

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Summer Newsletter 2018

27th April 2018

Dear Parents,

Summer Term

Summer term is in full swing here at the school and there is lots happening. You should have received the diary dates for the term – please keep these as it lists lots of important dates between now and the end of term.

We are looking forward to working with you this term and look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks.



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Mission Awards for Years 1 to 6

On Monday we are launching a new awards scheme that is suitable for children from all faith backgrounds. The 'mission awards' scheme is a set of achievements for each year group linked to our school's mission statement. A copy of the achievements for your child's year group is attached to this letter. If your child wishes to apply for the 'mission award' for their year group they can do so at any point in the school year. There is an application deadline every half term. If your child successfully meets the standards they will be awarded the mission award medal for their year group in an awards assembly. They can apply for the mission award for their year group up to 2 times per term but they can only collect one medal per year – in other words – once they have successfully met the standard for their year group they will receive the medal and can next apply for a mission award in their next year group when they move up classes. Mission Award medals are available for Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. The standard required for each medal becomes a bit more challenging as the year groups get increasingly higher.

It's easy for the children to apply for their mission award medal. Every half term the mission team (a group of children together with Mrs Chapman) meet to review the applications and either agree that each applicant has met the standard or provide help with any areas that need additional work. Medals will only be awarded where the standards are clearly met.

Kind hands, kind words...like Jesus

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Registered office:
Burton Road, Dudley DY1 3BY

All the children need to do is bring in some evidence of how they meet the standards. An adult can prepare this for them – they don't have to write it out themselves (though we hope the older children will prepare some of their own applications) The evidence can be from school e.g. 'I have written my own prayers in my RE book on 1st December' or it might be from home e.g. 'I have helped my mum and dad at home by tidying up the garden' – together with some confirmation from the parent e.g. a sentence to confirm. The children might like to include photographs or supporting statements e.g. thank you cards from people they have helped, photos of the good deeds they have done.

We have launched the mission awards as an incentive for children to think deeply about the school's mission. Our mission is to 'work, learn and grow together guided by Jesus' teachings' and is relevant to children from all faith backgrounds. Where reference is made to prayer, for example, prayers from all faith traditions are relevant. You will notice that most of the standards relate to being a good and kind person – something which is important in ALL world religions.



Preparing an application for a mission award should be enjoyable. It doesn't need to be lengthy or wordy – it just needs a little bit of time spent chatting and preparing a few words to explain how the children meet the standard for each year group. Achieving a Mission Award Medal is a fine achievement to be proud of – it affirms good citizenship, an understanding of the importance of faith and a commitment to the school's values of truth, forgiveness, respect, equality and kindness.

We hope the mission awards will be very popular and we have lots of lovely gold medals waiting for successful applicants.

The first deadline for the mission awards is Monday 21st May with medals for successful applicants on Friday 25th May. The next one will be Monday 16th July with medals awarded on Friday 20th July. Please bear in mind that as it is an awards scheme – simply applying does not mean the medal will be awarded. There must be clear evidence for each standard before we can award the medal. The evidence doesn't need to be lengthy or wordy but needs to be genuine and honest.

Holidays in term time

We do not authorise holidays during term time. In line with legislation, we refer unauthorised absence to the Education Investigation Service who have the power to issue penalty fines and in some cases, prosecutions. Our attendance policy and a link to the government legislation is on our website. Please do not be offended because a request for holiday is refused – it is our clear policy and has been for several years – it is not fair to make exceptions and we are only complying with the law of the land. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



Thank you for your support with school uniform and appearance

Thank you for ensuring your child follows our uniform policy. Before the holidays we sent a request about strings and strands of hair obscuring children's faces – you were all very quick to address the matter and that's very much appreciated. Thank you for your support. The uniform policy is on the website and we really appreciate your support. Thank you very much for your help.

Free School Meals

If you are eligible for free school meals at any point it is really important to apply. Not only could you save money and provide your child with a delicious school meal (our catering now comes from Bishop Milner and is of an excellent standard!) but you could help the school to access thousands of pounds worth of extra funding for the children. It's quick, easy and confidential to apply – your child can still bring a packed lunch if they prefer. The extra funding is very valuable to the school and every penny gets spent on the children. ANYONE who is eligible should apply – including families in RECEPTION, YEAR 1 and YEAR 2. Please support the school and help us to increase our funding if you can. Details of how to apply are enclosed.



Our new catering service from Bishop Milner



The new meals and new menus have been massively popular. Every day there's a hot main course to choose from or a filled jacket potato, sandwich grab bag and a pasta dish to enjoy. Portions are generous and the food is fresh and healthy. The provision is overseen by our dedicated catering manager, Trudie. If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 they can have this delicious food FREE EVERY DAY! A choice of sandwiches is available every day and all dietary needs can be met.

Parentview

We would be exceptionally grateful if you could place a review of the school on Ofsted's Parentview website. We really need some up to date reviews as old ones are archived after 12 months. All we ever ask is that you tell us first about any matter you are unhappy about so that we have the opportunity to put things right for you. www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

You are welcome at our weekly events

Everyone is welcome to join us for our whole school Mass every Tuesday at 9.15am and also for the weekly merit assembly on Fridays at 2.30pm. We welcome parents and family members and encourage you to be part of the school community. It's unusual that these events are cancelled but if there are any changes we try to send a text to let you know. You can always phone the school to double check before making a special journey.



Support we can offer you

Our school nurse, Mel Dowling, is available for appointments and runs regular drop-ins. Just ask at the office if you'd like to see Mel (she is excellent) In addition, if you have any concerns about your child's learning, progress or emotional health and well-being our SENCO, Mrs Bowen, is here most Tuesdays and Fridays and can offer a range of help and support as well as arranging appointments wherever necessary. If you feel you

need any help or support just let us know – come and see Mr Hinton or Mrs Chapman and we will do our best to arrange the best support we can.

Is everything OK?

Does your child receive their homework and is it marked? Is your child's reading book changed regularly? Have you been treated with the care and dignity we pride ourselves



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Diary Dates for Summer Term 2018

Our Values for this half term are CURIOUS AND ACTIVE

CURIOUS: about the world and what we can do to make it a better place for everyone.

ACTIVE: in our school, community, parish and home life to actively make a difference to others.



Monday 30th April: Our new MISSION AWARDS scheme for pupils will be launched (see newsletter to follow)

Tuesday 1st May: There will be NO MASS in school this Tuesday

Tuesday 1st May: Year 3 First Reconciliation Service at 9.15am – Year 3 parents and family members welcome.

Tuesday 1st May: Year 6 Confirmation Parents Meeting at 3.30pm in Year 6 Classroom – for all parents wishing for their child to be confirmed by the Bishop this July.

Thursday 3rd May: Year 5 Class Assembly and Merit Assembly at 2.30pm. All welcome.

Thursday 3rd May: School closes for May Day holidays at 3.15pm today. (*Friday is a staff training day, Monday is May Day Bank Holiday*)



Tuesday 8th May: School reopens after the Bank Holiday at 8.45am

Tuesday 8th May: Key Stage 1 Mass at 9.15am

Thursday 10th May: Ascension Day: The day Jesus ascended into heaven following his Easter resurrection.

Thursday 10th May: Year 3 First Holy Communion Retreat Day. Year 3 parents are invited to join the retreat from 2.30pm – please join us if you can.

Friday 11th May: Reception Class Assembly at 2.30pm. All welcome.

Monday 14th May – Thursday 17th May: Year 6 Tests Week. It is extremely important that the children come to school every day this week. The year 6 children need to be at school no later than 8.45am ready to start the tests.

Tuesday 15th May: NO MASS in school today because of the Year 6 tests

Thursday 17th May: Please send in flowers for our May Service for Our Lady today. The flowers will be used to decorate the statue of Our Lady and then displayed in the hall and the classrooms.

Thursday 17th May: May Service in honour of Our Lady at 2.45pm – all welcome.

Friday 18th May: Year 2 Class Assembly at 2.30pm – all welcome

Saturday 19th May: Year 3 First Holy Communion Mass in Church at 10am.



Sunday 20th May: Pentecost: the day that the Holy Spirit came down to be amongst us for all time.

Monday 21st May: Deadline for applications for the Mission Awards (next deadline will be next half term)

Monday 21st May: Your child's teacher will be sending home a mini report today to keep you updated on your child's learning and progress.



Tuesday 22nd May: Year 3 First Holy Communion Celebration Mass at 9.15am – all welcome. First Holy Communion children all wear their special outfits from Sunday. There will be a tea party for everyone in Year 3 afterwards and the photographer will be available for optional individual or family photos (there is no obligation to purchase)



★ **Wednesday 23rd May:** Teachers are available for quick drop-ins after school if you would like to speak to them at our 'open classrooms' event. This is not a formal parent's evening but is a quick opportunity to see your child's teacher if you need to catch up with them, perhaps following the mini report. Classrooms are open from 3.15pm and the last admission is at 4.15pm. The event finishes at 4.30pm.



★ **Friday 25th May:** Year 6C (Mrs Cheema's class) Assembly at 2.30pm – all welcome

★ **Friday 25th May:** School closes for May Half Term at 3.15pm

★ **Sunday 27th May:** *Trinity Sunday*

★ **Monday 4th June:** School reopens at 8.45am for the second half of Summer Term

★ **Monday 4th June to Friday 8th June** is our second ANTI BULLYING, INTERNET SAFETY and ANTI RACISM week of the school year. Activities, visitors and learning about these important themes all week.



★ **Tuesday 5th June:** Year 6 Mass

★ **Friday 8th June:** Sacred Heart of Jesus

★ **Friday 8th June:** 9.15am Assembly to celebrate ANTI BULLYING, INTERNET SAFETY and ANTI RACISM week – all welcome.

★ **Friday 8th June:** Year 1 Class assembly at 2.30pm – all welcome

★ **Sunday 10th June:** School and Parish Mass at 11am in Church – please come and join this special event.

★ **Tuesday 12th June:** Year 4 Mass at 9.15am followed by Reconciliation for Year 4 pupils



★ **Friday 15th June:** Please donate bottles of wine, beer, spirits and pop for the Summer Get Together

★ **Friday 15th June:** Year 3 Assembly at 2.30pm – all welcome

★ **Sunday 17th June:** Father's Day: day of thanksgiving for all Dads – including our patron St Joseph – patron of all dads and families!

★ **Tuesday 19th June:** Year 5 Mass at 9.15am followed by Reconciliation for Year 5 pupils

★ **Thursday 21st June:** Year 6 Confirmation Retreat Day – Year 6 parents are invited to join the retreat from 2.30pm – please come and take part.

★ **Friday 22nd June:** Please donate chocolate and sweets for our Summer Get Together

★ **Tuesday 26th June:** Year 3 Mass at 9.15am

★ **Friday 29th June:** Please donate cuddly toys for our Summer Get Together



★ **Friday 29th June:** Feast of St Peter and St Paul.

★ **Friday 29th June:** Year 6M (Mrs MacDonald's class) assembly at 2.30pm – all welcome

★ **Monday 2nd July – Friday 6th July** is our Brilliant in Britain Multicultural Week where all of the children will learn about BRITISH VALUES and a range of cultures, ethnicities and about a range of countries and continents.

★ **Tuesday 3rd July:** Key Stage 1 Mass at 9.15am – all welcome

★ **Friday 6th July:** Please donate cakes, biscuits, tea, coffee, sugar and long life milk for our Summer Get Together





Friday 6th July: 9.20am: Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will perform their dances in celebration of our Brilliant in Britain Multicultural Week. Hall will be open from 9.10am.

Friday 6th July: 2.20pm: Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 will perform their dances in celebration of our Brilliant in Britain Multicultural Week. Hall will be open from 2.10pm. (We will need to ask everyone to vacate the hall afterwards in order to set up for the Summer Get Together after school)

Friday 6th July: 3.30pm: Summer Get Together after school with raffle, live DJ, Bouncy Castle, Café, Chocolate Tombola, Cuddly Toy Stall and Bottle Stall. Our annual summer event where everyone gets together to chat and spend a bit of time together – now with added summer tunes from our DJ!



Monday 9th July: Years 4,5 and 6 Sports Day: Year 4 at 9.15am, Year 5 at 10.15am and Year 6 at 11.15am. If the weather is wet races will go ahead in the hall. All welcome, please wait at the shelter and staff will come and escort you to the sports area at the start of your child's session.

Tuesday 10th July: Year 5 Mass at 9.15am followed by Reconciliation for Year 6 pupils (prior to their Confirmation on Wednesday)

Wednesday 11th July: Years 1,2 and 3 Sports Day: Year 1 at 9.15am, Year 2 at 10.15am and Year 3 at 11.15am. If the weather is wet races will go ahead in the hall. All welcome, please wait at the shelter and staff will come and escort you to the sports area at the start of your child's session.



Wednesday 11th July: Year 6 Confirmation at 6.30pm in Church with Bishop David McGough. Mrs Chapman and Miss Wisniewski will be organising a choir and band made up from other year groups – please support the Mass if you can (all children attending will need an adult in the congregation)

Thursday 12th July: Nursery and Reception Sports Day: Morning Nursery from 10 am to 11am, Reception from 11am to 12 noon and Afternoon Nursery from 2pm to 3pm. If the weather is wet races will go ahead in the hall. All welcome, please wait at the nursery gate and staff will come and escort you to the Early Years playground at the start of your child's session.



Thursday 12th July: We will be sending home your child's end of year report this afternoon. This is for Years Reception to Year 6. (Reports are issued for those Nursery children who are old enough to be leaving the Nursery to start in Reception Class next year)

Monday 16th July: Deadline for children to apply for the Mission Awards for Summer Term second half.

Monday 16th July: Parent's Evening 3.30pm – 6pm. A letter and booking form will be sent out nearer the time.

Tuesday 17th July: Leaver's Mass at 9.15am and Year 6 Confirmation Celebration followed by tea party.



Wednesday 18th July is OWN CLOTHES DAY for our end of term DISCOs. PLEASE DONATE £1 towards the cost of the Disco. All children (except Year 6) are picked up at normal time.

Wednesday 18th July: Nursery Disco at 1.15pm until 1.45pm (morning Nursery are welcome to come back!)

Wednesday 18th July: Discos for all children Reception to Year 5 during the afternoon

class of 2018



Wednesday 18th July: Year 6 Leaver's Disco from 3.15pm to 4.15pm – children to be collected / go home at 4.15pm.

Thursday 19th July: Year 6 Graduation Ceremony at 2pm – not to be missed!

Friday 20th July: Merit / Attendance Awards at 11am – all welcome

Friday 20th July: Assembly for the end of the school year – 2pm – all welcome

Friday 20th July: School closes for Summer Holidays at 3.15pm

Tuesday 4th September: School reopens for Autumn Term at 8.45am

