



Newsletter: September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back! We hope you all enjoyed the summer. Thank you for those children and families who sent in postcards – we enjoyed reading them very much and shared them in our assembly this week! We hope you enjoyed taking in team GB's Olympic achievements in Rio during the break and so it continues with the Paralympics now! We are currently celebrating Roald Dahl Week! We are literally reading, eating and dreaming Roald Dahl! Check out our exciting menu on the school website and ask your child what dream s/he would have in a BFG dream jar!

We have had a great start to the year – our new reception and nursery additions to the St. Joseph's family are settling-in well and have already made friends with the older children in the school! Thank you to our whole parent community for assisting with our settling-in procedures.

Dates for Your Diary

Please find attached a copy of the term dates for this academic year – 2016/17. Also, we have set dates for all our meetings and events for this year. You will find these attached. Please keep them in a safe place for future reference and make a note of any dates relevant for you. We are pleased to inform you that the school photograph dates have now been confirmed.

As in the past two years, we have two performances for our YR + KS1 Nativity Performance: the first performance is on Friday 9th December and this will be ticketed for our reception parents. The second performance is on Wednesday 14th December and will be ticketed for our KS1 parents (parents of children in years 1+2). This is to ensure all parents can watch the performance in comfort. More details will follow.

Uniform

All children should be wearing the full winter school uniform including black shoes and a navy coat as required. Please note that black coats are no longer accepted as part of school uniform. Our girls in years 1-6 are allowed to wear culottes provide they are of a 'skirt' style. Please remember jewellery, including stud earrings, are not permitted. Shaved hair patterns, coloured or unusual hairstyles, including the use of gel, are not permitted and children should tie back long hair during the school day. A number of children have returned to school with subtle contrasting hairstyles – please ensure hair length is a consistent length over your child's head. Please note that children are required to wear shoes, not trainers or black trainers. Children in the nursery are required to wear a school tracksuit and suitable footwear (summer dresses can be worn if we have warm weather in September).



Children in Reception and Years 1+2 should have a rectangular book bag for their reading books, homework and school letters. The rucksack is their PE bag. Children in Years 3-6 use the school ruck sack as their main school bag for books, letters, homework, etc. They should use the small, school holdall as their PE bag. Children in the nursery only require a rectangular book bag.

Breakfast Club

We would like to remind our parents that we run a Breakfast Club on the school premises from 8.00am onwards. Prices are £2 per day and we are open Monday to Friday. There is a wide variety of food available including, cereals, fruit and fruit juice, toast with a variety of spreads and hot choices such as beans or scrambled eggs on toast. If you would like your child to join the Breakfast Club, please ask at the school office for a Breakfast Club form. Once the form is completed, your child can hand it in directly to the Breakfast Club Manager (Mrs Reeve) on the first day your child joins.



Administration Notices

Absences

Please remember to contact the school on the first day of your child's absence and then subsequently for each day they are absent. On their return to school, please ensure you have sent in a note explaining the reason for absence. The note needs to be addressed to the class teacher. Nursery fees are still applicable even if your child is absent, which is the policy for our After School Club also.



Pupil Collections

Please inform the school office or your child's class teacher if somebody different will be collecting your child from school. We are unable to allow a child to leave the school premises if an adult is unknown to our staff.

Packed Lunches/School Dinners

Nursery and Reception children are required to have a school dinner during this academic year.

Children in year groups 1-6, inclusive, have the option of school dinners or packed lunches. However, this must be a choice for a half-term period. Therefore, if your child is to have a school dinner, s/he must remain having school dinners for the duration of the half-term. If your child chooses to have a packed lunch, s/he will remain having a packed lunch for the duration of the half-term. This ensures our admin. team can effectively organise routines and systems with our school kitchen.



The Government and local authority are continuing to fund school meals for children in Years Reception to Year 6. However, if you are eligible for free school meals, independent of funded meals, please ensure you still complete the relevant forms from the school office to ensure you receive all benefits applicable. Parents of nursery children are still required to pay for school dinners - please remember to send your child's dinner money into school in a money pocket on the Monday of each week, stating your child's name, the date and class. Please also ensure the amount enclosed is recorded on the money pocket. School money pockets are available from the school office at £1 for a pack of 10. The cost of school dinners for this September is £1.90 per day and £9.50 per week.

School Website

We are working hard to ensure our school website is current and useful. We regularly upload school letters and photographs of the children completing different activities, workshops and school trips. The website is available to you on tablets and smart phones, as well as your PCs. We suggest that you save the site as a favourite, so that it is quickly and easily available to you. The new website address is: www.stjosephsgeorgerow.org

Staffing Notices

Goodbye...



We say goodbye to Miss Crowe at the end of this week, albeit temporarily, as she begins her maternity leave! Please join us in wishing her and her family best wishes. We await the news of your new arrival eagerly!

We also say goodbye to Mrs Otomewo, who has been a valued member of staff for the past 3+ years supporting children at lunchtimes and in our After School Club. Mrs Otomewo leaves us to further her education as she returns to college. Thank you Mrs Otomewo – our love and best wishes go with you.

Welcome...

We are very pleased to welcome Miss Figueroa and Miss Kelmendi to our lunchtime team. We also welcome Mrs Soutter, formerly Ms Hardiman, who was married over the summer break! Congratulations Mrs Soutter – we are sure this is the start of many happy years ahead!

WWI Commemoration



This year, as part of our ongoing World War 1 commemoration we are focusing on 'Animals in War' using texts and written sources. Please see the curriculum letters, you received last week for more detail on all curriculum content – these letters are also available on our school website.

Christmas Cards

Following the success of last year, we are continuing the scheme where our children can design their very own Christmas cards, which parents can then order! This year we will send the templates home so children can create their designs with you! More details will follow, but make sure you have felt-tips in good working order! The minimum order amount is only £4.00, however there is no obligation for you to place orders. Watch this space for further information...



St. Joseph's Parents & Toddlers!

Our Parents & Toddlers Club continues for this academic year 2016/17. Mrs O'Mahony and Mrs O'Connell will continue to manage our newest venture!

We are open from 9-11am every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We are closed on a few specific dates – check the website for these dates. We only charge £3 per family – so if you have a toddler, be sure to pop in for a visit!

If you have any questions regarding the items in this newsletter then please do not hesitate to speak to Miss Alford or Mr Macauley.

Please contact the school office for appointments, which can be made throughout the year.



St. Joseph's School Staff