

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

21 February 2014

Dear Parents



Welcome back after half term. This newsletter contains the diary dates for the forthcoming half term and other useful information. Dates and back copies of newsletters are also available on the school website www.st-jo-dud.dudley.sch.uk.

Diary Dates

Mon 24 Feb – Sun 9 Mar: Fair Trade Fortnight – activities in school plus our year – round Fair Trade Tuck Shop will be open as normal! Don't forget our school is a certified 'Fair Trade School' as well!

Fri 28 Feb: Year 2 assembly 2.30pm

Sun 2 Mar: School Parish Mass in Church 11am, all welcome

Tue 4 Mar: Year 3 Mass and Sacrament of First Reconciliation: 9.15am

Tue 4 Mar: Sponsored Pancake Flip – see below

Wed 5 Mar: Ash Wednesday: The start of Lent

Wed 5 Mar: Parent's Evening 3.30pm – 6.30pm

Wed 5 Mar: Year 3/5 Cycle Training

Thu 6 Mar: Year 3/5 Cycle Training

Fri 7 Mar: Year 6 Assembly 2.30pm

Wed 12 Mar: National No Smoking Day – activities in school

Fri 14 Mar: CAFOD Fast Day – give up playtime tuck and donate pennies to CAFOD instead

Fri 14 Mar: Reception Assembly 2.30pm

Fri 21 Mar: Year 5 Assembly 2.30pm

Fri 28 Mar: Year 1 Assembly

Monday 31 Mar – Fri 4 Apr: Multicultural Week in school

Fri 4 Apr: Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Multicultural Week Performance 9.30am

Fri 4 Apr: Years 3,4,5 and 6 Multicultural Week Performance 2.00pm

Mon 7 Apr: Year 4 will act out the events of PALM SUNDAY at 2.40pm (CHANGE OF CLASS / DAY)

Tue 8 Apr: Year 3 will act out the LAST SUPPER at 2.40pm (CHANGE OF CLASS / DAY)

Wed 9 Apr: Please donate tins of food for the homeless of The Good Shepherd Shelter

Wed 9 Apr: Year 5 will act out the AGONY IN THE GARDEN at 2.40pm

Wed 9 Apr: Lent / Easter Service in Church at 6pm – Miss Morgan will send more details (children in Church at 5.45pm)

Thu 10 Apr: End of term merit assembly 11am

Thu 10 Apr: Year 6 will present THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 2.15pm

Thu 10 Apr: Children break up for Easter Holidays at 3.15pm (Friday is a staff training day)

Mon 28 Apr: School reopens after Easter Holidays

Mon 5 May: School Closed for May Day Bank Holiday

Charitable Fundraising during Lent 2014 – Lent starts on Ash Wednesday 5th March 2014

As you know, the school always raises money for various charities during Lent, when the Church calls us all to **pray, fast and give alms**. We have arranged another 'Sponsored Pancake Flip' this Lent to raise some money whilst also provide enjoyable opportunities for the whole community. Please see the details below. As ever, please only donate if you are able to do so, there is no expectation of anybody to have to send money or goods into school if you do not wish to or are unable to. Half of all sponsor money raised will go the

school fund that pays for extras for the children and half will be split between a range of local, national and international charities as well as the Church building fund. The CAFOD collection on Fast Day will all be sent to CAFOD.

Sponsored Pancake Flip: Shrove Tuesday March 4th 2014

We will be setting up a special 'pancake assault course' for the children to complete and hopefully obtain sponsorship for. A sponsor form is enclosed. Parents are invited to come and join us to watch the fun and games and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with a pancake! You can come and watch your child at the following times:

9-10am: Nursery AM and Reception

10-10.30: Year 1

10.30-11: Year 5

11-11.30: Year 2

11.30-12: Year 4

1.30-2: Year 3

2-2.30: Year 6

2.30-3: Nursery PM

A hot drink and a slice of pancake with lemon and sugar will be on sale for £1 all in. All money to the Lent fundraising.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day: Friday 14th March 2014

On Friday 14th March every child and staff member is asked to give up their playtime snack and donate a few pennies to the world's poor and starving through a CAFOD collection. The Church calls us to fast during Lent and the CAFOD fast is the perfect, safe way for the children to do this. By giving up their playtime snack or tuck they are experiencing, just for a short time, what it must be like to go without. The fast helps them to show solidarity with the poor and starving of the world. The CAFOD Lent Fast is much more than a fundraising initiative – it is a way to show support for the poor by making a sacrifice. The children only need to donate a few pennies and all of the money will be given to CAFOD.

'Holy Week' Assemblies – all welcome

We are on holiday for Holy Week this year so we will be acting out the events of Holy Week each day during the last week of term before the Easter holiday. Everyone is most welcome to attend these spiritual and beautiful assemblies where the children act out the events of Holy Week.

Tins of Food for the homeless

Please send in a tin of food for the homeless of the Good Shepherd Shelter on **Wednesday 9th April** so that we can display the donations at our Stations of the Cross assembly the following day.

Lenten Church Service

The children will be invited to act and sing the events of Holy Week in Church on **Wednesday 9th April**. **Children will need to be at Church for 5.45pm for a 6pm start.** Miss Morgan will send more details.

Poppy Appeal

The Royal British Legion have written to thank us for the poppy collection that totalled £122.02. Thank you for your generous support last November.

Uniform

There is a uniform policy at St Joseph's and all of the children are expected to be dressed in accordance with the uniform policy. Trainers or pumps are not allowed. Long hair must be tied back. Dying hair, highlights and tramlines, shavings and hair engravings are not allowed. A number of children have come back to school today not in correct uniform – please, please support us by ensuring you follow the uniform policy. A copy is attached for your advice. Thank you so much for your support.

Holiday Absence in Term Time

Headteachers are no longer allowed to authorise holidays in term time. If a child is taken out of school to go on holiday during term time the absence is **unauthorised**. Too much unauthorised absence leads to an automatic referral to the Education Investigation Service who have powers to prosecute. Please do not book holidays in term time. This is government legislation, not just the school's policy and is effective from 1 September 2013.

Easter Holidays

A reminder that the children break up for Easter on **Thursday 10th April at 3.15pm** and return on Monday 28th April.

Parentview

Parentview is OFSTED's online survey form for parents to complete about their child's school. It helps OFSTED make judgements about schools and inform inspections. Ever since its launch we have actively publicised Parentview.

Our approach to Parentview is simple – if you are generally happy with the school please, please tell OFSTED via Parentview! If you are unhappy about any aspect of our school please, please **tell us first** so we can do our best to make things better.

If you can spare the time to fill in the form on Parentview we would be really grateful – we realise it's a bit of a chore but it is important that we share the many good things about our school with OFSTED.

Go to www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk You will need to have an email address in order to register. The whole process of registering and completing the survey should take about 15 minutes. Once again – thanks for your time – so many parents contact us with good things to say about St Joseph's – it's really important we let OFSTED know as well. If you're unhappy – it's also really important you **let us know** so we can help!

Keep in touch

As ever, do not hesitate to contact us if you need any help or assistance. In particular if you or your child is unhappy about any aspect of school, please, please let us know so that we can try our best to makes things better immediately. You can normally see the teacher after school and both myself or Mrs Chapman will always try to see you straight away if you need us. Mr Seex and Mrs Hancox are the senior teachers who are also available to help you. We will also call you back if you are unable to come into school.

Yours sincerely

M Hinton
Principal

Kind hands, kind words...like Jesus