



St Joseph's Newsletter

September 2021



Welcome Back!

It is with joyful hearts that we welcome all of the pupils of St Joseph's back to school following the summer holiday period. The children have settled well into their new classes and it has been a pleasure to see so many new friendships emerging at the start of the year.

A very special welcome to all of our new additions to the St Joseph's family in Nursery, Reception and across the school, they have already made lots of new friends and have made a very positive start to their time at St Joseph's.

Thank you to our parent community for supporting our settling in procedures and our new school routine at the beginning and the end of the school day – as always your support is very much appreciated.

Managing the Symptoms of Coronavirus

No one should attend school if they display symptoms of Coronavirus. The NHS defines the symptoms of Coronavirus (including children) as:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

If your child or a member of your household displays symptoms of Coronavirus:

- 1) Call the school office to inform the school
- 2) Book a PCR test for Coronavirus
- 3) Self-Isolate until you receive the test results
- 4) Call the school office to inform the school of the results of the test

Upon receiving the results of the test, the senior leadership team will follow appropriate guidance as to what, if any, further action needs to be taken. If you are unsure whether your child or a member of your household is displaying symptoms of Coronavirus, contact your GP for further advice.

Arrivals and Collections

The school day begins at 8:55am for all pupils when the whistle is blown in the playground. There is supervision in the playground from 8:40am. Please ensure that your child is in the playground by 8:55am ready for the start of the day. If your child arrives after 8:55am they will be recorded as late. Nursery pupils may arrive at the Nursery between 8:40am and 8:55am – the Nursery day begins at 8:55am. The school day ends for all children at 3:15pm.

Uniform

Reception to Year 6

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 coats are not accepted. Furthermore, children are required to wear shoes, not trainers or black trainers. Girls are allowed to wear culottes provide they are of a 'skirt' style. Please remember jewellery, including stud earrings, is not permitted.

Nursery

Children in the nursery are required to wear a school polo shirt, school tracksuit and suitable footwear.

Hair

Shaved hair patterns, coloured or unusual hairstyles, including the use of gel, are not permitted and boys' hair should be cut in a smart style. Long hair should be tied back during the school day using sensibly sized headbands in the school uniform colours (Navy, black, blue) avoiding accessories such as large flowers and vibrant colours.

PE Kit

Our school PE kit consists of a school PE t-shirt, black shorts, a school tracksuit and black trainers. Please ensure that your child has their full PE kit, including the school tracksuit, in school at all times.

Additional

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.schooluniform.com

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.

Birthdays

We are aware that on the date of a child's birthday, some families wish to send in a treat for all class members to celebrate the occasion.

There are a number of children in the school with severe allergies, including nuts. At St Joseph's, we are a 'nut free school', therefore we politely request that you do not send **any cakes or baked goods** into school. Many baked products are produced in factories which 'May contain Nuts' and therefore we cannot risk giving them to our pupils.

Alternatively, we suggest sending in small, individual packets of sweets, such as Haribo or Maoam which are completely nut free, although we still ask that you check the ingredients carefully before doing so. We politely request that you only send in one item of food per child; as a school we pride ourselves on promoting a healthy diet and lifestyle.

Please note: there is no obligation to send in any food for your child's birthday.

School Developments

Over the summer, the school has undergone a number of exciting upgrades including the trimming of the maze, painting and new flooring throughout the school.

Parent Mail

Please check your 'Parent Mail' app regularly for updates and correspondence from the school.



Staffing Notices

A very warm welcome to Miss Elston (Elizabeth Class), Miss Olatin, (Joseph Class), Miss Hughes (Jerome Class), Miss Pantilides (McAuley Class) and Mr Delooze (Teresa Class) who have joined us as teachers at St Joseph's this September. Please join us in welcoming them to the St Joseph's community. A further welcome to Miss Keane-Parry (Baptist Class) who joins us this year as part of her School's Direct teacher training programme.

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. The Breakfast Club menu is available on the school website. 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.

If you attend breakfast club, please drop your child off between **8:00-8:20am** to allow your child time to eat their breakfast before going to class.

School Website

Our website contains lots of information that may be useful to parents and carers. 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 favorite for ease of access.

www.stjosephsgeorgerow.org

Parents & Toddlers

In exciting news, Parents & Toddlers will re-open on Monday 27th Sept for the first time since the onset of the pandemic. It will then run every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00-11:00am. It will be run by Mrs O'Mahony, an experienced member of the St Joseph's team. The sessions will take place in the Thames Room, please enter via the entrance on George Row.

For further information please see the school website.



Spiritual Life Committee

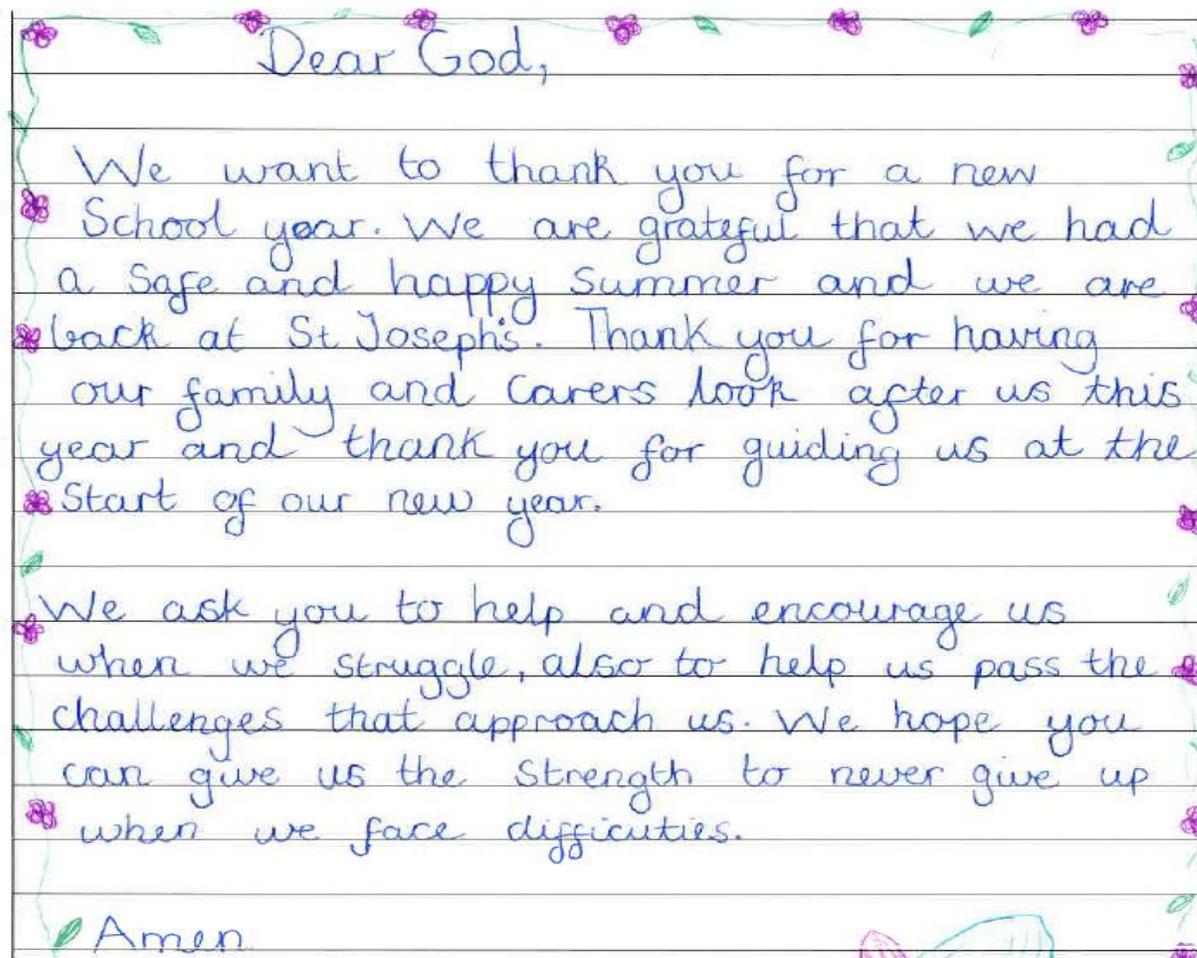
In exciting news, from this half term St Joseph's will be implementing a Spiritual Life Committee. The committee will be made up of one child from each of our KS2 classes; membership of the Spiritual Life Committee will change each term. The Spiritual Life Committee will have a very important role to play in the spiritual life of the school. Their responsibilities will include:

- To support the teachers in improving the religious and spiritual education and experiences of the children at St Joseph's
- To represent the children's views upon how we worship and learn about our faith
- To be role models to the other children of how our behaviour reflects the Gospel values
- To be there to support other children when they need help
- To lead prayer and worship across the school



The Spiritual Life Committee will meet with Mr Hoyes every fortnight to work on developing the spiritual life of the school.

Prayer of the Month



- Written by Teresa Class

If you have any queries about any of the items in this newsletter please feel free to book an appointment with Mr Hoyes or Mr Coffey via the school office.