

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



13 January 2014

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new term and on behalf of all of the staff, pupils and the Academy Committee members we wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year 2014. This newsletter contains some diary dates and other information for the new term. You will also receive a complete list of school holidays for January 2014 to July 2015. All of the dates will also be published on our website.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 15th January: Deadline for applications for starting Reception Class in September 2014.

Contact school for urgent advice if you need help.

Friday 24th January: Year 4 Assembly, 2.30pm

Sunday 2nd February: School Parish Mass in Church at 11am

Friday 7th February: Year 3 Assembly, 2.30pm

Tuesday 11th February: Safer Internet Day: Activities in school all day.

Friday 14th February: Break up for Half Term

Monday 24th February: Back to school

Friday 28th February: Year 2 Assembly, 2.30pm

Sunday 2nd March: School Parish Mass in Church at 11am

Tuesday 4th March: Sponsored Pancake Flip in the hall all day – details to follow! Shrove Tuesday.

Wednesday 5th March: Ash Wednesday: Lent Begins.

Wednesday 5th March: Year 5 and Year 3 Cycle Training – details from Mr Newbold and Mrs Hickman

Wednesday 5th March: Parent's Evening 3.30pm – 6.30pm – details to follow

Thursday 6th March: Year 5 and Year 3 Cycle Training – details from Mr Newbold and Mrs Hickman

Friday 7th March: Year 6 Assembly, 2.30pm

Wednesday 12th March: No Smoking Day: Activities in school all day

Friday 14th March: Reception Class Assembly, 2.30pm

Friday 21st March: Year 5 Assembly, 2.30pm

Friday 28th March: Year 1 Assembly, 2.30pm

Friday 4th April : Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Multicultural week performance for parents, 9.30am in the hall (Dancing and Singing) followed by refreshments for parents. Raffle and prizes. Parents are welcome in the hall from 9am once the children have all come in to school.

Friday 4th April: Years 3,4,5 and 6 Multicultural Week performance for parents, 2pm in the hall (Dancing and Singing) followed by refreshments for parents. Raffle and Prizes. Please do not arrive before 1.55pm so we can clear up after the busy Friday lunchtime!

Monday 7th April: Year 3 will act out the events of Palm Sunday in the hall at 2.40pm.

Tuesday 8th April: Year 4 will act out the events of The Last Supper in the hall at 2.40pm.

Wednesday 9th April: Please donate a tin of food this Lent for the homeless of The Good Shepherd shelter.

Wednesday 9th April: Year 5 will act out the events of The Agony in the Garden in the hall at 2.40pm.

Wednesday 9th April: St Joseph's Easter Service in Church at 6pm (Children back at Church for 5.45pm).

Thursday 10th April: End of Term Merit Assembly at 11am in the hall.

Thursday 10th April: The Stations of the Cross acted out by Year 6 at 2.15pm in the hall.

Thursday 10th April: Children break up for Easter Holidays (staff training day 11th April).

Monday 28th April: Back to school for Summer Term.

Thank you from all of the staff

Thank you very much for all of your Christmas greetings, cards, kind words and presents. Every thought is much appreciated and we are grateful for your kindness.

Bad Weather / School Closures

How to find out about our school being closed

If the weather is very bad we sometimes have to close the school. The list below shows you the places to check for information in order of preference, always start first with the school website:

1, The **school website** will be updated with a message at the top of the page to say if we are open **or** closed – *the most reliable place to look and the place we update first.*

2, We will send **text messages** to parents – *this is also a good way of finding out but sometimes the networks are busy with texts on snow days and there can be a delay in your message being received.*

3, We will post a message on the **Dudley Council website** – *this is updated very quickly and is a good place to look.*

4, We will try to put messages on the **Radio Stations** and their websites: Free Radio Birmingham, Free Radio Black Country and Shropshire, Heart / Capital FM and BBC Radio WM – *this is a less reliable place to check as it can take us a long time to get through to the radio stations when it is a busy snow morning!*

When we will let you know if we are open or closed

We will always try to let you know about a school closure as quickly as we possibly can and if the decision has to be made before school starts we aim to have all of the information on the website and texts sent no later than 7am. Wherever possible we will make the announcement the night before but this can be very difficult if it hasn't started to snow. By 7am in the morning you should be able to find out one way or the other.

What if the school has to close early?

If we open the school we will **do our best** to stay open until 3.15pm. We may stay open but give you the opportunity to collect your child early if you prefer.

If the snow is getting very bad we may need to close the school and ask you to come and collect your children early. Please make a back up plan just in case the school closes part way through the day.

Is it safe to travel to school?

If the school is open in heavy snow we will advise you about our flexible opening times whereby you can drop the children off a bit later and pick them up a bit earlier to reduce traffic congestion and minimise accidents on the road. It is always the parent's decision as to whether or not it is safe to travel to school in very bad snow. Please travel safely and ensure your child/ren are properly dressed and in safe footwear. Please don't take risks and don't feel rushed to make it on time in bad weather. Please drive / walk / travel safely.

We need your up to date contact details

We have sent a 'test text' to all parents today (Monday 13th January). Please check your mobile phone. Ask other parents you know if they received the text too! **IF YOU HAVEN'T RECEIVED A TEXT FROM US – PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE STRAIGHT AWAY SO WE CAN UPDATE OUR SYSTEM.** Thanks a lot!

The path leading to the back gate entrance to school (By Nursery and Reception)

The 'waste ground' leading to the school's back gate is definitely NOT part of school property and is not under our jurisdiction. Many parents have complained about how slippery this area is. We are not able to maintain or improve this area as it is not our land – please contact Dudley Council Plus **0300 555 2345** and let them know about this waste ground and see what they can do to help.

Privacy Notice – Data Protection Act 1988

Please find attached information which we are required by law to issue to all parents. This information briefly outlines the core fair processing information a school undertakes.

Keep in touch

If you or your child needs our help in any way, never hesitate to let us know immediately. Myself and Mrs Chapman will always try to see you as quickly as we can. If we are not available for any reason, there will always be one of the senior teachers, Mr Seex or Mrs Hancox, available to help you. For Nursery and Reception families, Miss Wisniewski is also available as the teacher who manages the Early Years Unit. Your child's class teacher will always try to see you by the end of the day if you need them, too.

Parentview

If you are not happy about something to do with school, please let us know first so we can try to improve things for you. If you are happy overall with what this school does, please would you help us by informing OFSTED? Go to www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk. You will need an email address to register and then complete the survey. This will take you about 15 minutes in total. We know that many of our parents think very highly of our school indeed – as do we – so it's essential that OFSTED hear your views too! Thanks so much in anticipation of your help.

Collecting Children After School

All Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are kept in school until a parent/carer collects them. Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 are let out from class at 3.15pm but must return to school if they are not collected so that we can keep them safe and call parents if necessary. The exception is if your child has been given permission to walk home alone. In all other cases, please remind your child that they must come back to the school so that we can keep them safe and contact you. If you are allowing your child to walk home alone, please call the school so that we are aware of your arrangements. **WE STRONGLY ADVISE AGAINST CHILDREN WALKING HOME ALONE.**

Yours sincerely,

M Hinton
Principal

Kind hands, kind words...like Jesus

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