



# St Joseph's Newsletter

## October 2021



### Important Information

Our excellent start to the school year has continued for all our children, especially those in Nursery and Reception who have settled well into their new classes and already feel an established part of the St Joseph's family. Below are some important dates for your information:

- We break for the half-term on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 3:15pm**
- Half-term – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October.
- Children return to school on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** - please see arrivals and collections (*Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November INSET Day*)

### 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.



### Parish Mass



As a school community, we extend our thanks to Canon Alan, who has been hosting our children at our parish Church, The Most Holy Trinity Dockhead, for Parish Mass this half term.

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September, Canon Alan led a wonderful Mass for our Year 6 pupils in celebration of the Feast of St Jerome. In his Homily, Canon Alan taught the year 6 children about the importance of the Bible and how it is similar to a library, a collection of different books all of which inform our faith. On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October he taught our year 5's all about Mary, the Rosary and how this special prayer allows us to reflect upon the key events from Jesus' life. Canon Alan and Father Pearson also kindly joined us for our whole school assembly on the Rosary on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

All parents are welcome to join us for the celebration of Mass. Please see upcoming parish Mass dates this half term below:

**Years 3 & 4 – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October: 9:30am**

### 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.

### Target Setting Parents' Evenings

Our autumn Target Setting Parents' Evening will take place on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021** between 3:30 and 8:30pm.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss your child's start to the school year and to discuss their targets in order to move forward in their learning.

You can book an appointment to speak to your child's class teacher via ParentMail. Please check your inbox if you have not already done so.

## **No Parking**

Please do not park or pull up on the yellow zig-zag lines outside of the school gate at any time; this makes it very difficult for parents/carers to cross the road safely with their children.



## **Parents & Toddlers**

We are delighted to announce that Parents and Toddlers is once again up and running for the first time since the pandemic began in March 2020.

It has been a pleasure to welcome so many familiar faces back to the school and some new ones as well. Parents' and Toddlers is run by Mrs O'Mahony and a team of volunteers. It runs on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00am-11:00am during term time in the Felton Hall. For further information, please see the Parent's and Toddler page on our school website.

Finally, a massive thank you to Mrs O'Mahony, Mrs Ryan and Miss Feary for their hard work in getting our parent and toddler group up and running once more.



## **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.

## **Toys**

We politely request that parents please do not send their children into school with any toys, games or non-uniform items for school. This includes items such as 'Match Attack' cards and spinners. These items prove a distraction for the children in school and we cannot accept any responsibility for items that are lost.

## **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.

Please note that the school day begins at 8:55am, any children arriving after the whistle has blown at 8:55am will be recorded as late to school. We ask for your support in ensuring that your child is in school on time every day and that you allow ample time for your journey to school to ensure that your child is consistently punctual.

## **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.

## **Parent Mail**

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



If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Hoyes or Mr Coffey by appointment through the school office.

## October: Month of Mary and the Holy Rosary

During the months of October we remember Mary, the Mother of God and celebrate the month of the Holy Rosary. We encourage the children to say the Hail Mary and pray in school and the children will learn about the Rosary through our whole school assemblies.

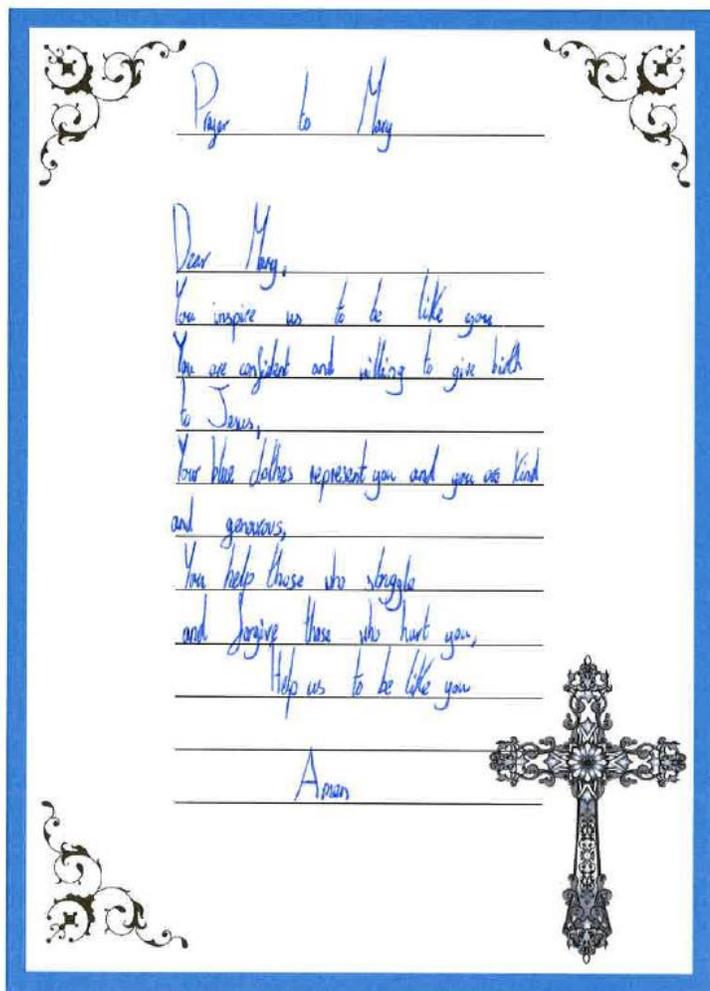
In the month of October our collective worship – assemblies, prayers and class reflections are themed around Mary and the wonderful example that she sets for us all through her grace, faith, humility, resilience and courage.

As always, we are grateful for your support in promoting and enhancing this important part of our children's spiritual development and would encourage you to make Mary a spiritual focus for your family at home. As a family you could:

- Pray the Hail Mary together
- Pray the Rosary or part of the Rosary
- Explore some of the scripture that constitutes the mysteries of the Rosary together as a family
- Reflect upon the example that Mary sets for us all



## Prayer of the Month: October



### Prayer to Mary

Dear Mary,  
You inspire us to be like you,  
You were confident and willing to  
give birth to Jesus,  
Your blue clothes represent that  
you are kind and generous,  
You help those who struggle  
And forgive those who hurt you  
Help us to be like you

Amen.

