

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - May 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

Summer Term Newsletter – First Half Term

We hope you enjoyed Easter and the recent Bank Holiday weekend 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 GRATEFUL and GENEROUS.

Grateful: Always being grateful for the blessings we have in our lives – especially the people we love and those who love us. All of the blessings are gifts from God.

Generous: Being generous and showing generosity to others. This can be with the time and care we give one another as well as generous with donations to charitable organisations.



Please donate some flowers for Mary – the Mother of Jesus – special assembly Wednesday 18th May at 2.45pm

On Wednesday 18th 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 Wednesday 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 2.45pm.

Mini Reports – out on Friday 20th 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.

Parent Lessons

We are pleased to be able to invite parents back into school to join in lessons with their child, and to speak to the teacher after the lesson. This term we will be inviting parents in to join an RE lesson. Please look out for the invitation letter and let us know if you would like to attend. It's really important that you complete the form and return it so that we know how many parents to expect.

After School Clubs

The children tell us that they are really enjoying the range of after-school clubs we are currently able to provide, including: dance, cricket, football, and Arts and Crafts. We plan to continue to offer after-school clubs for the remainder of the academic year. Although numbers are limited due to health and safety, we try to give children their first choice of club. 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 by selecting the payment option 'After School Club Voluntary Donations 21-22'.

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

How do I apply?

Online: Using a PC, tablet or phone

<http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/your-council/council-tax-and-benefits/benefits/free-school-meals/>.

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.



**Be In SCHOOL
Be On TIME**

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 dyeing 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.

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

The Summer Get Together (Friday 8th July at 3.30pm) comes at the end of our Brilliant in Britain week, and follows on from the performances on Thursday 7th July. 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 will lots of prizes!



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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Donations</u>
Friday 10 th June	Toiletries – gift sets, bubble bath, hand cream etc – for both men and women!
Friday 17 th June	Cuddly toys, children’s books and games
Friday 24 th June	Chocolate donations
Friday 1 st July	Bottle donations – anything in a bottle!
Friday 7 th July	Tea, coffee, long-life milk, biscuits and cakes

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.



We're having a pool!

We're very excited to announce that we are having a swimming pool! We have been able to secure funding to be able to hire a pool for 6 weeks. The pool will be set up on the bottom playground and we will be able to offer intensive swimming lessons to children during the 6-week period.



The pool comes with its own staff, including a qualified lifeguard and swimming teacher. The swimming pool will have a canopy to protect it from the rain and pop up changing tents for the children! If the hiring of the pool is successful, and we have the funding, it would be something we would like to hire annually which would mean that we are able to offer intensive swimming lessons here at school rather than having to travel to the leisure centre in Dudley!

More details to follow soon!

Sports Days

As you can see from the attached Diary Dates, the Sports Days for Years 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 are in May! Normally, Sports Days are held in July, but we've had to move them to May as the pool will take up the space on the bottom playground throughout the second half of the summer term.

Sports Days will go ahead whatever the weather – we simply come into the hall if the weather is wet! All of the dates and times you need are in the Diary Dates attached to this newsletter.



For Years 1 to 6, - providing the weather is dry - please make your way to the gate at the right of the school building (by Year 6 class / nearest to Hillcrest Road as you look at the front of the school). A member of our team will open the gate approximately 5 minutes before each class' allotted time. If it's raining – come into school via the main front office entrance.

For Nursery and Reception Sports Days – please wait at the gate to the left of the school building (by the staff car park) and a member of our team will be there to meet you approximately 5 minutes before the start time for your child's sports day. Don't forget to bring some sun cream or an umbrella depending on the weather!

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 two most senior leaders in school are **Mrs Chapman (Principal) and Mrs Cheema (Acting 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.

Miss Oakley is our senior teacher – she is also available to help you.

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.

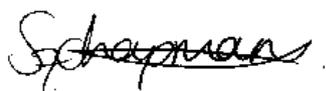
Always see Mrs Chapman or Mrs Cheema if your problem has not been resolved

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 many of you show to us. Unfortunately, there have been a few occasions recently where parents have been a little aggressive to staff both in the office and on the door. Our Academy has a clear policy regarding this and in extreme cases, has the authority to remove permission for adults to enter the site. This is not something we would ever wish to put in place. Even when things may go wrong, please know that all the staff only want the very best for your child/ren. Thanks again for the positive way that the vast majority of parents work with us for the good of the children.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Chapman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Mrs S Chapman, Principal



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Summer Term 2022 Dates

Thursday 12th May – Year 3 First Holy Communion Retreat, parents are welcome from 2.30pm to join us for closing prayers.

Saturday 14th May – First Holy Communion for Year 3 children in church at 10am.

Friday 20th May – Mini Reports will be sent out to parents – a chance to see how your child is doing this term.

WB Monday 23rd May – Anti-bullying, Anti-Racism and Internet Safety Week in school.

Monday 23rd May - Sports Day – Year 1 9.15am, Year 2 10.15am, Year 3 11.15am, Year 4 1.30pm – if it rains we'll still go ahead with activities in the hall – please join us if you can!

Tuesday 24th May - Sports Day – Year 5 1.20pm, Year 6 2.20pm, – if it rains we'll still go ahead with activities in the hall – please join us if you can!

Friday 27th May – Anti-bullying, Anti-Racism and Internet Safety sharing assembly 9.15am – please join us if you can!

Wednesday 8th June – Reception and Year 6 whole class photos.

Thursday 9th June – Years 1-6 Dog Trust Workshop during the day for children – How to be Safe around Dogs.

Thursday 16th June – Whole School Retreat Day – a day of reflection and time to be with Jesus.

Wednesday 29th June – Year 6 Confirmation Retreat Day, parents are welcome from 2.30pm to join us for closing prayers.

WB 4th July – Brilliant in Britain Week, Learning about other faiths and Ten:Ten (RHSE Curriculum) Module 3.

Thursday 7th July – Jubilee Celebration - Nursery, Reception, Years 1 & 2 performances from 9.15am, Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 performances from 2.15pm – please join us if you can!

Friday 8th July – Summer Get Together from 3.30pm – teddy tombola, chocolate tombola, bottle tombola, raffles and more!

Monday 11th July – End of year School Reports to be sent out to parents.

Wednesday 13th July – Sports Day – Nursery AM 10.30am, Reception 9.15am and Nursery PM 2.00pm – if it rains we'll still go ahead with activities in the hall – please join us if you can!

Thursday 14th July – Year 6 Confirmation in Church at 6.30pm.

Monday 18th July – Parents Evening – in school.

Monday 18th July – Disco and party day in school.

Tuesday 19th July – Year 6 Leavers Mass at 9.15am and Year 6 Graduation at 2.00pm – not to be missed! Please join us if you can!

Wednesday 20th July – End of Year celebration assembly 9.15am – all welcome!