



Newsletter: March 2015

Dear Parents / Carers,

Can you believe Easter is on the horizon? Where is the time going?
Below are some items for your attention...

School Lenten Project

Our Lenten project this year is all about 'friends'. We are making *new* friends during Lent both inside and outside school as well as strengthening our existing friendships and actively resolving any friendship conflicts that occur from time to time.

Mr Macauley shared some of the children's efforts in assembly last week and it was lovely to hear the conversations the children have been having with their new friends! We have also noticed a positive impact at playtimes with children interacting with a growing number of friends!

Please spend a few moments each week asking your child what they have written on their 'friend templates' – can they tell you if they have made a new friend and what his/her name is? Can they tell you if they helped to sort out a disagreement among friends?

Book Week 2015

Well what a week we had during Book Week! As you know our theme was 'Being Friends and Beating Bullies!' Linking with our Lenten project, we wanted to discuss the value of friendship in depth with our children and raise their awareness of bullying and how to deal with this should they ever witness or experience it. We even discussed e-bullying with the children, making them aware of the importance of 'polite communications' whether speaking face to face with somebody or via messaging devices. It was a very informative and fun week!



We made gingerbread buddies, enjoyed theatre shows of 'The Ugly Duckling' and the effort the children put into their anti-bullying t-shirts was brilliant – they had really thought hard about the messages from the week! However, the highlight had to be world book day itself! Our friendship flotilla was amazing! We had a steel band playing as the children paraded along our Astroturf pitch wearing their t-shirts and holding their friend ships! There was so much fun, laughter and energetic dance moves on show and it was all among friends! To get a real sense of the occasion, please see our website (address at the top of this letter).

Truly though, we could not have had such a successful flotilla without the 'friend ships' – well done to our parent community for supporting this whole school homework initiative! All but 19 families supported this task – thank you. The ships were amazing and every year we are so impressed with the time you take to create such intricate and personal models. We had ships made from cake, ships reflecting the different languages our children speak and ships with photographs of the friends the children have made over the time they have been at St. Joseph's, which included staff as well as children! There was a lot of love in the school on book day and thank you for playing such a major part in it.

Thanks to Mrs Schönknecht, Miss Ryan and Ms Hardiman for planning and organising another very memorable week of fun and valuable learning!



Term Dates

We break for the Easter holidays on Friday 27th March at **2:00pm**. Please be prompt in collecting your child from school on this day and at this time. The children return to school on Monday 13th April at the usual time of 8:55am. The children should return to school wearing their **summer uniform** (*and ready for our Easter egg hunt!*)

The term dates for the academic year 2015/16 are available on the school website – see address at the top of this letter.

Summer Uniform Sales

Items of summer uniform (summer hats, polo shirts and a small selection of summer dresses) will be on sale in the school on Wednesday 18th March from 2:30-4:00pm and again on Thursday 26th March from 2:30-4:00pm. Alternatively, uniform orders can be placed with the admin. team at the school office.



Safe Parking Outside the School Entrances/Exits

May we please ask our parents/carers to refrain from parking directly outside the school on the yellow zig-zag lines. These areas are meant to be 'car free' to enable the children and their parents to enter and exit school safely on foot. I am sure that the health and safety of our students is of the utmost importance to all of us.



Further, thanks to parents for not parking in the residential area near the Wade Hall during the end of the school day. This does affect the residents who live in this area particularly with the building works taking place at present. Your support is always appreciated with items in our newsletter.

Nativity DVD (Dec. 2014)

Apologies for the delay of our Nativity DVD 2014 – the recording company sent us the proof DVD but not for both performances! As you are aware we had two performances, one for parents of children in Reception and one for parents of children in KS1. We are aware that parents want to obtain the DVD of the performance they attended. We have now received DVDs for both performances and, once they have been viewed, they should be with you very soon. We are sorry for the delay and thank you for your understanding and patience.



Parent Governors

There were two places on our Governing Body for parent governors and only two parents put their name forward showing interest in these positions. Therefore, we are pleased to announce our two, unopposed parent governors are Ms Hardiman and Mrs Sommergyll. Their role will involve them attending governing body meetings to receive information about the school. All information is confidential and, importantly, our parent governors are not 'representatives' for our parent community. So if you have any questions or concerns you wish to voice this should be done so in line with the usual school procedures – all staff can be contacted via the school office – many thanks.

Reminders

School Photographs

School photographs are this week (Thurs. 19th Mar.) of individual children and sibling groups as requested.



Uniform

Please remember children are not permitted to wear any boots, including ankle boots, or trainers in school. School shoes only must be worn. Navy blue coats are to be worn by all children; black coats are not part of school uniform. Please also remember school/navy blue hats and scarves are preferable – novelty hats and scarves can be worn at the weekends.

Shaved/coloured hair patterns are not permitted, please ensure barbers and hairdressers are aware of this before they begin styling your child's hair. Also, if your child takes home any items of uniform belonging to somebody else in error, please ensure these are returned at the next available opportunity – many thanks ☺



Kind regards,
St. Joseph's School Staff