



St Joseph's Catholic School Newsletter No. 4

Friday 29th September 2023

Dear Parents,

We want to start this newsletter by saying a huge well done to Y6H for a fantastic class assembly this week! You made some very assertive points about how we must ensure we look after our common home. Pope Francis reminds us in *Laudato Si'*, (Latin for "Praised Be") The letter is addressed to "every person living on this planet" and calls for a global dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet through our daily actions and decisions. With this encyclical, Pope Francis calls the Church and the world to acknowledge the urgency of our environmental challenges and to join with him in embarking on a new path. With Y6 as our champions and role models we know we are in good hands, here at St Joseph's. Thank you to Miss Harris, Mrs Shahrukh and Miss Hooley for preparing the children so well.

This prayer by Pope Francis appeared at the end of his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'*

All powerful God, you are present in the universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with your peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle,
for justice, love and peace.



Safeguarding at St Joseph's

Thank you to a parent who pointed out to us this week that our safeguarding information could be a little clearer on the school website. Alongside our safeguarding policy, you will now find a safeguarding tab, under the 'Parents' section. This clearly explains who is part of the safeguarding team and what you can do if you have a concern about a child. Please feel free to visit our website for more information. We also have useful links and resources for Early Help and Mental Health support should this be needed. If you do have a concern about a child you can confidentially talk to a member of the safeguarding team, or email dsl23@stjosutton.net. (Designated Safeguarding Lead 23)

We must also take this opportunity to remind ALL parents that no child/ren should be left unattended on the playground before 8.35am, for both safeguarding and health and safety reasons. School staff will be on the gates and playground promptly at 8.35am when the bell sounds and parents are then able to leave children as the staff are supervising them. If any parents are seen 'dropping' children before this time a member of the safeguarding team will be calling you, as this is unacceptable and puts children at risk.

Attendance

Mrs Holmes, has been working hard with parents to ensure children are in school and on time, thank you for your continued support.

Every child has a right to an education and to have the best possible life chances. By attending school daily and on time, children learn the importance of commitment and being punctual, a life skill which will serve them well as they grow into the next generation of working citizens. Although some people may think that the odd day off here and there does

not matter, learning about any topic doesn't happen all in one day, therefore when a child returns to school, the class may be continuing their learning from the day before which will put the absent child at an immediate disadvantage. Although staff go above and beyond to ensure the learning gaps are closed, days missed will of course impact the child's learning. Please ensure you aim for 100% attendance where possible.

We would like to remind parents, as part of our attendance policy, if a child's attendance falls below 92% and continues to do so, parents will be invited in for a meeting and an action plan put in place. If attendance does not then improve, the school, following BCC guidance, will have to 'fast track' families and this could result in fines. We thank the vast majority of parents who bring their children into school, on time and every day.



Attendance for this week KS2 - Y5W and KS1- Y2E received an extra 5 minutes at playtime today.

If a child is uncollected at the end of the day- IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Every once in a while issues arise and parents will be unavoidably later than 3.15pm/3.20pm for these occasions parents must have a 'back up' plan where a partner, a parent, family friend etc... will collect the child at the end of the school day on their behalf. The name of the arranged adult must be rung through to the office authorizing them as the official collector of the child- this information must not be left as a message but discussed over the telephone.

We are seeing an increasing number of children not being collected at the end of the day. These children are left outside the school office where the office staff are keeping an eye on them instead of doing their work. Unfortunately, this is unacceptable and therefore, if a child is uncollected by 3.30pm, parents **will be charged for every 5 minutes late (beyond 3.30pm)** for the inconvenience.

When the office staff leaves work at the end of the day, the child will then be transferred to the Sunshine Club where additional charges of **£5 for every 5 minutes** will also be incurred.

Open Day

Our open day for parents of pre-school children, looking for school places for the next academic year (2024-2025), will be held on Wednesday 8th November. There will be two sessions, one in the morning 9.00-10.00 am and then again at 2.00-3.00 pm. This will be an opportunity to view the school, meet the Principal and the staffing team. All are very welcome. If you are unable to make this date please call the school office, who will be able to assist further.

Due to low birth years, we currently have spaces in Foundation Year and Year One. If you know anybody who needs a school place in these year groups, please ask them to contact the office. We are also happy to have children who may be in attendance elsewhere but see the opportunity of the change (only FY and Y1- all other classes are full)

Dates for your diary Autumn 2023

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| Sunday 1 st October | 9.00 am | Family Mass at Holy Trinity Church (1 st Sunday of the Month) |
| Monday 2 nd October | All day | Flu Immunizations FY-Y6- letters already sent out |
| Tuesday 3 rd October | Pm | Y6J Swimming at WHC school |
| Wednesday 4 th October | 9.00 am | Year 6J Class Assembly (Parents invited) |
| Friday 6 th October | 10.00am | Y3 Mass at Holy Trinity Church – parent helpers required |
| Tuesday 10 th October | Pm | Y6J Swimming at WHC school |

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| Wednesday 11 th October | All Day Various | Arise Project Assemblies and class workshops (Anti-Racism) |
| Thursday 12 th October | 9.00am | |
| Friday 13 th October | 9.00am | Harvest Mass in School Led by FY and Y6 |
| Monday 16 th October | 9.05-9.45am | Reading Workshop- Parents welcomed into lessons |
| Tuesday 17 th October | Pm | Y6J Swimming at WHC school |
| Wednesday 18 th October | 9.00am | Year 5W Class Assembly (Parents invited) |
| Wednesday 18 th October | 6.00pm | Year 6 Parents' meeting with Fr Ryan about Confirmation- in school |
| Friday 20 th October | 10.00am | Y2 Mass at Holy Trinity Church – parent helpers required |
| Tuesday 24 th October | Pm | Y6J Swimming at WHC school |
| Wednesday 25 th October | 2.30pm | Coffee & Chat with Cherished - all welcome |
| Friday 27 th October | 10.00am | Y4 Mass at Holy Trinity Church – parent helpers required |
| October Half Term- School closed- 30 th October to 3 rd November | | |
| Monday 6 th Nov | | INSET Day- school closed to pupils |
| Tuesday 7 th November | Pm | Y6H Swimming at WHC school |
| Wednesday 8 th November | 9-10am , 2-3pm | 2 OPEN DAY sessions for prospective new parents FY 2024 |
| Friday 10 th November | 10.00am | Y5 Mass at Holy Trinity Church – parent helpers required |
| Monday 13 th November | All day | Y6 Alton Castle Retreat day |
| Tuesday 14 th November | 9.00am | Year 5R Class Assembly (Parents invited) |
| Tuesday 14 th November | Pm | Y6H Swimming at WHC school |
| Wednesday 15 th November | 3.40- | Parents' Evening – more to follow |
| Thursday 16 th November | 3.40- | Parents' Evening – more to follow |
| Friday 17 th November | 10.00am | Y1 Mass at Holy Trinity Church – parent helpers required |
| Saturday 18 th November | 6.00pm | Year 6H Confirmation Mass with Archbishop Bernard Longley |
| Sunday 19 th November | 11.00am | Year 6J Confirmation Mass with Archbishop Bernard Longley |
| Tuesday 21 st November | Pm | Y6H Swimming at WHC school |
| Wednesday 22 nd November | 9.00am | Year 4R Class assembly |
| Friday 24 th November | 9.00am | Y6 Mass of Thanksgiving in School |

Learn More About the Catholic Faith?

The RCIA Course will recommence on Tuesday 26th September 7:00—8.15pm Giving instruction and discussion about the Catholic Faith. The course will run until Easter 2024 when those who wish will be received into the church. Although the course started this week, Deacon Daniel would love anyone who wishes to join to come along as there are still a few spaces left. To express your interest contact Deacon Daniel Hurd, deacon.hurd@gmail.com or 07818 065 309

First Sunday Mass

This Sunday 1st October at 9.00am is the first Family Mass of the academic year at Holy Trinity Church (1st Sunday of the Month), please try to make every effort to bring your child along. Fr Ryan can't wait to meet them.

Adult behaviour that will not be tolerated – Please read

Since the start of term, there have been several incidents of parents having telephone call conversations with staff where the parent has been deemed to be aggressive, rude and even threatening towards staff. This is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. We have had incidents of parents raising their voices in perceived aggressive tones towards staff members. This is also unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Staff are receiving angry/ upsetting emails, sent and received outside of reasonable working hours, of a demanding nature expecting a response and/ or meeting before giving staff a chance to investigate. For example, several incidences of - *'I will be at school first thing in the morning and demand a meeting'* or *'I have not had a response to my last email'* (although less than a day).

We have experienced parents who have acted in this manner and then, after reflecting, later contacted the school to apologise for their outburst- which we thank you for; however, the damage has already been done, the staff member has already broken down in tears, has had to take time off work, contemplated whether they should carry on *'giving above and beyond'* their remit for the children if *'that's the thanks I get'*. This is unacceptable and must stop.

We have also been notified of online situations, where school information / incidents is being shared and discussed in the public domain with individuals linked to the school and those who are not. This is unfair on the children and families involved and is causing the school name to be brought into disrepute by association. Please can we ask, moving forward, that this does not happen.

No one has the right to be rude and aggressive to another, nor do the staff have to tolerate behaviours and attitudes of this nature.

If any further incidents of aggression or unreasonable demands are made towards staff, either in person, via written communications, or over the telephone, the school has the right to, and will, apply restrictions upon access to the site and has the right to restrict communications to certain individuals should this be deemed necessary.

Please could we ask that parents arrange meetings with staff through the office where we can explore situations in a civil, professional and productive manner, and not approach other parents directly on or off site with their issue.

As a staff team, we will always try to meet and address issues raised; however, there needs to be time to gather evidence or find a suitable diary slot. As a school, we also aim to acknowledge all correspondence from parents within 48 hours.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Also a huge thank you to the silent majority who are extremely supportive of the school, together we can help provide the best learning environment for all pupils, families and staff.

Yours sincerely,

G M O'Hara
Principal

L Chambers
Vice Principal

J Lynch
Assistant Principal