



First Half Summer

Newsletter

May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,



It's my great pleasure to be sending you this newsletter for the first half of the summer term and my great pleasure to do so with all of the children back in school together. Thank you as always for all of your cooperation with the school during what is still a very challenging time with restrictions and rules placed upon all of us. We really appreciate your cooperation and we never forget how difficult it is to juggle school, work and family life – and that's why we appreciate your support and kindness so much. Thank you for your support.

This newsletter gives you lots of important information about what's happening in school and also keeps you up to date on the important safety procedures we all need to continue following, at least for the time being.

Safeguarding and Safety

Safeguarding: Keeping Children Safe

Our school is committed to safeguarding and safe practices and you can read our policy on our website. The designated safeguarding leads are Mrs Chapman and Mr Hinton and Mrs Cheema and Miss Oakley are the deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. If you are concerned about your own your child or any other child, please speak to one of our safeguarding leads straight away. We strictly follow all of the local safeguarding protocols of Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership – that you can find in our policy and on the DSPP website:

<https://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk/safeguarding/child/>



Our Catholic Schools Pupil Profile (CSPP) Values for this half term are Compassionate and Loving

The children have all been focussing on these values in R.E, in assembly, mass and in their day to day work in class.

Compassionate: Having sympathy and empathy for other people, thinking about others near and far, especially the less fortunate

Loving: Showing Christ-like love for all others, even when this is difficult to do, thinking of others, acting with fairness and equality, being just and showing true forgiveness in the ways of Jesus.



The God Who Speaks – focussing on the relevance of Bible scripture in our day to day lives

The children have been focusing on this piece of scripture from John 20:31, which reminds us all that the Easter story and the joyous resurrection are the foundation of our faith. God came to earth in the form of the son, died, rose again, ascended into heaven and sent down the holy spirit to live amongst us until he returns again:

'These have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God'

Our faith life in school during the pandemic – assemblies, masses, prayer and meditation



It's now fifteen months since the whole school gathered in the hall for Mass or assembly – likely the first time gathering for collective worship has ever been disrupted in the schools long history. Even though we can't all gather together we celebrate acts of collective worship every day, as individual bubbles either in the classrooms or in the hall. Every class takes it in turns to attend a Gospel assembly on Mondays led by Mrs Chapman. From May 4th we have been allowed to resume the celebration of Mass

for individual class bubbles so every class takes it in turns to attend Mass with Fr Louis, Mrs Chapman and the class in the hall on Tuesdays. On Wednesdays each class celebrates their own 'Wednesday Word' assembly in class, on Thursdays there is guided meditation and online assemblies and on Fridays each class takes it in turn to attend a merit assembly in the hall with Mrs Chapman.

The Religious Education curriculum continues as normal to cover 10% of all teaching time and all classes allocate time for traditional prayer, daily prayer, private prayer and meditation. Father Louis visits the school every week for Mass, to visit classes and to meet with staff and leaders.

We very much look forward the time when we can gather as a whole school and parents, carers, friends and family can join us. Until then, you can be assured that we gather in all of the ways we are allowed to in school, collective worship is at the heart of the school and every opportunity is taken to maintain and develop the Catholic Life of the school. We post regular updates in the blog section of the school website and on our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Diary Dates for the Summer Term!

We have tentatively made arrangements for some special events during the summer term. We are hopeful all of them can go ahead as school 'individual bubble' based activities and we hope that we **may** be able to invite parents and carers to join us if the restrictions allow. We've enclosed the diary dates as a separate document. As things stand all of the events will be closed events for class bubbles only (sadly no parents, carers or friends allowed) BUT things may well change by the time



some of these events take place. We need to wait and see what the next easing of restrictions will bring, plus what the local authority, public health and our own Academy guidance permits us to do. Rest assured – if we can welcome you to our special events after consulting government and local guidance / rules – it will be our greatest pleasure to get in touch and invite you! Until then, the events as they stand are just for the children – but hopefully this may change.

Parent's Survey

We would be grateful if you would complete our internal survey and return it to the school as soon as possible, by **Monday 24th May** if possible. We will carefully study all of your thoughts and comments and do our best to take on your feedback. We'll analyse the surveys and let you know a summary of everyone's views and how we hope to continue improving after considering your feedback.



Ofsted Parentview



We are always grateful when you provide your views to Ofsted via Parentview. All we ever ask is that if you are not happy – please tell us first to give us the chance to put things right.

So far, this academic year we have 16 responses with the latest one being submitted on 12th February 2021.

We would really appreciate your help in getting lots more reviews onto Parentview!

Please submit your views at www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk Our postcode is DY2 7PW.

We really appreciate your time.

St John Bosco Catholic Multi Academy Company (MAC)

We are part of St John Bosco Catholic Multi Academy Company which includes St Joseph's Catholic Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School in Wednesbury. Other Catholic schools will soon be joining us too.

We now have our own Catholic Senior Executive Leader (CSEL) who fulfils the role of a Catholic Chief Executive of our MAC. We are really pleased to welcome **Dr Nicholas Cuddihy** as our CSEL and look forward to working with him to continue to improve the quality of Catholic educational provision in all of our schools.





Sacramental Masses: First Holy Communion and Confirmation

Our Sacramental Masses were disrupted by the lockdowns and restrictions. They have all been reorganised and parents in Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6 have been sent full details.

Current Year 4 First Holy Communion: Saturday 3rd July at 12 noon in Church

Current Year 6 Confirmation: Wednesday 14th July at 6.30pm in Church

Current Year 3 First Holy Communion: to be confirmed shortly

Dates for our current Year 2 pupils' First Holy Communion and current Year 5 Confirmation will be sent out to you next term. Both are expected to take place in Summer 2022.



Covid-19 Safety – Important – our school adheres to government rules and local public health guidance – please support us to keep everyone safe

Lateral Flow Tests are for people who DO NOT have symptoms – they are NOT for symptomatic people

The purpose of Lateral Flow tests is to detect positive cases in people who don't have any symptoms or who don't yet have any symptoms. They should not be used to diagnose symptomatic cases.

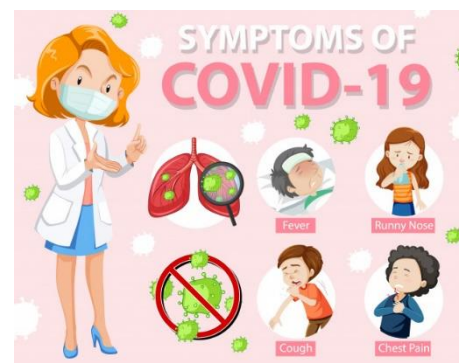
Anybody who has symptoms of new and continuous cough, high temperature or fever or loss of taste or smell **MUST** immediately self-isolate along with their entire household, book a test and continue household isolation until the test result is received.

If you or your child has symptoms of Coronavirus you should not use a Lateral Flow Test – you must self-isolate as an entire household, book a full PCR test at a test centre and stay at home until the test result is known.

If the PCR (full) test is negative – everyone can stop isolating. If it is positive – everyone in the household must continue isolating and await advice from NHS Test and Trace about the period of isolation required.

If your child develops symptoms at home

If your child shows any signs of the classic Covid symptoms of cough, temperature or fever or loss of taste or smell = please **DON'T SEND THEM TO SCHOOL**. You must **SELF ISOLATE THE ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD, BOOK A TEST and STAY AT HOME UNTIL YOU GET THE TEST RESULT**.





A Lateral Flow test is **not sufficient** for a symptomatic person and cannot be used as acceptable evidence of being virus free. **For anyone who has symptoms – only a full PCR test can be used.**

If your child develops symptoms at school

We will safely isolate them and someone will be with them to look after them and reassure them. We will call you and advise you that your household needs to self-isolate, you need to book a test for your child and you need to stay at home until you get the result.

Once again, the result of a Lateral Flow Test is not acceptable when a person is symptomatic – the only acceptable evidence of being virus-free when someone has symptoms is a PCR full Covid-19 test.

These are government and public health rules – not ones that we have made up! We understand it's disruptive, frustrating and often very inconvenient to have to pick your child up, self-isolate as a household and book a test to then have to wait for the result. We've all been there at least once this year and we understand! At the same time, the virus is still present in the community and we have experienced only a few weeks ago how quickly it is transmitted amongst children.

Please continue to support us and cooperate with us during these challenging times – we understand your frustration sometimes but we ask you to also understand how the school **MUST** follow all the rules and continue to do everything we can to limit the spread of the virus amongst the children.

Thanks so much!



Some polite and respectful reminders – thank you for supporting us

Kindness and respect towards each other – it's what St Joseph's is renowned for!

We are renowned within Dudley and beyond for the excellent, respectful relationships that exist throughout our school and we are very proud of this. **Thank you** for your valuable contribution towards this positive atmosphere.

We promise to always treat you with dignity and respect and **we ask you to always treat us in the same way.**

Please – always respect us as much as we respect you and your family

In recent weeks there have been isolated incidents where a tiny minority of adult school users have spoken to staff in a bad tempered, aggressive, intimidating or threatening way or have even been personally offensive towards staff. This has happened in person and over the phone. This really isn't acceptable and cannot be tolerated on an ongoing basis.





Be Kind

Parents, staff and children alike at St Joseph's stand out for our respectful relationships – please help us to uphold them fully.

Incidents of aggressive behaviour, threats, intimidation or personal verbal attacks are not acceptable – whether in person, over the phone, online or via messaging apps or social media - and will be dealt with at the highest level – including in exceptional cases invoking policies whereby school users who behave in an highly offensive manner are banned from the premises, reported to the Police or both.

Please always remember that we only want the best for the children and that we will always, always try our best to sort out problems. There is never any need for aggression and whilst we are always tolerant and understanding – we will not accept any abuse or aggression.

Please support us and let's continue looking after each other!



Attendance

Schools are open as normal since Monday 8th March and all children are expected to attend. Persistent absence is dealt with via referral to the Education Investigation Service of Dudley Local Authority who will investigate and have the power to issue penalty notices or seek prosecutions.

Lateness

We have made arrangements in school to admit siblings together during this period of staggered starts and finishes in order that it is easier for parents and carers to bring all of their children to school on time. Please do all you can to ensure your child comes to school on time every day. We all run late from time to time and this is perfectly understood- but repeated lateness is not acceptable, it is reflected in your child's register marks and is inspected by Ofsted. Please support us to have a high standard of punctuality.

We reserve the right to mark lateness as unauthorised absence – and this can lead to investigation by the Education Investigation Service who have powers to issue fixed penalties or in exceptional circumstances, refer for prosecution.



Holidays during term time are not authorised and can lead to penalty fines from Dudley



We do not authorise any holidays in term time. Please don't ask the school to authorise holidays as it can be very upsetting and embarrassing when this has to be refused. Any time that you take your child out of school without our authorisation will be recorded as unauthorised absence. Unauthorised absences may be referred to the Education Investigation Service for the issue of fixed penalty notices. Please note the revenue from these fines DOES NOT come to the school but is retained by the local authority.



Compassionate Leave

There are exceptional life circumstances where it is essential for a child to have time off from school. These are usually linked to bereavement, trauma, family illness and other exceptional circumstances. We can authorise very limited absence in these circumstances but again – not for the purpose of family holidays.

Absence Notification Form must always be completed before any absence

If you intend taking your child out of school for any reason, please complete an absence notification form, which is available from the office. Fill the form in and send it back to school. If you need exceptional circumstances to be considered (in the case of compassionate leave) please either include these on the form or speak to the office, Mrs Chapman or Mr Hinton or once you've sent the form in. We will write back to you when we have received your form and let you know if your absence is unauthorised or authorised and give precise details to you.

You can help the school to access precious funding for years to come (called Pupil Premium) by registering for free school meals

Please apply for free school meals if you are on a low income and / or receive benefits. As well as receiving a free school meal very day (if you choose to take it) you will generate significant funding for our school for many years to come – finding that is all spent on better provision for the children.

Please visit <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/benefits/free-school-meals/> for full details and to apply instantly online.



Are you entitled?

Food and drink in school

Cakes and sweets for children's birthdays – food allergies



We have a number of children in school with food allergies. When parents and carers generously send in birthday cakes or sweets not all children can accept the gifts because of food allergies. This means that the school is finding alternatives – sometimes involving staff having to go off site to the shops to find

suitable replacements. Sadly, this isn't always practical so it is safest that we ask you not to send in cakes or sweets for children's birthdays because of the difficulties we experience in ensuring everyone's food allergies are met. We're really sorry to have to make this restriction but we hope you'll appreciate that ensuring everyone is kept safe has to be our priority.

Choking Hazards – grapes, tomatoes and similar small fruit – please chop into pieces before sending to school.

Small fruits such as grapes and cherry tomatoes present a serious choking hazard if they are swallowed whole. If you are sending your child to school with small fruits





like this, please make sure they have been chopped into small pieces. All small fruit that is served at school is chopped so that it presents less of a choking hazard.



Nut Free School

Children may have nut allergies without parents yet being aware. In order to maintain as safe an environment as possible St Joseph's is a nut-free school. **Please can we ask that you don't send your child to school with nuts to eat or with any nut-rich products such as Nutella or peanut butter.** Chocolate spread without nuts is a safer alternative.



Healthy Playtime Snacks and healthy lunchboxes

Please can we ask you to only send healthy snacks for playtimes and lunchtimes. For playtime a piece of fruit is ideal, though a biscuit, very small chocolate bar or small bag of low-fat content crisps is also acceptable. Big bags of crisps, high sugar snacks or big chocolate bars are not healthy snacks and are not suitable for playtimes. **We don't want to 'ban' any foods in moderation** but we do need to ask you to keep a close eye on playtime snacks and help us to make sure all snacks are as healthy as possible.



Similarly, at lunchtimes, please can we ask you to ensure lunchboxes don't contain big bags of crisps, big chocolate bars or any other high fat or high sugar products. A small bag of lower fat crisps, a biscuit or a very small chocolate are acceptable – but please try to keep high fat or high sugar foods to healthy levels.

We want the children to be able to enjoy a balanced diet and we feel that 'banning' any foods is at odds with making healthy choices. We would much rather help the children understand how to enjoy 'everything in moderation' and encourage them to make healthy choices wherever possible, enjoying treats in moderation. Thank you for supporting us.

Sun Safety

If the sun eventually decides to come out.....

Please ensure you send your child to school having liberally applied strong sun cream (SPF 50 is recommended) to all exposed skin including face, neck, arms and legs.

We will have sun cream available in school for top ups. This will be dispensed to children by a member of staff. **PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU DO NOT WISH YOUR CHILD TO ACCESS THE SCHOOL SUPPLY OF SUN CREAM.**

Children can also wear sun hats or caps whenever they are outside in sunny weather.





Mini reports, end of year reports and parent's evenings

You should have received your child's mini report this week. This is just a very brief report intended to update you on how your child is getting on at school. This will be followed by the opportunity to meet your child's teacher for a virtual parent / teacher consultation later this month. In July you will be sent your child's full school report and there will be an additional, optional parent consultation at the very end of term – which again is currently planned to be a virtual meeting. Full details of how to book your parent / teacher consultation online will be sent out shortly.

You don't need to wait for parent's evening to speak to your child's teacher

If you have any worries or concerns or just need to discuss something – you can contact us at any point and we will always be very happy to do all we can to help.

Keep in touch – we are here to serve you and it is our pleasure to help



Your child's safety, happiness and academic progress are the reason why every single member of staff is here. If you are concerned about any aspect of school life – no matter how small – it's really important to let us know. The sooner we know about things the sooner we can do our best to sort things out.

The teachers and teaching assistants can take quick messages on the door before and after school – if you need a longer, private conversation please call the school and the teacher will call you straight back.

Mrs Chapman will see you straight away if she able to or if not, she will call you straight back. Mr Hinton our Executive Principal is predominantly based at St Chad's but regularly works over at St Joseph's each week as well. He will always help you at the highest leadership level alongside Mrs Chapman. We also have Miss Oakley and Mrs Cheema as senior teachers who can deputise for Mr Hinton and Mrs Chapman.

Please do contact us a quickly as possible if you need help with something – that's what we are here for. All we want is for you and your child to be happy, safe and thriving at St Joseph's.

Thanks for reading this newsletter and thank you for your ongoing support.

Every kind wish as always,

Mrs S Chapman

Executive Head of School





St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



At the time of writing all events in school will be hosted only for the class bubbles, with no mixing of classes and sadly no parents, carers and family members able to join us. However – if the guidance changes – which it may well do – and we are able to welcome parents, carers and family members – we will be in touch to warmly invite you back into school!

Mon 24th May – Fri 28th May: Brilliant in Britain Week – learning about MULTICULTURAL BRITAIN and the range of CULTURES and ETHNIC DIVERSITY in our country alongside Relationships and Health Education from our 'Life to the Full' scheme: Module 2: 'Created to Love Others'

Mon 24th May – Fri 28th May: Virtual Parent Consultations – booking and joining details to follow.

Friday 28th May – School closes for half term

Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June: School Closed

Monday 7th June: School reopens after half term

Mon 14th June – Fri 18th June: Anti Bullying and Anti-Racism Week where we will also study the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, respect and tolerance

Mon 14th June: Year 6 Road Safety Course (in class)

Monday 28th June – Friday 2nd July: Brilliant in Britain Week: Learning about a range of other faiths in Britain alongside Relationships and Health Education for our 'Life to the Full' scheme: Module 3: 'Created to live in Community'

Monday 12th July: Sports Day (morning) for Years 4,5 and 6. Will go ahead indoors if it's raining.

Tuesday 13th July – Monday 19th July: Optional virtual parent consultations to discuss your child's report.

Tuesday 13th July: Sports Day (morning) for Reception and Nursery. Will go ahead indoors if it's raining.

Wednesday 14th July: Sports Day (morning) for Years 1,2 and 3. Will go ahead indoors if it's raining.

Friday 16th July: Class Discos (Covid restrictions permitting) during school hours – (this is solely for pupils regardless of any restrictions being lifted!) Please donate £1 towards the cost of the Disco if you can.



Friday 16th July: Year 6 Leaver's Disco (Covid restrictions permitting) 3-4pm (for pupils only regardless of any restrictions being lifted!) Please donate £1 towards the cost of the Disco if you can.



Monday 19th July: Year 6 Graduation ceremony at 2pm. We really hope parents will be allowed to join us but we do have to wait to see what happens with restrictions on schools!

Tuesday 20th July: Year 6 Leaver's Mass and Confirmation Thanksgiving Mass – 9.15am – again – we really hope we'll be able to invite parents and family members but we have to wait and see if restrictions on schools are changed!

Tuesday 20th July: School closes for the Summer Holidays

Wednesday 21st July: School closed for Inset Day



(Children return back to school on Thursday 2nd September 2021)

**DATES TO
REMEMBER**

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



May 2021

PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

We welcome your views on the questions below. Please return the completed questionnaire by Monday 24th May 2021. Your answers can remain anonymous if you wish.

		AGREE	DISAGREE
1	My child is happy at St Joseph's.		
2	My child feels safe at St Joseph's.		
3	St Joseph's School makes sure its pupils are well behaved.		
4	My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.		
5	St Joseph's makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.		
6	When I have raised concerns with the School they have been dealt with properly.		
7	My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.		
8	St Joseph's has high expectations for my child.		
9	My child does well at St Joseph's		
10	The School lets me know how my child is doing.		
11	There is a good range of subjects available for my child at St Joseph's.		
12	The School supports my child's wider personal development.		
13	I would recommend St Joseph's to another parent.		



PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE *continued*

Please let us know what St Joseph's does well.

Please let us know what we could do to make the School better.

Please give your comments here on any information you would like to share with us.

Your answers can remain anonymous if you wish.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Carer of: _____ Year: _____