



End of Summer Term Newsletter

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for your support this year

I want to open this end of term newsletter by thanking every parent, carer and family member for your cooperation and support for the school this year.

St Joseph's really is a special place to be, the Catholic ethos, our mission and the care that everyone has for each other is recognised by so many people who visit our school. We are always looking at ways to improve and develop to make our school the very best it can be for the children and families we serve. The children regularly tell us how much they enjoy school and they are the very reason why all staff take their responsibilities of providing an engaging and exciting curriculum, keeping the children safe and developing the children's relationship with Jesus so very seriously.

As a staff we're really proud to serve at St Joseph's and we thank you so much.

Goodbye to our Year 6 pupils



We are very proud of our Year 6 children who have taken their responsibility of being role-models to the rest of the school community very seriously this year. Their behaviour has been exemplary and they have always conducted themselves wonderfully around school, from helping with the computer and music in assemblies, being altar servers in Mass, helping to set up the hall for events and looking after the younger children. They also **ACHIEVED THE BEST SATS RESULTS OUR SCHOOL HAS EVER SEEN!** We wish them all the very best in the next step of their life journey. We will keep them in our prayers during the rest of this term but also at the start of next year when we know they will be starting their secondary schools. Well done Year 6!

Goodbye to parents and carers who will no longer be coming to the school in September

If this July marks the end of your time as a parent or carer at St Joseph's we'd like to say goodbye and wish you and your family all the best for the future. Thank you for your support of the school and we hope the next stage in your child's school journey is a happy one – we will be praying for all of our leavers and their families well into the next school year.

Teaching Staff List for September 2023

Nursery: Mrs Boyle

Reception: Miss Marsh

Year 1: Miss Bate

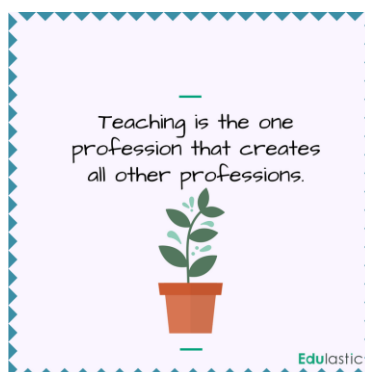
Year 2: Miss Cresswell

Year 3: Miss Lyttle

Year 4: Mrs Buckley

Year 5: Mrs Hickman

Year 6: Mrs Cheema



Principal: Mrs Chapman

Assistant Principals: Mrs Cheema and Mrs Buckley

Senior Teacher / SENCO: Mrs Hickman (Miss Oakley is currently enjoying maternity leave!)

Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mrs Chapman

Deputy designated Safeguarding Leads: Mrs Cheema, Mrs Buckley, Mrs Hickman and Miss Oakley

Parent questionnaire feedback

Thank you to everyone who was able to complete the parent survey either this term. We have the results and they are overwhelmingly positive – thank you!

For up to date details about our school, please visit our school website – www.st-jo-dud.dudley.sch.uk and we are very active on Facebook and Twitter!



	Strongly agree / agree	Disagree / strongly disagree	Commentary
My child is happy at this school	97%	3%	We want EVERY child to feel happy at school and do our best to ensure that this happens. In the children's survey, children told us that they were happy at school.
My child feels safe at this school	97%	3%	We want EVERY child to feel safe at school and do our best to ensure that this happens. In the children's survey, children told us that they felt safe at school.
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	93%	7%	We have a very robust behaviour policy which is consistently used from Nursery through to Year 6 – including on the playground. This is regularly shared with the children. Please see the behaviour policy on our website for more details.
My child's unique achievements are recognised and valued by the school	93%	7%	We are proud to celebrate the unique achievements of every child. During Prayer and Merit gatherings on Friday morning children are encouraged to bring in celebrations from home to share with our whole school family.
The school deals with any bullying and harassment quickly and effectively	93%	7%	We have two annual anti-bullying, anti-racism and internet safety weeks – (one more than is celebrated nationally). We recognise that any issues around bullying can be very complex and have to be addressed to give all parties the opportunity to discuss issues and we support all children in finding effective resolutions. It is not the case that we can simply exclude or suspend a pupil without giving them the opportunity to put things right – we offer great support in doing this. Please see the behaviour policy on our website for more details.
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	97%	3%	During the school year we have three parents' evenings and the half-term where there isn't a parents' evening we send out either a mini report or a full written report to keep parents informed about their child. Each term the class teacher sends out a newsletter to inform parents of the topics being taught during that term – these are also on our school website.
Any concerns that are raised with the school are dealt with properly	97%	3%	We understand that sometimes things can go wrong. When they do we always try our best to resolve them quickly. Every newsletter reminds parents to contact the school if they have any worries – no matter how small.
My Child has special educational needs or a disability and the school gives them the support they need to succeed (IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OR A DISABILITY PLEASE TICK NOT APPLICABLE)	92%	8%	Miss Oakley and, during her Maternity leave, Mrs Hickman work with many external agencies to ensure that all of our children with special educational needs are well supported – this includes working with: CAHMS, Educational Psychologists, Physiotherapists, Speech and Language professionals, incontinence specialists, Dudley SEND Team and various Case Officers.
The school provides good quality Catholic Religious Education for its pupils	100%	0%	As a Catholic School, through Canon Law, 10% of our teaching time is devoted to RE. RE is a lesson like no other and one the children tell us they enjoy immensely.
The school has high expectations for my child	90%	10%	We have high expectations for all children. Children have different starting points when they arrive in school and we do everything we can to help them achieve to the best of their ability.
My child does well at this school	97%	3%	Children at St Joseph's have always achieved highly and this year we have had our best SATs result EVER for our Year 6 children!
The school lets me know how my child is doing	100%	0%	We think this is so important – school and home working together is always best for the children.
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	97%	3%	We teach all of the subjects dictated by the National Curriculum and do our best to offer exciting, interesting and well-resourced lessons to engage pupils!

The school fulfils its mission to make Christ known today	97%	3%	Jesus Christ is at the centre of everything we do. Our school policies are rooted in the teachings of Christ, we gather together as a school family to pray and worship together at least three times each week. Our school values and Mission Statement are at the very heart of all our interactions.
My child is able to take part in meaningful and enjoyable Catholic assemblies, masses, prayer gatherings and other acts of collective worship	93%	7%	Each week we have: Whole School Prayer and Liturgy – sharing Sunday's Gospel, Whole School Mass – led by a different class each week, Merit and Prayer assemblies – where children take part in two class assemblies each year, children hold prayer partner gatherings with their prayer partners twice each term, children take it in turns to lead whole class Liturgy each week for their peers. In addition to this, before each pupil group meeting, children take the opportunity to pray together. We also have an indoor and outdoor prayer area which children can access for their own quiet prayer and reflection. We teach the children to pray in different ways: silently, spontaneously and teach a wide variety of traditional prayers in each class.
The school supports my child's wider personal development	93%	7%	We offer many clubs, lunchtime clubs, pupil groups (Mission Team, Creation Guardians, SAS, School Council, Mini Vinnies) trips, competitive sporting events, experiences such as theatre groups, MP visits etc to ensure that we give the children a wide range of different experiences.
The Catholic Life of the school enables my child to make a positive contribution to the community inspired by the example of Jesus Christ e.g. by helping and serving others, charitable activity, being a valuable part of the community	93%	7%	Each class has chosen a charity to support for the year, we take part in many CAFOD online assemblies, CAFOD Fast Days, CAFOD charity events – such as Walk for Hunger, our pupil groups are very active visiting the food bank to take our donations, we have special Discipleship Weeks where we share Pope Francis' Encyclicals of Fratelli Tutti and Laudato Si and this year we were only the 8 th school in the Archdiocese of Birmingham to achieve CAFOD's Live Simply Award. Children are given the opportunity to apply to receive our school's mission award each term too.
The school offers a wide range of activities in addition to the curriculum e.g. lunchtime activities, after school clubs, sports, music or arts activities in addition to subject lessons.	93%	7%	We offer a wide range of lunchtime clubs and afterschool clubs for the children to take part in, we work with Dudley Performing Arts to provide all of the children with access to high quality musical experiences too.
I would recommend the school to another parent	97%	3%	We do our very best to ensure that every child is as happy and safe as possible. St Joseph's is very over-subscribed with many children on the waiting list for each class and this year we have 117 applications for our 30-place reception class.

His Grace Archbishop Bernard Longley

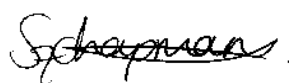
We are very excited to share that following the children writing to invite His Grace to bless areas of our school and celebrate Mass, the Archbishop and Fr Dominic will be visiting St Joseph's on Friday 15th September to celebrate Mass at 11am – more details to follow in September!

Have a safe and happy summer

We hope that you and your family enjoy a safe and happy summer. All the best to everyone who is leaving us in July – and to everyone returning – we really look forward to welcoming you back to school in September.

School closes for Summer on FRIDAY 21st JULY and reopens to pupils in Years 1-6 on Wednesday 6th September from 8.45am. Reception and Nursery children have been informed separately of their start dates in September.

With every kind wish as always,



Mrs S Chapman, Principal

