



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.

Thank you for following our uniform policy by sending children back to school in the correct uniform and following the rules for jewellery (especially not wearing earrings) and hairstyles. The children all look very smart!

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 for this half term are Curious and Active. Curious: Curious about the life of Jesus and finding out more about his life and teachings. Active: Putting our faith into actions – actions speak louder than words!



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.

### 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, Mrs Buckley, Miss Oakley and Mrs Hickman 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 Safeguarding Procedures at St Joseph’s

We take our duty to keep all of our children safe very seriously. We comply fully with the standards expected by Dudley Safeguarding Children Board and Dudley Children’s Services.

Safeguarding Children is a very serious responsibility and at St Joseph’s we are committed to following the

procedures correctly all of the time. We realise that this will sometimes involve upsetting parents in order to ensure the child is safe. We hope that this letter makes it clear why we follow the procedures but also assure

you that as a school we are also committed to treating everyone with dignity and respect. We will never make

judgements and we will always treat the matter with the strictest confidence involving the absolute minimum number of school staff. Your confidentiality and dignity will be maintained at all times.



### Harvest Mass



Year 2 will be leading our Harvest Mass on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October in school at 9.15am. This is an opportunity to share what we have with our brothers and sisters by donating tins of food which we will donate to the Good Shepherd Appeal in Wolverhampton. **Please donate what you can on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October** so we can create a Harvest display in school ready for Mass on Tuesday. Thank you.

### 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.

## Catholic Social Teaching and British Values

Throughout the curriculum and beyond children learn about the 7 principles of Catholic Social Teaching - Working in Solidarity, Care for Creation, Community & Participation, Dignity of Workers, Help for the Poor & Vulnerable, Human Dignity & Solidarity and how they link to British Values – Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Respect & Tolerance.



## St Joseph's Way – See our weboste for more details

At St. Joseph's we develop children's character through the 'St. Joseph's Way' curriculum. In order to build character, we define the behaviours and habits that we expect students to demonstrate. We want to support our pupils to grow into adults who are polite, respectful, grateful and who put others before themselves. We believe that, as pupils practise these behaviours over time, they become habits that positively shape how they feel about themselves and how other people perceive them. As philosopher Will Durant states, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." (1926)

## Mission, Values, Vocation and Prayer Week and Module One of Life to the Full– WB Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023

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 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024. Please let Mrs Cheema know if your child is in Year 6 and you wish to withdraw from the Sexual Intimacy lesson by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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/](http://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/)

**Username:** st-josephs-dy2

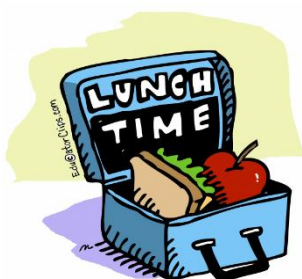
**Password:** wood-2

## 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.



## 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.

### **Mrs Hickman – SENCO Support**

Mrs Hickman, our Year 4 teacher is also our School SENCO – supporting children with additional needs. Mrs Hickman regularly meets parents and holds meetings with lots of other professionals to ensure that children with additional needs have their needs met as much as possible by our mainstream school. If you have any worries about your child and would like any advice or support Mrs Hickman is available to speak to first thing every Wednesday morning – no need to book, just let the school Office know you want a chat.

### **Coffee Morning**

We will be hosting a MacMillian coffee morning on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September** to raise money MacMillian Cancer Support. Please join us from 9am for a coffee and a slice of cake! If you are able to we would appreciate any donations of cakes for the event – please send them in on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September if you are able – thank you for your support.



### **Mental Health Awareness – wear yellow on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October**



Each half-term as part of our St Joseph's Way Curriculum we focus on a different life skill. This has included, using cutlery correctly and tying shoelaces. This half term we are focusing on mindfulness and mental health. As part of our focus this term we are taking part in Mental Health Awareness day and are invited children to wear yellow to school. Children can wear one item or more of yellow clothing, or their own clothes if they don't have anything yellow to wear. We are requesting a donation, if possible, towards the young mind's charity. Thank you for your support.

### **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 Hickman (Year 5 Teacher & SENCO).

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](http://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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Chapman'.

**Mrs S Chapman  
Principal**

## Dates for the Autumn Term 2024

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September – Year 2 celebrate their class saint and can wear their own clothes to school.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September – Year 5 lead Mass at 9.15am, please join us if you can.

WB Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Mission, Vocation, Values and Prayer Week.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September - Year 4 lead Mass at 9.15am, please join us if you can.

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September – Macmillian Coffee Morning at 9am – please join us if you can.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September - Year 6 celebrate their class saint and can wear their own clothes to school.

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October - Year 1 celebrate their class saint and can wear their own clothes to school.

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October – No Mass in school due to Fr Louis' Parish commitments.

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October – Wear yellow to support Mental Health Awareness Day.

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October - Reception class vision screening.

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October – Year 4's Assembly at 9.15am, please join us if you can.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Flu Vaccinations – more details to follow soon.



Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Please donate a tin of food for our Harvest Mass.

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October - Year 2 lead Harvest Mass at 9.15am, please join us if you can.

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October – Year 6's assembly at 9,15am, please join us if you can.

WB Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Black History Week in school.

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October - Year 1 lead Mass at 9.15am, please join us if you can.

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Individual and sibling photographs.

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October – School Closed for children.

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November – School closed for Half Term.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November - Year 6 lead Mass at 9.15am, please join us if you can.

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Year 4 celebrate their class saint and can wear their own clothes to school.

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Antibullying, Anti-racism and Internet Safety Week in school.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November - Year 5 lead Mass at 9.15am, please join us if you can.

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November – Year 5's Assembly at 9.15am, please join us if you can.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November - Year 4 lead Mass at 9.15am, please join us if you can.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November – School closed to children.

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November - Year 3 lead Mass at 9.15am, please join us if you can.

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December – The Holy season of Advent begins.

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December - Year 2 lead Mass at 9.15am, please join us if you can.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Year 1 lead Mass at 9.15am, please join us if you can.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Get Together after school.



*Advent begins*

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December – EYFS (Nursery and Reception) – Nativity Play at 2.15pm.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Carol Concert at 5pm.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Year 6 lead Mass at 9.15am, please join us if you can.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – KS1 Nativity Play – 2pm.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Year 3 to share the Annunciation and Visitation at 9.15am.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Year 4 to share the Birth of Christ at 2.15pm.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Year 5 to share the story of the Shepherds at 9.15am.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Year 6 to share the story of the Wisemen at 2.15pm.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Carols and readings around the tree at 2.30pm.

