



Spring Term 1 Newsletter



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, Mrs Buckley and Mrs Hickman 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.



Congratulations to Mrs and Mr Boyle

We would like to share the wonderful news that, even though he arrived a little early, Mrs Boyle has given birth to a baby boy over the Christmas break! Both Mrs Boyle and baby are doing very well and we're keeping all the family in our prayers. Miss Newey remains in Nursery for the rest of the year to ensure the children have consistency and stability. We will also have the support of nursery teachers and Miss Marsh the EYFS Leader.



Our values this half term are Compassionate and Loving

COMPASSIONATE: Having sympathy and empathy for other people, thinking about others near and far, especially the less fortunate.

LOVING: Showing Christ-like love for all others, even when this is difficult to do, thinking of others, acting with fairness and equality, being just and showing true forgiveness in the ways of Jesus.

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.

Behaviour – The St Joseph's Way

Our Behaviour Curriculum – The St Joseph's Way – can be viewed on our website and outlines all of our behaviour principals and how we teach these to children. This has been shared with all of the children collectively and in each class by the class teacher.



With the older children (Years 5 and 6) the behaviour principals will help them in their transition to secondary school, especially if they are moving to a secondary school within our MAC, because as a group of schools we have worked on common themes. We have been talking to the children about the link between behaviour and our values, e.g. telling the truth and not changing the version of events when talking to different staff in school and then at home, along with Catholic Social Teachings where we have to respect the rights of everyone by following the rules and taking responsibility for our own actions and behaviour. We are also working with children to help them understand that following rules is something we all have to do, as children and as adults as rules are made to keep everyone safe and happy.

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. The Children's Commissioner has produced some excellent resources related to attendance which we will

be sharing in school. One important point to note from the Children's Commissioner is that – ***'if you miss 30 minutes of school a day this amounts to 19 days lost each year.'***

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/back-into-school/resources-for-children-and-young-people/>

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, Canon Paul McNally has confirmed the date of Thursday 11th July at 6.00pm in Our Blessed Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Dudley. Details of the meeting for parents will follow in due course.

Christmas 2024 – it's never too early!

The Nativity plays of 2023 were lovely and we were very proud of all the children. However there will be some changes for Christmas this year.

It has been a 25 year plus tradition that Year 6 take on the main acting parts for the KS2 Christmas play due to the demands of the Key Stage Two curriculum and the time it takes to rehearse a play. With the demands of the National Curriculum being higher than ever we have had to re-think our approach for next Christmas. Each class in KS2 will take an aspect of the Nativity e.g. The Annunciation and prepare a small presentation of the event – similar to the way we share the events of Holy Week before we break up for Easter. This will then be shared with parents during December 2024. EYFS and KS1 will still prepare and share the whole Nativity story and the whole Nativity will be acted alongside readings either in Church or at school during one evening performance.

Each of the performances, EYFS, KS1 and KS2 will be performed once and the dates will be shared early in September so parents have plenty of time to arrange time to come and enjoy the performances.



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. Prayer and Liturgy each Friday at 9.15am too where everyone is welcome to join us.

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

Spring Term 1 Dates 2024



- Tuesday 16th January – Year 3's Mass – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Tuesday 23rd January – Year 2's Mass – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Friday 26th January – Year 3's Assembly – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- WB Monday 29th January – Brilliant in Britain Week and Ten:Ten Module 2
- Tuesday 30th January – Year 1's Mass – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Friday 2nd February – Year 2's Assembly – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Monday 5th February – Parent's Evening – appointment letter to follow.
- Tuesday 6th February – Year 6's Mass – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
 - Thursday 8th February – Trinity Club for parents at 9.15am.
- Friday 9th February -Creation Guardians to lead Prayer and Liturgy at 9.15am and Whole School Poetry Recital, please join us if you can.

MONDAY 12th – FRIDAY 16th FEBRUARY HALF-TERM

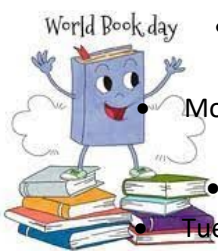
FEBRUARY HALF TERM

- Wednesday 14th February – Ash Wednesday – Lent Begins.
- Tuesday 20th February – Year 5's Mass – 9.15am, join us if you can.



School
Closed
For
Teacher
Training

THURSDAY 22nd FEBRUARY – INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS.



- Tuesday 27th February – Year 4's Mass – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Friday 1st March – Year 6's Assembly – 9.15, please join us if you can.
- Monday 4th March – RISE Theatre in school all day to work with all children.
- Thursday 7th March – Trinity Club for parents at 9.15am and World Book Day
- Friday 8th March – Reception's Assembly – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Tuesday 12th March – Year 2's Mass – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Friday 15th March – B-Tales in school to share their Easter Production.
 - Monday 18th March – Mini Reports to go home to parents.
- Monday 18th March – Year 3 Palm Sunday Liturgy 2.30pm, please join us if you can.
 - Monday 18th March – Lenten Service in Church at 5pm.
- Tuesday 19th March – Year 1's Mass – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Tuesday 19th March – Year 4's Last Supper Liturgy 2.30pm, please join us if you can.
 - Wednesday 20th March – Whole School Lent Retreat.
- Thursday 21st March – Year 5's Agony in the Garden Liturgy 2.30pm, please join us if you can.
- Friday 22nd March – Year 6's Stations of the Cross Liturgy 2.15pm, please join us if you can.



FRIDAY 22nd MARCH 3.15pm SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR THE EASTER BREAK.



EASTER BREAK

