Fun

A huge 'thank you' to everyone who supported the pancake flip. The children really enjoyed flipping their pancakes! We have been overwhelmed with the donations we have received so far. If you still wish to hand in sponsor money please take it to the School Office.



## Always Ready to Read



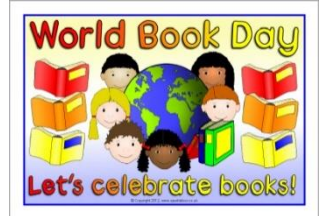
Thank you to everyone who has already sent in a photograph of their child reading in an unusual place. We have received some amazing photos of children in all different places reading their books. To be in with a chance of winning a prize please send in your photo by tomorrow, FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY. Good luck everyone!

## School Trips

School trips for the summer term are being booked for every class and we will be able to give you many weeks of advanced notice. 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.

## World Book Day: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 the 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. There will also be a special school lunch menu on World Book Day with tasty treats from famous children's books and stories!



## Year 3 First Holy Communion and Year 6 Confirmation Enrolment Mass – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Photography in school

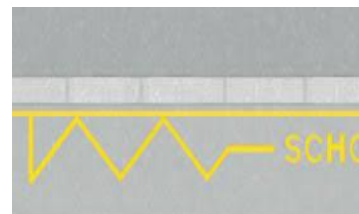
Watching your child read, sing, dance and act in assemblies and special events is wonderful and as a parent myself you want to keep a lasting memory of the event – something to share with your child when they are older! However, can we kindly ask that when taking photos or making recordings where possible you only take images of your own child. If you wish to share images of your **own child** on social media can we ask that you do not include any images of other children (even in the background). This isn't us being awkward at all, it's just that we have a duty of care to keep all children and families in our care as safe as possible. Once again, thank you for your understanding.



## Birthday Cake

We know that birthdays are very special – especially when you are little and we are always happy to celebrate birthdays in the classroom by singing 'Happy Birthday'. However recently there have been an increase in the number of birthday cakes being brought into school for the class teachers to cut and distribute to the children. Although this is very kind it does become a little dangerous as we have a large number of children with severe allergies throughout the school. This means that the ingredients of any cake brought into school have to be carefully checked and often leave some children upset if they are unable to have any cake due to their allergies. Please could we therefore ask that parents don't bring cake into school to share with the class – sorry – but we have to do our very best to keep all of the children as safe as possible. Thank you.

### 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.

### 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.

### Coronavirus Letter

We have received an information letter from Dudley Health Protection Team giving information about the Coronavirus. Everyone's health matters, please take the time to read it.



### 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 call you back. Mrs Chapman (Head of School) can usually see you straight away, as can Mr Hinton (Executive Headteacher). 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. There is always a senior member of staff in school during the day so please never delay in contacting us.

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.

Mrs S Chapman  
Head of School

# Thank You



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

## Dates for Spring Term 2020

Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Fairtrade Fortnight begins
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	School Parish Mass, 11.00am in Church – ENROLMENT MASS for FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 5 to lead Mass in school 9.15am – all welcome
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day – Children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book / story / cartoon characters or their own clothes.
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 to lead Mass in school 9.15am – all welcome
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole school retreat day with Dan Callow from One Life Music
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 to lead Mass in school 9.15am – all welcome
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	St Joseph's Feast Day
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6's Assembly 2.30pm – all welcome
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	KS1 children to lead Mass in school 9.15am – all welcome
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> 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 27 <sup>th</sup> March	MVVP Week performances (music and dancing) from Year 3,4,5 and 6 at 9.15am. Please come and enjoy the performances!
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	All of the children will enjoy a religious theatre group performance by the B Tales for Easter called 'The Thorn in the Crown'
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 6 to lead Mass in school 9.15am – all welcome

Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 3 will act out the events of PALM SUNDAY at 2.45pm. All welcome – please join us
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Year 4 will act out THE LAST SUPPER at 9.15am. All welcome – please join us
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Year 5 will act out THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN at 9.15am. All welcome – please join us
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	11am Merit and Attendance Awards, all welcome
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	2.15pm Year 6 will act out THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS. All welcome – please join us
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	School closes for the Easter holidays and re-opens on MONDAY 20 <sup>th</sup> APRIL



## **CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19): Information for parents**

It is currently unlikely that you or your child will catch the coronavirus in the Dudley borough.

### **How serious is the coronavirus?**

- The infection is mild for most people, including children. Older people, and people with pre-existing medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease) may be at higher risk of more serious illness.
- Most people get better with enough rest, and plenty to eat and drink.

### **How likely are you to catch the virus?**

- The chance of being in contact with the virus is currently low in the UK.
- You can only catch it if you have been close to a person who has the virus (less than 2 metres for more than 15 minutes).
- If you and/or your child has returned from Wuhan city and Hubei Province in China, Iran, Republic of Korea including the areas of Daegu or Cheongdo, or any Northern Italian town under containment measures, you should stay at home and do not attend education or work for 14 days. Call NHS 111 for further advice.
- If you and/or your child has travelled to one of the following countries: Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Northern Italy, Japan, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Myanmar, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand or Vietnam in the last 14 days and are unwell with flu like symptoms you should stay at home and call NHS 111.
- If the risk increases in other countries or regions, it will be updated on this website <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>
- If you haven't been close to anyone with confirmed COVID-19 or haven't been to any of the places above or mentioned on the government website, you are fine to carry on as normal.

### **What you and your children can do to stop the spread of coughs and sneezes**

1. Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, use a tissue when possible
2. Throw away dirty tissues promptly and carefully
3. Clean hard surfaces (such as door handles) frequently using a normal cleaning product
4. Most important of all, wash your hands frequently with soap and water
5. If your child is unwell keep them at home until they are better

For further information visit [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/)

Produced by Dudley Health Protection Team 25.02.2020

