



Summer TERM NEWSLETTER – FIRST HALF TERM

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you enjoyed Easter and, as always, it's been our great pleasure to welcome all of the children and families back to school for the first half of the summer term. As always, there are lots of things happening in school and along with this newsletter we have sent out our '**Diary Dates**' as a separate document for you to keep. This newsletter gives you some important news and information about school and we very much look forward to working with you during this first half of Summer Term.

Our Catholic Schools Pupil Profile values for this half term are CURIOUS and ACTIVE.

Curious: Curious about the life of Jesus and finding out more about his life and teachings.

Active: Putting our faith into actions – actions speak louder than words!



Please donate some flowers for Mary – the Mother of Jesus – special assembly Tuesday 23rd May at 2.30pm

On Tuesday 23rd May we will be celebrating a May assembly in honour of Our Lady in her special month of May. If you can, please send in some flowers for the special display on Tuesday morning. We will put all of the flowers into vases and create a beautiful display around the statue of Our Lady. You are very welcome to join us for the assembly, which will start at 2.30pm.

Mini Reports – out on Monday 22nd May

We will be sending out a mini report to keep you up to date with your child's achievement and progress at school. We send out mini reports in between parent's evenings and the full written report at the end of the year. There will be a parents' evening and a full written report in July – the mini report is designed to keep you informed in-between. Don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you need to discuss anything with them – **you never have to wait for parents' evening!**

Ofsted Parent View

Parent View is used by both Ofsted and the school to monitor and respond to the thoughts and opinions of parents.

Ofsted use Parent View to inform their evaluation of the school, and school leaders use it to plan for improvements and to check that parents are happy with what is provided at the school.



It's really important we have as many reviews on Parent View as possible. **All we ever ask is that if you are not happy with something you let us know first so we have the chance to put it right.** Equally, if you are happy with what the school provides – it would be much appreciated if you could tell us and Ofsted by submitting a review!

Please go to www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk and leave your review – we are very grateful for your support.

Swimming

As you know we have been very excited to have the pop-up pool onsite again this year after it was so popular with the children last academic year. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control and despite our best efforts, we are not going to be able to access the pop-up pool this academic year.

After School Clubs

We are really sorry for the ever-changing information sent out to parents about after school clubs. This has been caused by the uncertainty around having access to the pop-up pool. Swimming after-school club will now be replaced by Multi-sports club for this half term and more details about clubs after half term will be sent out soon. School is subsidising the cost of running the clubs so that children do not need to pay to attend. However, if you are able to make a contribution, however small, we would be very grateful. Contributions can be made through the School Gateway app.

Children arriving unaccompanied to school

It has come to our attention that some children are either walking to school on their own, or being dropped off and left at school prior to 8.45am. We must remind parents **that staff are not on duty until 8.45am** and can not take responsibility for children who arrive before this time. We believe that some of the children, after being dropped off at school, are walking to the shop or out of the school grounds to meet their friends etc. Please can we ask parents to remind children to stay on the school grounds if they arrive early. Thank you.

Free School Meals – Pupils in current Year 2

Pupils in our current year 2 class will not receive Universal Infant Free School Meals once they move up into Year 3 this September. However, you may qualify for free school meals, and if you do it's **really important to apply in advance**. See below for details of how to apply and the eligibility criteria.

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium Funding – Please help us to access precious government funding



For every child that is eligible for free school meals – we receive very valuable funding from the government called 'Pupil Premium Funding.' This funding is very precious and valuable and is always spent on improving the provision in school for the children.

If you successfully apply for free school meals you not only have the option to choose free school lunches for your child but you also bring in very precious funding for the school for the next 6 years.

Who should apply? Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6!

We only get pupil premium funding if you **apply for free school meals**. Even though all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive free school meals – you still need to **make an application** in order for us to access **pupil premium funding**. If you are eligible – whether your child is in Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 or Year 6 – it's really important that you **apply for free school meals**.

Am I eligible for free school meals?

If you receive the following benefits you can apply for free school meals:

- Universal Credit (provided monthly net earned income of less than £616.66, after tax and not including any benefits)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of 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

To apply, please go to: <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/your-council/council-tax-and-benefits/benefits/free-school-meals/>.



If you have any questions or would like some help with completing the form, please come to us and we will be happy to help!

Summer Term Trips

It's lovely to be able to offer trips once again to support the delivery of the school curriculum. If you haven't already done so, please double check that you have paid your contribution for your child's summer term trip via School Gateway. We have subsidised the cost of all of the trips with donations from the school fund and your parental contribution is very much appreciated. Thank you for your support.

Children who are persistently late – please read this message carefully



Any one of us can be late on odd occasions and this is perfectly understandable and acceptable. However, we have a small number of children who are regularly - persistently - late and we have a legal duty as a school to tackle this.

We must remind you that it is a parent's legal duty to make sure their child attends school each day and arrives on time.

We have the authority to '**unauthorise**' lateness, meaning that each lateness will count as an absence. If your child builds up 10 sessions of unauthorised absence we can refer the matter to the local authority who can issue a **penalty fine**. If your child has excessive

unauthorised absence we are allowed in law to take **them off the school register and you would need to find a them a place in a different school.**

We need to bring persistent lateness to your attention and make you aware of the possible consequences.

School opens at 8.45am and the doors are closed at 9am. If your child arrives after 9am they are marked as late and we may invoke the procedures above to tackle persistent lateness.

Uniform

St Joseph's is well known for its high standards of uniform and appearance, and we have only achieved this because parents are completely supportive of us. We've sent out lots of reminders lately and we have called and met with lots of parents – **thank you to everyone because you have all been 100% supportive.** This means a lot.

As a quick reminder, please remember:

- Children must wear **smart, sensible, black school shoes** (or boots in winter) No trainers or jelly shoes.
- **Hair dying** and **extreme fashion haircuts** such as **shavings and engravings are not allowed.** Boys' and girls' hair must be neat, tidy and sensible. **Long hair must be tied back.** Ribbons and hairbands should be **small** and in **school colours.** Giant bows and bands are not allowed.
- Girls can wear trousers, a skirt or a summer uniform dress. **Leggings are not allowed** even under dresses. Thick tights may be worn – these must be **plain blue, white, grey or black with no patterns, designs or writing.**
- **Earrings and jewellery are not allowed.** Temporary tattoos are not allowed. Nail varnish is not allowed.
- Full uniform details are on our website.

Ear Piercing – please do this in the summer holidays as we don't allow earrings at school

We do not allow children to wear any jewellery. This is for safety reasons. If you are considering getting your child's ears pierced please remember they will not be allowed to wear earrings at school. It is a good idea – if you are thinking about having your child's ears pierced – to get this done at the very beginning of the summer holidays. This gives 6 weeks for the piercing to take hold meaning the earrings can be removed ready for the start of school. We do not allow children to wear earrings under any circumstances so please plan ahead now and avoid any potential upset. Thank you very much indeed for your support – we really appreciate it.

Congratulations to Miss Oakley

Before the Easter break we said good luck to Miss Oakley who was about to start her Maternity Leave. I am pleased to announce that Miss Oakley gave birth to a little baby girl during the Easter holidays! Miss Oakley and her little girl are both doing well!



Parents in school

It's lovely to have so many parents joining us for our weekly Masses and assemblies. The children work so hard to practise readings, acting etc. and are so happy to see their parents in school. With this in mind, could we politely request that parents are quiet during our gatherings and that unsettled children are accompanied to the school reception area until they re-settle as some of our children find the noise distracting. In addition, can we remind parents of young children that when in school the young child remains the responsibility of the parent / carer and it is their responsibility to keep the child safe. Thank you for your understanding.

Summer Get Together – Please help by sending your donations after half term!



The Summer Get Together (Friday 14th July at 3.30pm). The Get Together is a great opportunity for everyone to come together in school before we break up for the summer holidays. There will be a raffle, some tombolas and a toy sale. Tea and Coffee / Pop will be on sale and everything is at pocket money prices. Hopefully our lovely open-air terrace

can be enjoyed (if it's dry!) There will be a raffle with lots of prizes!

Thank you for donating your items each week if you can!

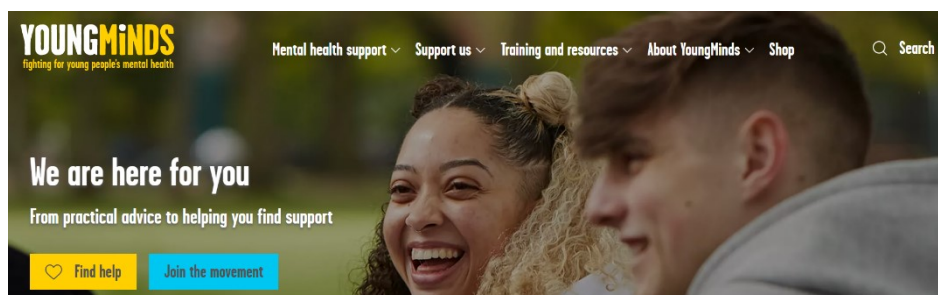
<u>Date</u>	<u>Donations</u>
Friday 16 th June	Chocolate and sweet donations
Friday 23 rd June	Bottle donations – anything in a bottle!
Friday 30 th June	Cuddly toys, children's books and games
Friday 7 th July	Toiletries – gift sets, bubble bath, hand cream etc – for both men and women!
Friday 14 th July	Tea, coffee, long-life milk, biscuits and cakes

Mental Health

As parents and carers, there are ways we can support our children to give them the best chance to stay mentally healthy.

Encouraging and guiding a child to think about their own mental health and wellbeing are vital skills you can teach them from a young age.

Young Minds is an organisation that has sections for parents and children with advice and links to services



Useful Apps for children can be found here:

<https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/self-care/apps/> for a range of mental health apps aimed at children – 'Mood Track' might be useful to see if these patches of anxiety are linked to specific worries.

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/moodtrack-diary-social-mood/id549251057>

Always see Mrs Chapman Mrs Cheema or Mrs Buckley if your problem has not been resolved

If for any reason your problems have not been resolved, or if you would prefer to come straight to us – never hesitate to get in touch. We want you and your child/ren to be happy and we will genuinely do everything we can to help.

Thanks for your support

Everyone at St Joseph's loves working with each and every one of the children and their families. We are grateful for your support of the school and the personal kindness and courtesy you show to us.

We want you and your child/ren to be happy – so please keep in touch



The safety, educational progress and personal happiness of every child and family we serve is our TOP priority. **We try hard to make St Joseph's the best school we can – but things can, do and always will go wrong!** No school can be perfect and being 'outstanding' is no exception! **The most important thing we can do is to promise to always try our very best to sort out problems as quickly as possible.**

It's really important that you let us know if you or your child is upset or worried about something. The sooner we know – the sooner we can sort things out. Never, ever spend the evening or the weekend worried or upset – be totally assured that as soon as you tell us we will do everything in our power to sort things out and make things better.

The most senior leaders in school are **Mrs Chapman (Principal) Mrs Cheema (Assistant Principal) and Mrs Buckley (Assistant Principal)** We can normally see you straight away, but if for any reason we can't, we will always call you back as soon as possible.

Mrs Hickman is our SENCO (Covering Miss Oakley's Maternity Leave) – she is also available to help you and will be your primary contact to discuss any additional needs your child may have.

For many matters – you might want to speak to your child's **teacher or teaching assistant**. You can always see classroom staff at the end of the day and they will also try to see you before school as long as it's before the children have started coming in. The teachers will also call you back if you request this.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs S Chapman,
Principal

Dates for the Summer Term

Thursday 27th April – Year 3's FHC retreat, parents invited to join from 2.30pm.
Monday 1st May – School closed for May Bank Holiday
Tuesday 2nd May – Year 4's Mass at 9.15am
Tuesday 2nd May – Year 3's Reconciliation after Mass – approx. 10.30am onwards
Friday 5th May – Reception's class assembly at 9.15am
Friday 5th May – Dress like a King for the day!
Monday 8th May – School closed in honour of the King's Coronation
Tuesday 9th – Friday 12th May – Year 6's SAT's Examinations
Saturday 13th May – FHC in church at 10.00am
Tuesday 16th May – Year 3 to lead Mass following their FHC at the weekend
WB Monday 22nd May – Anti-bullying, Anti-racism and Internet Safety Week
Monday 22nd May – Mini Reports go out to parents
Tuesday 23rd May – Year 2's Mass at 9.15am
Tuesday 23rd May – Our Lady Assembly 2.30pm
Thursday 25th – Year 6 Parent Confirmation Meeting at 2.15pm
Friday 26th May – Year 1's assembly at 9.15am
WB Monday 29th May – Half term – School is closed
Tuesday 6th June – Year 1's Mass at 9.15am
Friday 9th June – Year 6's assembly at 9.15am
Tuesday 13th June – Year 5's Mass at 9.15am
Thursday 15th June – Year 6's Confirmation Retreat, parents invited to join from 2.30pm
Friday 16th June – Year 5's assembly at 9.15am
Friday 16th June – please donate sweets and chocolate for the Summer Get Together!
Tuesday 20th June – Year 4's Mass at 9.15am
Friday 23rd June – Year 3's assembly at 9.15am
Friday 23rd June – Please donate bottles for the Summer Get Together!
WB Monday 26th June – Discipleship Week
Tuesday 27th June – Year 3's Mass at 9.15am
Thursday 29th June – Whole School Retreat day
Friday 30th June – Please donate toys and games for the Summer Get Together!
WB Monday 3rd July – Brilliant in Britain Week
Tuesday 4th June – Year 2's Mass at 9.15am
Tuesday 4th June – Year 6 Reconciliation after Mass – approx. at 10.30am
Friday 7th July – Performances from Nursery, Reception Year 1 and Year 2 from 9.15am
Friday 7th July – Performances from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 from 2.15pm
Friday 7th July – Please donate teddies and toiletries for the Summer Get Together!
Monday 10th July – End of year school reports go home today!
Monday 10th July – Sports Day for Year 6 at 10.30am and Year 5 at 1.30pm
Tuesday 11th July – Year 1's Mass at 9.15am
Wednesday 12th July – Sports Day for nursery AM at 10.30am, Reception at 9.15am and nursery PM at 2pm
Wednesday 12th July – Year 6 Confirmation at 6.30pm in the Church.
Thursday 13th July – Sports Day for Year 4 at 9.15am, Year 3 at 10.15am, Year 2 at 11.15am and Year 1 at 1.30pm
Friday 14th July – Please donate tea, coffee, long life milk, cakes and biscuits for the Summer Get Together!
Friday 14th July – Summer Get Together after school from 3.30pm – lots of tombola's!
Monday 17th July – Parents Evening
Tuesday 18th July – Year 6 Leavers and Confirmation Mass at 9.15am
Wednesday 19th July – Party (own clothes) and disco day!
Thursday 20th July – Year 6's Graduation at 2pm
Friday 21st July – End of year celebration assembly at 9.15am