

Dear parents,

I would like to thank you for your continued support of our school. It is especially wonderful to see so many parents in school for assemblies, Masses and parent workshops.

Our Values this half term

Our values this half-term are Attentive and Discerning.

Attentive – Being attentive to the type of person God is calling us to be.

Discerning – making good choices. Thinking carefully about our actions and how they can do good in the world.

Pray for Pope Francis

As the Holy Father remains in hospital we have been praying as a school for his health to improve. Please keep Pope Francis in your prayers especially during this Jubilee Year of Hope.



Jubilee Year of Hope

During this special Jubilee Year of Hope the St John Bosco Multi Academy is also doing



something very special. Each school has been given a symbol and theme of hope. At St Joseph's our symbol is an anchor and our theme is the dreams and aspirations of young people. Our MAC has created a boat – based on the Jubilee Symbol - which will be visiting all of the schools. During the time the boat is visiting each school there will be a special focus on the given theme and the children will then be sharing their work with each other following the boats departure! Our special weeks are coming soon – and as part of the celebration the children will be sharing

dances based on theme of hopes and dreams on Friday 28th March. Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 will perform at 9.15am and children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will perform from 2.20pm – please join us if you can!

The Holy Season of LENT

During this season of Lent we are reminded of the time Jesus spent in the dessert being tempted to make wrong



choices and turn away from God the Father. Jesus kept his faith, stayed strong and did not give into temptation. He did this for 40 days and 40 nights. In solidarity with Christ, we are asked to pray, fast and give alms during Lent and there have been opportunities for the children to do this in school throughout Lent including a series of special assemblies culminating with the Stations of the Cross. Throughout Lent the children also have the opportunity to pray the Stations of the Cross both in extra assemblies and in their own classrooms.

Good Shepherd Appeal

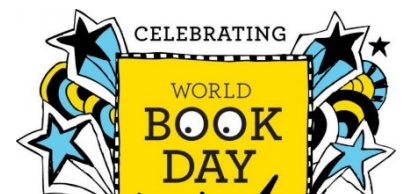
We have always had very good links with the Good Shepherd Appeal in Wolverhampton, and they are so very grateful for our donations of food and toiletries during Lent and Advent. To continue to support the Good Shepherd Friday **21st March will be a non-uniform day** and we are asking, if you can, to donate a tin of food or anything you can in support of the Appeal. Thank you so much.

Trips

We very much enjoy taking children out and about on a wide range of trips! Year 6 especially enjoyed their trip to London this year! We do our VERY BEST to make trips as affordable as possible and use money raised at Christmas from our school fund to do this. With the rising cost of travel this is increasingly difficult. Unfortunately, school cannot cover huge costs related to trips as well as subsidising them greatly. As always, if you are struggling to pay, please pop in and see me for a chat and we'll do our best to help. However, trips will unfortunately need to be cancelled if we can not cover the costs. Thank you for your understanding.

World Book Day

World Book Day is Thursday 6th March. Children are welcome to come to school dressed in costume, or if they prefer, some comfy clothes in which to share and re4ad stories together during the day. This is a non-uniform day.



Pilgrim's Pond

During the half term break our new pond was installed in the school grounds! We are in the process now of purchasing plants and animals so that the children will be able to go pond dipping and learn more about different plants and creatures!



Smart Watches



In order to keep everyone safe children who bring in mobile phones to school (Years 5 and 6) if they walk home, hand them into the office before school and collect them after school. There have been a number of incidents in OTHER SCHOOLS where children with smart watches have been using them to take photos of other children without their consent. This is a great safeguarding concern and for this reason we ask that children do not wear smart watches in school so that we can keep everyone safe.

Uniform

Thank you for your continued support in upholding our uniform policy. Please note that leggings are not part of the school uniform, and neither are trainers, jewellery and earrings.

CAFOD

Friday 14th March is CAFOD's Lent Fast Day. On this day we will be fasting our playtime snacks, to have an understanding, for a short time, what it must feel like to be hungry like some of our brothers and sisters around the world, please donate any spare change you can so that we can support the work of CAFOD during Lent.



The children will be taking part in CAFOD's BIG Lent Walk sponsored event on Thursday 27th March. Please complete the sponsor forms - coming soon - and make any donation you can to help us answer Pope Francis' call to support our brothers and sisters around the world.

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.

Staying Safe Online

Staying safe online, keeping children safe online and keeping safe from online hoaxes can be very difficult. The NSPCC provides excellent information and resources for parents along with guides on how create parental controls. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

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.

PUPIL

PREMIUM

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

Ace Attendance

Our Ace Attendance initiative began last year and we have already congratulated a number of winners!

All you have to do is get your child / children to school on time for a week to get a place in the draw that takes place each half term! You get an entry for each child so if you have three children who are on time for school for a week you get three entries into the draw.

At the end of each half term a winner will be drawn, and the parent will win a £50 voucher and the child a £10 voucher!



How does occasional absence affect my child?

Missing occasional days from school may seem unimportant at the time; however, this can have a significant impact on your child in the long term:

% of attendance in a school year	Number of days absent	Weeks missed
98%	4	Less than 1 week
95%	9.5	Nearly 2 weeks
90%	19	Nearly 4 weeks
85%	28.5	Nearly 6 weeks

A pupil with 85% attendance is missing nearly half a term of learning time each school year.

Regular absences can result in poorer outcomes over time. Research shows that pupils who miss between 10% and 20% of school (which is between half and one day per week on average) stand only a 35% chance of achieving five or more good GCSEs, compared to 73% of those who miss fewer than 5% of school days.

Late arrivals also add up over time – being 10 minutes late each day adds up to two weeks of lost learning time over the whole school year.

Mini Reports – out on Monday 7th April

We will be sending out a mini report to keep you up to date with your child's achievement and progress at school.

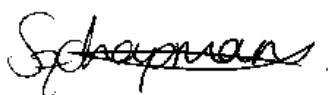
We send out mini reports in between parent's evenings and the full written report at the end of the year. There will be a parents' evening and a full written report in July – the mini report is designed to keep you informed in-between. Don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you need to discuss anything with them – **you never have to wait for parents' evening!**

Keep in touch using the Communication Policy

If you have any concerns or worries, no matter how small, please let us know so we can do everything we can to make things better and resolve your concerns.

There is always a someone who can help.

Never hesitate to get in touch.



Mrs S Chapman
Principal

St. Joseph's Communication Flowchart



Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

Class Teacher or Office

Assistant Principal / SENDCo

Principal

Class Teacher

Assistant Principal

Principal

- School events information (please check diary dates first)
- Home learning queries
- Behaviour issues/concerns
 - Learning concerns
- Home/pastoral/friendship concerns
- Concerns regarding academic progress

Office Staff

- School events information/ changes to usual school day
- Reporting an absence / Attendance / Holiday queries
 - School Clubs
 - Payment queries
 - Medication/injuries
 - Appointments
 - Dinner queries

- Escalated behaviour concerns
- Initial complaints re. behaviour
- Ongoing behaviour correspondence

SENDCo

- Escalated SEND concerns
- Initial complaints re. SEND concerns/practice
- Ongoing SEND correspondence
- Parent and Family support

In addition to concerns escalated through Steps 1-2, the following queries can be raised directly with Mrs Chapman.

- Issues which relate to Safeguarding concerns.

- Requests for school appeals or reference requests can be made directly to the Mrs Chapman via the office.

- Before requesting an appointment, please ensure that you have followed the steps in this flowchart.

NB. Anything that would normally be raised with Mrs Chapman can be raised with Mrs Buckley in her absence.

St Joseph's Communication Flowchart



Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

Class Teacher or Office

Assistant Principal
Mrs Buckley or
SENDCO
Mrs Hickman

Principal
Mrs Chapman

This is the first point of contact between families and school.

The table below clarifies whether the communication requires the attention of your child's class teacher or if the school office is more appropriate.

Teachers are available most days after school and appointments can be made by contacting the school office.

If further support is required, Mrs Buckley is available.

This can be organised through the school office or in collaboration with the teacher currently dealing with the query.

For SEN specific queries, Mrs Hickman can support.

Having followed Steps 1-2, if a matter needs further attention, it can be brought to Mrs Chapman.

This can be organised through the school office or in collaboration with the member of staff previously involved.

Anything of an urgent safeguarding matter can be brought straight to Mrs. Chapman.

"At St Joseph's we work, learn and grow together guided by Jesus' teachings"



DATES

- Wednesday 5th March – Year 4’s Mass – 9.15am, join us if you can
- Wednesday 5th March – Ash Wednesday – Lent Begins.
- Thursday 6th March – World Book Day
- Thursday 6th March First Holy Communion Meeting at 2pm.
- Thursday 6th March – Y2 Parent Workshop at 9:15am
- Tuesday 11th March – Year 3’s Mass– 9.15am, join us if you can
- Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th March – Y4 Parent Workshop
- Thursday 13th March – School Nurse drop-in session 8:30-9:30am
- Friday 14th March – Lent Family Fast Day – if you can, please donate spare change towards CAFOD
- Monday 17th March – the MAC Pilgrim Boat arrives at St Joseph’s
- Monday 17th March Y3 Saint Day – own clothes
- Tuesday 18th March – Year 2’s Mass – 9.15am, join us if you can.
- Wednesday 19th March – Whole School Retreat – Pilgrims of Hope
- Wednesday 19th March – St Joseph’s Feast Day!
- Friday 21st March – Year 3’s Assembly – 9.15, please join us if you can.
- Friday 21st March – non-Uniform Day – please donate a tin of food for the Good Shepherd Appeal
- Tuesday 25th March – Year 1’s Mass – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th March – Y5 Parent Workshop at 9:15am
- Thursday 27th March – CAFOD BIG Lent Walk
- Friday 28th March – Pilgrims of Hope Performances:
9.15am - Nursery, Reception Years 1 and 2
2.20pm - Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.
- Monday 31st March - School Nurse drop-in session 2:30 – 3:30pm
- Tuesday 1st April – Year 6’s Mass – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Monday 7th April – Mini Reports to go home to parents.
- Monday 7th April – Year 3 Palm Sunday Liturgy 2.30pm, please join us if you can.
- Monday 7th April – Lenten Service in Church at 5pm.
- Tuesday 8th April – Year 5’s Mass – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Tuesday 8th April – Year 4’s Last Supper Liturgy 2.30pm, please join us if you can.
- Wednesday 9th April – Year 5’s Agony in the Garden Liturgy 9.15pm, please join us if you can.
- Thursday 10th April – Year 6’s Stations of the Cross Liturgy 2.15pm, please join us if you can. **THURSDAY 10th APRIL 3.15pm SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR THE EASTER BREAK.**

