



Dear Parents and Carers,

Summer Term Newsletter – First Half Term

We hope you enjoyed Easter and, as always, it’s been our great pleasure to welcome all 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 ELOQUENT and TRUTHFUL.

The children are learning to be ELOQUENT in the way they speak about their faith, their love of God, and the way they speak about themselves, others, and the world that God created.

They are learning to be TRUTHFUL and honest in all that they do, learning how to remain true to God’s teachings even when this is very difficult to do.

Please donate some flowers for Mary – the Mother of Jesus – special assembly Wednesday 22nd May



On Wednesday 22nd 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 **2.30pm**.

Children Using Social Media

Recently there has been a big increase in the amount of issues school are tasked with dealing with related to children’s use of social media outside of school. This includes, messages in groups or to individuals, distribution of images without consent and inappropriate language. Parent controls on devices at home are so very important in safeguarding children and keeping them safe. At school we have robust filtering and monitoring procedures in place but obviously these do not extend to children at home on their own devices. As a school, we recommend that as part of parental responsibility parents are regularly checking their child’s phone to ensure that they are keeping safe. If any inappropriate material / content is discovered we strongly recommend that parents contact 101 or NSPCC for immediate advice.

The NSPCC website has lots of useful material for parents including videos and reading material to help support parents in keeping their children safe online and what to do to report a concern.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/#guides>

Below is a list of popular social media apps / sites and their age limits for your information. As you can see all of the apps have age ratings higher than Primary aged children.

OpenView Education
TRAINING THROUGH THEATRE

APPS AND THEIR AGE RATINGS

13+		16+	
Facebook	Snapchat	WhatsApp	
Instagram	Twitter	17+	18+
TikTok	Kik		
YouNow	Yubo	Sarahah	MeetMe
House Party	Monkey	YOLO	LiveMe

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.

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



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.

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.

Food and drink in school

Cakes and sweets for children's birthdays – food allergies



We have a number of children in school with severe 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.

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.

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 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 low-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.

Attendance Register times change

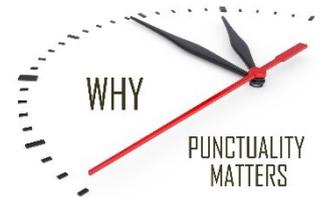
After our most recent attendance review meeting, we are going to change the time of registers closing to 9:15am instead of 9:30am and it will take an effect from Monday 22nd April.

Our gates open at 8:45am, registers will open at 8:50am and close at 9am.

Your child will receive a late mark (**L**) if they are not present in the class at 9am and arrive to school before 9:15am.

In accordance with statutory regulations, and the SJBCA Attendance Policy, if your child arrives to school after 9:15am, they will receive a **U** mark on school register which shows them to be on site but will not count as a present mark and it will bring their attendance down.

If this problem persists, you may face the possibility of a Penalty Notice.



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.

Skills for Life

When children arrive in the morning there is always an activity planned and ready for them, including reading, phonics / timetable activities, spellings etc. In addition to educational based activities we are teaching skills which children need in everyday situations. This half term our focus is on table manners and teaching children how to use a knife and fork correctly. We are practising with the children in school – all children up to and including Year 6! If you can, please encourage your child to share their learning and practise with you at home!

Brilliant in Britain Week and Module Three of Life to the Full– WB Monday 1st July 2024

This is a special focus week in school where the children learn even more about Fundamental British Values and the various different faiths that people in Britain have.

During this week we will also be teaching Module Three 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 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

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

The Summer Get Together (Friday 5th July at 3.30pm). 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!

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 most senior leaders in school are **Mrs Chapman (Principal) Mrs Cheema (Assistant Principal) and Mrs Buckley (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.

Mrs Hickman is our SENCO – she is also available to help you and will be your primary contact to discuss any additional needs your child may have.

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.

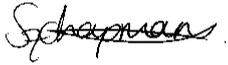
Always see Mrs Chapman Mrs Cheema or Mrs Buckley if your problem has not been resolved

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 you show to us.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S. Chapman".

Mrs S Chapman, Principal

Summer Term Dates

Tuesday 23rd April – Year 5's Mass – 9.15am, please join us if you can!

Tuesday 30th April – Year 2's Mass– 9.15am, please join us if you can!

Wednesday 1st May – Year 3's FHC Retreat Day – please join us at 2.30pm for closing prayers if you can!

Monday 6th May – Bank Holiday – School closed

Tuesday 7th May – Year 1's Mass– 9.15am, please join us if you can!

Tuesday 7th May – Year 3 children to receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation after Mass (approx. 10.30am) – please join us if you can!

WB – Monday 13th May – Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) Week for Year 6 children.

Saturday 18th May – First Holy Communion in Church at 10.00am

WB Monday 20th May – Celebration of Prayer and Faith Week in School.

Tuesday 21st May – Year 3's First Holy Communion Celebration Mass– 9.15am, please join us if you can!



Wednesday 22nd May – Assembly for Our Lady – 2.30pm – please join us if you can.

Friday 24th May – Celebration of Prayer and Faith performances – Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2 – 9.15am, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 2.15pm – please join us if you can!

WB Monday 27th May – Half term – School closed

Tuesday 4th June – Year 6 Mass– 9.15am, please join us if you can!

Friday 7th June – Please donate chocolate and sweets for our Summer Get Together

Tuesday 11th June – Year 5's Mass – 9.15am, please join us if you can!

Tuesday 11th June – Year 6 Confirmation Retreat Day – please join us at 2.30pm for closing prayers if you can!

Friday 14th June – Please donate any bottles for our Summer Get Together

Tuesday 18th June – Year 4's Mass – 9.15am – please join us if you can!

Friday 21st June – Please donate cuddly toys and games for our Summer Get Together

Tuesday 25th June – Year 3's Mass – 9.15am – please join us if you can!

Friday 28th June – Please donate gifts and toiletries for our Summer Get Together

Friday 28th June – Year 4's assembly – 9.15am – please join us if you can!

WB Monday 1st July – Brilliant in Britain Week

Monday 1st July – 10.30am Sports day for Year 4, 1.30pm Sports Day for Year 2

Tuesday 2nd July – Year 2's Mass – 9.15am – please join us if you can!

Thursday 4th July – 9.15am – Year 3's Sports Day, 10.15am Year 1's Sports Day, 11.15am Year 5's Sports Day and 1.30pm Year 6's Sports Day.



Friday 5th July - Friday 7th June – Please donate tea, coffee, biscuits, long life milk etc for our Summer Get Together

Friday 5th July – Summer Get Together 3.15pm after school – please join us if you can!

Tuesday 9th July – Year 1's Mass – 9.15am – please join us if you can!

Tuesday 9th July – Year 6 Reconciliation after Mass (approx 10.30am)

Wednesday 10th July – Reception Sports Day 9.15am, Morning Nursery's Sports Day 10.30am and Afternoon Nursery's Sports Day 1.30pm

Thursday 11th July – Confirmation for Year 6 in Church at 6.00pm

Wednesday 12th July – Brilliant in Britain Performances - Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2 – 9.15am, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 2.15pm – please join us if you can!

Tuesday 16th July – Year 6's Leavers and Confirmation Celebration Mass

Thursday 18th July – Whole School Poetry Recital 9.15am – please join us if you can.

Thursday 18th July – Year 6 Graduation 2pm – please join us if you can!

Friday 19th July – Final Assembly of the Year – 9.15am – please join us if you can!