



Dear Parents/Carers,

Our excellent start to the new school year has continued into October, especially for our reception and nursery children who are now well-settled and very much part of the day-to-day life of St Joseph's. Furthermore, we already have new prefects for 2017/18 – a wonderful achievement for our Year 6 children. This week each class will elect their school councillors for the academic year and our Green Team members for the year will be chosen in the first week after half-term – look out for the half-term homework explaining this year's Green Team challenge!

Below are a few items we would like to bring to your attention for the coming weeks:

Important Dates Reminder...

- Parents' evening for parents of children in Years 1-6 will be held on Thursday 19th October, from 3:30pm by appointment.
- Nursery open days are on Wed. 18th and Thurs. 19th October – book your visit time on the sheet in the nursery cloakroom
- We break for the half-term on **Friday 20th October at 3.15pm**
- Half-term – Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October.
- 'All Saints Day' falls on **Wednesday 1st Nov. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. You can attend Mass with your child on this day – please inform the school via the slip attached to the letter you received yesterday**
- Children return to school on Tues. 31st Oct. at **8:55am** - playground gates open from 8:40am.
(Monday 30th October INSET Day)

Uniform

All children should be wearing the full winter school uniform including black or navy shoes (**not trainers**) and a navy coat. **You may wish to put a small badge on your child's coat to help them identify this, if they are unable to read their name at present.** 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. Please remember to label all items of uniform and return any items taken in error.



Curriculum Notices:

Handwriting

Please find attached a copy of St. Joseph's handwriting script. We continue to use the 'Nelson' handwriting script and the information attached provides you with clear guidance on how we form each letter of the alphabet, our joined writing style and how we teach handwriting. Please support this handwriting style when assisting your child with his/her written homework.

Our Lady

During the months of October and May we remember Mary, the Mother of God. We encourage the children to say the Hail Mary and pray the Rosary in school. We are glad to have the support of our Sisters of Mercy, and particularly Sr Assumpta, in praying the rosary with our KS2 classes. As always, we are grateful for your support in promoting and enhancing this important part of our children's spiritual development.



Breakfast Club

We run a Breakfast Club on the school premises from 8.00am onwards. The price is £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 boiled eggs, crumpets and more – breakfast club menus can be found on the school website. If you would like your child to join the Breakfast Club, for the week or selected days in the week, 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. Many of our teachers attend breakfast club and enjoy talking to the children during this time.



Administration Notices:

Absences

Please remember to contact the school on the first day of your child's absence and then subsequently for each day s/he is absent. On their return to school, please ensure you have sent in a note explaining the reason for the absence. The note needs to be addressed to the class teacher. Please ensure that all holidays are booked within the school holiday periods – refer to term dates on the website.

Medicine

We would like to remind you that we are unable to administer any medication *unless* it has been prescribed by a GP. If it is necessary for your child to take prescribed medicine, please ensure you deliver it to the school office where you will be asked to sign a consent form in order for school staff to administer the medication. Please ensure the school is aware of any long term prescribed medication that your child may need. Similarly, if they no longer require medicine, please inform the school so that our records are up-to-date.

Child Appointments

Please remember to book medical appointments outside of school hours where possible. Medical professionals are very accommodating of this as they understand the negative impact of disrupting children's daily education. Where appointments are within school time, please can you provide the school with a copy of the appointment card/letter so your child receives the correct mark in the register.

Eligibility for Free School Meals

If you believe you may be eligible for free school meals, please consult a member of the admin. team for advice and to collect the appropriate form.

Packed Lunches

If your child is in Y1-6 and has packed lunches, please do not send in any food items that may contain nuts and ensure that all food items support our school's healthy eating culture – many thanks ☺

Poppy Sales

As we approach the month of November, we will be selling poppies at lunchtimes and encouraging the children to reflect on all those who suffered during the World Wars and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. We are encouraging the children to bring in 20p or more for a poppy. We are discouraging children buying several poppies, as wearing multiple poppies on one's jumper can cause quite a distraction! Poppy sales will begin w/c: 16th Oct. and they will continue this week and after half-term until Friday 10th November. During the month of November, we will say the 'Eternal rest' prayer regularly.



School Calendar for 2018

We have been busy in school creating the artwork for our new school calendar for 2018. This year our theme is 'Our favourite Bible Stories.' We hope to make this available for parents to buy in mid-November 2017. The calendar will have all important school dates included for your attention and it makes a great Christmas present for families and friends – watch this space!



Personalised Christmas Cards

This initiative is a success for the third year running! Thank you for supporting our school – every order raises important funds for the school and our children! We look forward to distributing your orders in early December!



Party Bags

If you wish to send party bags into school to celebrate your child's birthday – please ensure they do not contain too many sweet treats or any party poppers. We recommend party bags contain 3 items maximum as a celebratory birthday gesture. As party bags are distributed via the school, we will be monitoring these carefully and removing items we deem inappropriate – this will include the amount and type of sweet treats given, items containing nuts or that may contain nuts and inappropriate gifts/toys. We will return any items removed to the parents/carers who provided these. We still expect adults collecting children to check party bags also.

Finally...

Please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see Mrs Byrne or Mr Hoyes if there are any concerns that you have, or questions that you would like to discuss. Please contact the school office for appointments, which can be made throughout the year. Please also peruse our school website – address at the top of this newsletter for more information about upcoming events and the latest news from the school.

Thank you - St. Joseph's School Staff

