



Newsletter: September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back! We hope you all enjoyed the summer. Thank you to those children and families who sent in postcards, we enjoyed reading the many of them that were sent in this summer and shared them in both our classes and assemblies.

We have had a wonderful 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 and for supporting our new school routine for arrivals and dismissals at the beginning and end of the school day.

Over the summer the school has undergone a few minor building works with the repainting of key areas of our school premises and, excitingly, the refurbishment of our school sensory room.

Dates for Your Diary

In the first week back we sent home copies of the term dates for this academic year – 2018/19 alongside the annual dates for all our meetings and events for this year. These dates can also be found on our school website. Please keep them in a safe place for future reference and make a note of any dates relevant for you.

As in the past few years, we have two performances for our YR + KS1 Nativity Performance: the first performance is on Friday 14th December and this will be ticketed for our reception parents. The second performance is on Wednesday 19th 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 closer to the event.

Uniform

All children should be wearing the full winter school uniform including black shoes and a navy coat as required. Please note that coloured or black coats are not accepted as part of school uniform. Furthermore, 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. Our girls in years 1-6 are allowed to wear culottes provide they are of a 'skirt' style. Please remember jewellery, including stud earrings, is not permitted. Shaved hair patterns, coloured or unusual hairstyles, including the use of gel, are not permitted and girls should tie back long hair during the school day. Girls who do tie up their hair should do so using sensibly sized and coloured headbands avoiding accessories such as large flowers and vibrant colours or patterns. 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.



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. All uniform can be purchased online from: www.schooluniform.com

Wednesday Word

As a school we continue to invest in 'The Wednesday Word' a child friendly reflection each week upon Sunday's Gospel reading. We encourage you to share this with your child and to encourage them to complete the reflection's and activities each week.

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 our 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. See our school website for further information.

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, as are fees for our After School Club. Please do not arrange appointments or events for your child during school hours as absence from school has a significant impact upon your child's learning and time missed from class can never be made up.



Pupil Arrivals

Please note that our school gates open at 8:40am and that our school day begins promptly at 8:55am when the whistle is blown in the playground. Pupils who arrive in school after the whistle has been blown will be officially marked down as being late for school. Please ensure that your child arrives in school before 8:55am so they are ready for the start of the school day.

Pupil Collections

Please inform the school office or your child's class teacher if somebody other than a named person on your child's contact list will be collecting them from school. We are unable to allow a child to leave the school premises with an adult who is not listed as having permission to collect them or if the school office has not been informed that a different person will be collecting them prior to home time that day.

Parking

Please note that it is not permitted to park in the 'Keep Clear Zone' on George Row outside the front of the school as this is highly disruptive of children arriving and being collected from school. Traffic wardens will be monitoring this area at the beginning and end of the school day.

Packed Lunches/School Dinners

Our school dinners are provided by our own kitchen team and prepared and cooked from fresh produce on the premises every day. We meet the government standards for school dinners, and recognise that the food our children eat is critically important to their health, and we are strongly committed to adopting healthy catering practices and to encourage healthy and balanced eating. Pupils in YR-Y6 are eligible for universal free school meals through both local and central government schemes. All children from reception to year 6 will automatically be included in this scheme. However, where there are individual circumstances, discussed with SMT, children may be permitted to bring a packed lunch. Families who are eligible for free school meals, under the pupil benefits system, will still need to complete the required forms. Administrative staff will provide further information and help with this.

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

Our recently refurbished school website is up and running and contains lots of information that may be useful to parents and carers. We regularly upload school letters and photographs of the children completing different activities, workshops and school trips. Details can be found of upcoming school events, the school curriculum and our school's mission statement. 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 website address is: www.stjosephsgeorgerow.org

Staffing Notices

Welcome

We are very pleased to welcome Miss Sycamore, Mr Law and Mr Quinn to our teaching staff this year. We also welcome Mr Alvarez to our premises team.

Goodbye

It is with a heavy heart that the St Joseph's community says goodbye this month to Sister Jude our Chair of Governors, Sister of Mercy and long term friend of St Joseph's. We express our sincerest thanks to Sister Jude for all the time, dedication and support she has given to our school over the years. Our thoughts and prayers go with her on her journey and we assure her that she will forever be part of the St Joseph's family.

Furthermore, we also say goodbye this week to Mrs Child, a long serving member of our school staff. We sincerely thank Mrs Child for her hard work over the years as a teaching assistant, member of the kitchen team, admin team and first aid staff. She will be greatly missed by all of the St Joseph's community and we wish her the very best for all her future endeavours. She will always be part of the family of St Joseph's.

Christmas Cards

Following the success of previous years, 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 group have had a very successful start to the academic year with the session being very much enjoyed by parents, toddlers and staff alike. Parents and Toddlers takes place on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday – more information can be found on our school website.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your kind comments about the successful start we have had to the school year and, as always, thank you for your continued support of us as a school. If you have any questions regarding the items in this newsletter then please do not hesitate to speak to Mr Hoyes or Mrs Byrne.

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

St. Joseph's School Staff