

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and Welcome back to school!



First of all, I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and I hope that you and your family enjoyed a peaceful Christmas break. Thank you so much for the many cards and gifts which were sent in for staff before Christmas. Your generosity is never expected and is very kind – thank you.

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 child or any other child, please speak to one of our safeguarding leads straight away.

Our values this half term are Active and Curious

ELOQUENT: in our school, community, parish & home life in the way in which we speak to and about Jesus

TRUTHFUL: in what we say and speak about in all aspects of our daily lives.

The God Who Speaks

The focus piece of scripture for this half term is Luke 2:32. The scripture reminds us all that God sent his Son into the world to show us the way and that we should do all we can to follow Jesus' teachings in our daily lives.

"Here is the light you will reveal to the nations"

Luke 2:32



Donations for Refresh Food Bank in Dudley

Thank you for your continued support of the Refresh Food Bank in Dudley. Our Mini Vinnies are regularly visiting the food bank to learn more about their work and how they help people along with taking our donations.

Please, if you can, continue to send donations in to school for the Foodbank our collection 'bin' is at the front of the school by the school office, this is very much appreciated – thank you.

Please support us in maintaining our high uniform standards

Please ensure that children come to school in the correct uniform. Earrings (even covered with plasters), trainers, hair shavings and leggings with skirts are **not allowed**. Please see the uniform guide below taken from our school website.

Boys

Royal Blue St Joseph's pique polo shirt: either plain Royal Blue jumper or Royal Blue St Joseph's sweat-shirt: grey trousers. Sensible black shoes

Summer Alternative: Knee length grey shorts, sensible shoes (no flipflop sandals)

Girls

Royal Blue St Joseph's pique polo shirt: either plain Royal Blue jumper or Royal Blue St Joseph's sweat-shirt: grey skirt/grey uniform trousers. Sensible black shoes.

Summer Alternative: Blue Gingham dress: either plain Royal Blue jumper/cardigan or Royal Blue St Joseph's sweatshirt, OR knee length grey shorts. Sensible, flat-heel shoes. (no flip-flop sandals)

PE Kit

All children should have: Plain black shorts: a plain white T-shirt and a pair of pumps: all kept in a PE bag.

Children are welcome to bring tracksuit bottoms and tracksuit tops for outdoor PE during the cooler weather.

Trainers, boots or fashion shoes are not allowed.

Hair Styles and Nail Varnish

Hair shaving and sculpting (e.g. tram lines, ticks and other shavings) are not allowed. Hairstyles must be smart and neat. Use of gels or styling products should be minimal. For safety reasons all long hair (boys and girls) must be tied back at all times. Highlights, dyeing and colouring of hair is not allowed.

Nail varnish is not allowed.

Jewellery

As a safety precaution and to prevent accidents during PE and other activities, the wearing of any item of jewellery in Nursery or Main School is strictly forbidden without exception.

Attendance and Punctuality



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 unauthorise 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.

Sacramental Preparation

Catholic children from **Year 3** will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion later this term. As part of the preparation there will be meetings for parents to attend. Once these dates have been finalised with Fr Louis we will let parents know.



Catholic children from **Year 6** will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Summer Term, the Bishop, Bishop Stephen Wright has confirmed the date of Wednesday 12th July at 6.30pm in Our Blessed Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Dudley. Details of the meeting for parents will follow in due course.

The importance of Reading!

We are working to actively encourage all of the children to read more regularly and complete Maths tasks beyond the classroom!

On the playground we have a Reading Shed where, during lunchtimes and playtimes outside, children can access a wide range of reading material. So far, the children are really enjoying the opportunity to share books with their friends and read together. At the front of the school, underneath the shelter, we have a Book Exchange, this is where children can freely take books home, read them, share them and return them for others to enjoy. If you have any books at home which are no longer used we would be very grateful for any donations!



We continue to operate our Library Service for children in KS1 and KS2 where they can visit our library once a fortnight and choose either a fiction or non-fiction book to take home and share with an adult!

We continue to hear all of the children read in school at least once each week and are very grateful to parents who are able to hear children read at home too – thank you!

Don't forget Maths!



As well as reading we are encouraging the children to take part in additional Maths activities too! Knowing number bonds (e.g. number bonds to 10, 1 + 9, 2 + 8 etc and numbers bonds to 20, 1 + 19, 2 + 18 etc) and times tables REALLY helps children as they advance through the maths curriculum. We have a subscription to Numbots and Times Tables Rockstars which is an online platform which children can use to complete activities to deepen their knowledge of number bonds and timetables. We have a weekly competition within school and the class which collectively spends the most time on the programme gets an extra playtime! **If you have lost your child's**

login please ask your child's class teacher who can provide you with login details!

Events in school

Please find attached a list of dates for the term ahead. Class teachers will also be letting you know dates for Parent Workshops where you have the opportunity to come into school and take part in a lesson with your child – the focus this term is English.

Don't forget that we have Mass in school every Tuesday at 9.15am and Merit Assembly each Friday at 9.15am too where everyone is welcome to join us.

Parent Questionnaire

We are keen to listen to the views and thoughts of parents and carers, all we ever ask is that if there are any problems or concerns that you speak to us in school so that we can work together to put things right.

A link to an online survey is being sent out to parents, we would be very grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete the form before 24th January 2023 – thank you so much.

Keep in touch

Your parental satisfaction and the progress, safety and happiness of your child is the top priority for the school. We try hard to do the best we can in all areas but we know that things can and do go wrong. What is important is the way these problems are sorted out. Never, ever hesitate to get in touch for help with any matter however small it may seem. You can speak to staff on the door in the morning or you can call the office. Teachers will always call you back and I can usually speak to you straight away. If for any reason we can't get to you immediately we will always ring you back as soon as we possibly can. Never hesitate to make contact – most things can be resolved and the sooner we know about your concerns – the sooner we can address them.

Take care,



Mrs S Chapman
Principal