

Autumn First Half Term Newsletter

Dear parents,

The Autumn Term is now in full swing and we hope your child has settled in well to school if they have joined us for the first time in Nursery and Reception and we hope that all of the children who have returned back to us after the holidays are settling into their new classes. This newsletter gives you some important information for the half term ahead of us. Also with this newsletter, as a handy separate document that you can keep near your calendar – please take a look at the ‘Diary Dates’ Please check especially the dates of the Christmas Nativity performances in case you need to arrange any time of work. It’ll be here before we know it!

Our Values for this half term

Our values this half term are **Compassionate and Loving**. **Compassionate** towards others in all that we do – showing sympathy, empathy, tolerance, understanding, kindness and forgiveness. **Loving** towards all that we encounter, with our families and those we know as well as those we don’t know. Showing the love of Jesus in all that we do and say. These values are set by the Archdiocese and all Catholic Primary Schools in the Archdiocese focus on the same set of values, which are changed each half term. The values are drawn from the Catholic Schools Pupil Profile, which is on display throughout the school and in the main lobby area by the offices.



A God Who Speak Scripture for this half term

“In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God”. John 1:1. This piece of scripture reminds us of our every present God, A God who was there in the very beginning to create and shape the beautiful world we live in.

Rest in Peace your Majesty



Like many people all over Great Britain and the Commonwealth, we were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. During our time in school we have learned lots about the Queen, her life, her family and the important role she was called to undertake – to serve God and serve her people. We have already held a special assembly where we remembered the great service of the Queen. To mark this time of mourning, we will be praying for the repose of her soul and the family members who are left behind along with creating a whole school book of condolence so children can share their thoughts and feelings about the Queen.

Eternal rest, grant onto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

Bank Holiday – School is closed

The Queen’s funeral has been set for Monday 19th September. This date has been declared as a bank holiday and school will be closed.

Welcome and congratulations!

We would like to welcome Mrs Virk who is our new Academy Operations Manager – working between St Joseph’s and St Chad’s Catholic Primary Schools. You will see Mrs Virk working in the school office so please pop and say hello!

Congratulations to Miss Link – now Mrs Boyle – who got married over the holidays! We wish both Mr and Mrs Boyle a very long and happy life together.

Safeguarding: Keeping Children Safe

Our school is committed to safeguarding and safe practices and you can read our policy on our website. The designated safeguarding lead is myself, Mrs Chapman and Mrs Cheema, Miss Oakley and Mrs Buckley are the deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. If you are concerned about your own your child or any other child, please speak to one of our safeguarding leads straight away.



Our School Kitchen

Following a lot of building work during the 6 weeks holiday our school kitchen is now ready and able to serve hot food at lunchtimes. We are so excited that we are able to cook on-site and offer the children fresh, hot food of a high quality! Please remember that all children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 are entitled to a free school meal each day!

Pupil Premium – you can help us access precious extra funding – very easily!

Please apply for free school meals if you are on a low income and / or receive benefits. As well as receiving a free school meal or sandwich every day (if you choose to take it), you will generate significant funding for our school for many years to come – funding that is all spent on better provision for the children.

Please visit <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/benefits/free-school-meals/> for full details and to apply instantly online.

Come and say hello!

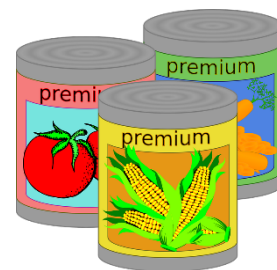


During the year we offer various opportunities to let you know how your child is doing in school. This includes a termly parents evening (where you can come into school, meet with your child's teacher and see your child's books), Mini-Reports (a one-page report which shows you how well your child is progressing and achieving) and a longer report in the Summer Term. In addition to this we are holding a 'meet and greet' session for parents of children in Years 1 to 6 on **Wednesday 21st September 3.30-4.15pm** where parents can come into school to meet their child's teacher. The teacher will prepare a short presentation about the academic year ahead and what to expect and then there is an opportunity to ask any questions and have a chat to the teacher -please join us if you can!

Please donate a tin of food or a few tins of food for our Harvest Mass

We'll celebrate Harvest mass on Tuesday 27th September and will be collecting tins of food for the Good Shepherd Shelter in Wolverhampton. The Good Shepherd serve the poor and homeless of the local area and your donations help some of the most needy and vulnerable in our community.

Please send your tins of food in to school on Monday 26th September so that we can put all of the donations on display ready for Mass on Tuesday morning.



Thanks so much for your support.

Mission, Values, Vocation and Prayer Week and Module One of Life to the Full– WB Monday 26th September 2022

This is a special focus week in school where the children learn even more about the importance of our school Mission, our school values, the importance of listening to the type of person Jesus is calling us to be (vocation) and the importance of prayer in our lives and the lives of others.

During this week we will also be teaching Module One of our Relationships, Health and Sex Education Programme – Life to the Full. 'Life to the Full' is a Catholic Relationships, Health and Sex Education programme approved by the Archdiocese of Birmingham and published by Ten Ten Resources.

We will always let you know when sexual intimacy is going to be taught in Year 6 and if you wish to you have the option to withdraw your child from the lesson. **This is being taught in Year 6 during the week beginning 26th September 2022. Please let Mrs Cheema know if your child is in Year 6 and you wish to withdraw from the Sexual Intimacy lesson by Monday 26th September 8.30am.**

However, we would encourage you to think carefully before doing this as the programme is carefully designed from the point of view of Catholic beliefs and teachings and is mapped to the DfE guidance and Catholic Education Service guidance.

We would also like to let you know that all of the programme content can be viewed by parents in the parent portal where there are also suggested home activities should you wish to support the programme at home.

The Life to the Full Parent Portal Login details for St Joseph's are:

Go to: www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/

Username: st-josephs-dy2

Password: wood-2

Attendance and Punctuality



Attendance at school is mandatory by law. Any one of us can be running late from time to time for good reasons, but children must ordinarily arrive at school at the correct start time and as per school registration rules, they will be marked late if they arrive after the start time. We reserve the right to monitor persistent lateness and this will be recorded as unauthorised absence, which can ultimately lead to intervention from the Education Investigation Service, and possible penalties. Please support regular attendance and regular good timekeeping. Thank you for your support.

Cakes and sweets for children's birthdays – food allergies and including

We have a number of children in school with food allergies. When parents and carers generously send in birthday cakes or sweets not all children can accept the gifts because of food allergies. This means that the school is finding alternatives – sometimes involving staff having to go off site to the shops to find suitable replacements. Sadly, this isn't always practical so it is safest that we ask you not to send in cakes or sweets for children's birthdays because of the difficulties we experience in ensuring everyone's food allergies are met. We're really sorry to have to make this restriction but we hope you'll appreciate that ensuring everyone is kept safe has to be our priority.



Choking Hazards – grapes, tomatoes and similar small fruit – please chop into pieces before sending to school.

Small fruits such as grapes and cherry tomatoes present a serious choking hazard if they are swallowed whole. If you are sending your child to school with small fruits like this, please make sure they have been chopped into small pieces. All small fruit that is served at school is chopped so that it presents less of a choking hazard.

Nut Free School



Children may have nut allergies without parents yet being aware. In order to maintain as safe an environment as possible St Joseph's is a nut-free school. Please can we ask that you don't send your child to school with nuts to eat or with any nut-rich products such as Nutella or peanut butter. Chocolate spread without nuts is a safer alternative.

Healthy Playtime Snacks and healthy lunchboxes

Please can we ask you to only send healthy snacks for playtimes and lunchtimes. For playtime a piece of fruit is ideal, though a biscuit, very small chocolate bar or small bag of low-fat content crisps is also acceptable. Big bags of crisps, high sugar snacks or big chocolate bars are not healthy snacks and are not suitable for playtimes. We don't want to 'ban' any foods in moderation but we do need to ask you to keep a close eye on playtime snacks and help us to make sure all snacks are as healthy as possible.

Similarly, at lunchtimes, please can we ask you to ensure lunchboxes don't contain big bags of crisps, big chocolate bars or any other high fat or high sugar products. A small bag of lower fat crisps, a biscuit or a very small chocolate are acceptable – but please try to keep high fat or high sugar foods to healthy levels.



We want the children to be able to enjoy a balanced diet and we feel that 'banning' any foods is at odds with making healthy choices. We would much rather help the children understand how to enjoy 'everything in moderation' and encourage them to make healthy choices wherever possible, enjoying treats in moderation. Thank you for supporting us.

Please do not bring in hot food for children at lunchtime

As we now have a working kitchen we have to be even more strict with health and hygiene procedures. A number of very well-meaning parents have been bringing in hot food for their children to eat at lunchtime. From Tuesday 20th September this is no longer allowed. We understand that parents mean no harm, but bringing in hot food means that Mrs Mich in the office has to find the children and deliver the food, which takes her away from the office and other children can get upset if their parents haven't brought food in for them too. Please do not bring in hot food for children at lunchtime – we appreciate your understanding.

We are here to help you – keep in touch

The learning, safety and happiness of your child/ren are our top priority – that is why we are all here. We try our best to be the most effective school we can be but it is inevitable that things will go wrong from time to time. The important thing is that you know we will always try our best to sort out any problems or difficulties as quickly as possible. Everyone is on hand to help you. You can see your child's teacher after school and you can always leave a message for them as well. Mrs Chapman (Principal) will always try to see you immediately – never hesitate to come and see me. The Assistant Principals are Mrs Cheema (Year 6 Teacher) and Mrs Buckley (Year 4 Teacher) who are both also available to help you as is Mrs Oakley (EYFS Leader and SENCO) our Senior Teacher.

It is very important if you have any worries or niggles – however small – to let us know straight away. We will do everything we can to help and we have an excellent track record of being able to sort things out. Never let anything fester – it's always best to sort things out and it's our pleasure to help you. All you ever have to do is LET US KNOW!

Parentview

For those parents of children who have returned to Year 1 or above – we need your help! Many of you kindly submitted reviews of the school on Parentview last year – thank you so much. We now need to ask you to complete another review as all reviews are archived after 365 days. We really need to attract some new reviews to give OFSTED an accurate picture of our school. All we ever ask with Parentview is that if you have a problem – please

LET US KNOW FIRST SO WE CAN TRY TO SORT THINGS OUT! Obviously, if you are happy with the work of the school – we would really appreciate it if you could share your views with OFSTED via PARENTVIEW. **THANKS SO MUCH!**
www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

We very much look forward to working with you this half term and we look forward to seeing you in and around school. As always, you only have to ask if we can be of any help and never forget we are here to help you if you need us. The head and deputy are the most senior staff in the school and will always do their very best to help resolve any problems or worries – come and see us!

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs S Chapman
Principal

Dates for the Diary!

Monday 19th September – Bank Holiday for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's funeral – school is closed.

Tuesday 20th September – Year 5 to lead Mass at 9.15am – join us if you can!

Wednesday 21st September – Meet the teacher for parents with children in Years 1-6. - 3.30-4.15pm

Friday 23rd September – Year 2's assembly at 9.15am – join us if you can!

WB Monday 26th September – MVVP and Module One of Ten:Ten (see newsletter)

Monday 26th September – please send in tins of food for our Harvest Mass to go to the Good Shepherd in Wolverhampton.

Tuesday 27th September - Year 4 to lead Harvest Mass at 9.15am – join us if you can!

Sunday 1st October – October begins, one of the months, along with May, we dedicate to Our Lady.

Tuesday 4th October - Year 2 to lead Mass at 9.15am – join us if you can!

Friday 7th October – CAFOD Harvest Fast Day – children to give up their playtime snack and make a donation, of whatever you can afford, to support CAFOD.

Sunday 9th October – Please join us for our School Parish Mass in Our Blessed Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury Church at 11.00am – everyone welcome!

Tuesday 11th October - Year 3 to lead Mass at 9.15am – join us if you can!

Friday 14th October - Year 6's assembly at 9.15am – join us if you can!

WB Monday 17th October – Black History Month focus week in school

Monday 17th October – Parents Evening – in school

Tuesday 18th October - Year 1 to lead Mass at 9.15am – join us if you can!

Wednesday 19th October – Individual photos in school

Thursday 20th October – school closes for half term at 3.15pm

Monday 31st October – School re-opens at 8.45am

Tuesday 1st November - Year 6 to lead Mass at 9.15am – join us if you can!

Tuesday 8th November - Year 5 to lead Mass at 9.15am – join us if you can!

Friday 11th November – please donate gifts and toiletries for our Christmas Fair

WB Monday 14th November – Anti-Bullying Week – the theme is Reach Out!

Monday 14th December – Carol Service in Church 5:30pm

Tuesday 15th November - Year 4 to lead Mass at 9.15am – join us if you can!

Friday 18th November - Year 5's assembly at 9.15am – join us if you can!

Friday 18th November – please donate toys and games for our Christmas Fair

Tuesday 22nd November - Year 3 to lead Mass at 9.15am – join us if you can!

Friday 25th November – please donate chocolate and sweets

Sunday 27th November – Advent begins

Tuesday 29th November - Year 2 to lead Mass at 9.15am – join us if you can!

Friday 2nd December – please donate bottles of pop, wine, beer, squash, bubble bath etc for our Christmas Fair

Tuesday 6th December - Year 1 to lead Mass at 9.15am – join us if you can!

Wednesday 7th December – KS1 Christmas Play performances – 9.30am and 2pm

Thursday 8th December – KS2 Christmas Play Performances – 9.30am and 2 pm

Friday 9th December – please donate tea, coffee, sugar, long life milk etc for our Christmas Fair.

Friday 9th December – Christmas Fair starting at 3.30pm

Monday 12th December – Nursery AM and Reception class Christmas Play performance 10.45am

Monday 12th December – Nursery PM and Reception class Christmas Play performance 2.20pm

Tuesday 13th December - Year 6 to lead Mass at 9.15am – join us if you can!

Wednesday 14th December – Christmas Dinner.

Thursday 15th December – Party Day – children to wear own clothes to school

Friday 16th December – School closes for Christmas at 3.15pm