



Newsletter: September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back! We hope you all had a wonderful summer break. 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 will share 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 lots of new friends in school. Thank you to our whole parent community for assisting with our settling-in procedures and for supporting our school routine for arrivals and dismissals at the beginning and end of the school day.

Congratulations!

Our entire school community is delighted to wish many congratulations to Mrs Byrne who gave birth to her first child during the summer holidays. She has given birth to a boy, named Evan, weighing 8lbs 6oz. Both Mrs Byrne and her son are in excellent health and our thoughts and prayers are with her, her husband and child during this special time.

We also wish many congratulations to Miss Crowther who got married during the summer holidays and wish her and her husband every happiness for the coming years.

School Developments

Over the summer the school has undergone a few upgrades including the replacement of the fencing in the maze and the installation of new interactive whiteboards in our classrooms.

Dates for Your Diary

In the first week back, we sent home copies of the term dates for this academic year – 2019/20 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 13th December and this will be ticketed for our reception parents. The second performance is on Wednesday 18th 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

Upon returning to school, your child should be wearing the full winter school uniform including black shoes and a navy coat. 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. 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 school holdall as their PE bag. Children in the nursery only require a rectangular book bag. All uniform can be purchased online from: www.schoolunifrom.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 reflections 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 (Miss Castagno) 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 to 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

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. Our school dinners are provided by our own kitchen team and prepared and cooked from fresh produce on the

premises every day. 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 from this September is £2.00 per day and £10.00 per week.

School Website

Our website 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 Slattery and Miss Wright to our teaching team at St Joseph's this year, Miss Slattery who begins her student teacher placement with us from September and Miss Krzesniak who joins our nursery team. Please join us in making them feel welcome as part of the St Joseph's family.

St. Joseph's Parents & Toddlers!

Our Parents & Toddlers group for 2019-20 had their first session today and are off to a great start for the year. 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.

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

St. Joseph's School Staff