



St Joseph's Catholic School Newsletter No. 2

Friday 15th September 2023



Dear Parents,

It has been a busy week and we are very proud of how well the children have settled back into the school routine, they are changing well for PE and we are proud of how smart the children are looking in their school uniform. We also now have the opportunity to change PE days more easily if there is any bad weather which would affect an outdoor PE session. We are happy to see the return of school extra-curricular clubs this week with yoga, cooking, walking and rugby to name a few. Staff are committed to giving pupils lots of varied opportunities during their school life at St Joseph's and all staff will be providing a club throughout the year for children to attend. More details on this will follow. We would also like to say a big well done to our new Y6 Play Leaders and Mental Health Ambassadors, both groups will be busy training for their important roles over the next few weeks.

Year Group Curriculum Planners for Parents

Year group planners have been sent out this week via Parent mail. Please take some time to view these as they cover in more detail curriculum themes that will be taught to your child this during Autumn term. Parental engagement to help support childrens' learning is essential and we thank you in advance for your support with this. These can also be found on the school website under the Pupils heading, then select the year group.

Subject Curriculum Planners

Our updated Subject curriculum plans have also been reviewed and updated. These can be found on our school website under the Curriculum heading, you can then select individual subjects.

Meet the Teacher

We will be holding our first set of Meet the Teacher sessions next week, which will be a great opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher and learn about what life and learning is like for each year group. Teachers will be discussing English, Maths and Foundation subjects as well homework expectations (based on the homework questionnaire sent to parents in the summer term), online safety and curricular enrichment through trips and visits. If you have a question for the teacher at the end of the presentation, there will be some time to ask these. The homeschool agreement will also be shared at the meeting and then sent via Parent mail to all parents (no signature is required, to save paper). It will be deemed accepted that parents agree to the terms of the agreement working in collaboration with the school staff to give the best for the children, unless a parent specifically writes to the Governors stating why they wish to be exempt from this agreement. We look forward to welcoming you all. Please see the dates and times below.

Meet the Teacher Sessions

We are pleased to inform you of an upcoming meeting for you to come into school to meet the teacher and hear of their expectations, how you can support your child at home;

Monday 18 th September	9.00-9.25am	Year One
Monday 18 th September	2.45-3.10pm	Year Two
Tuesday 19 th September	9.00-9.25am	Year Three
Tuesday 19 th September	2.45-3.10pm	Year Four
Wednesday 20 th September	9.00-9.25am	Year Five
Wednesday 20 th September	2.45-3.10pm	Year Six

The staff are looking forward to meeting you!

Attendance and Pastoral Care

Mrs Holmes has taken on the role as Attendance Lead at St Josephs'. She will be contacting the parents of the children who are absent from school requesting reasons for absence if no contact has been made by 9.30am either by parent mail, email or telephone. If you have any concerns regarding your child's attendance, please contact the school office who will pass the information on Mrs Holmes.

Mrs Holmes will also be taking on the role as our school Learning Mentor carrying out weekly sessions with children who may need some extra pastoral support, these sessions will be called Thrive. Thrive will be separate from our current Rainbow sessions which are for children who are suffering from bereavement. Miss Georgiou will continue to see those children. Mrs Holmes has been a qualified child

counsellor for over 2 years with previous experience mentoring in other areas. Thrive sessions will tailor to those children who need that little bit of extra support with social, emotional and mental health. If you feel your child will benefit from a Thrive session with Mrs Holmes please could you contact the school office and Mrs Holmes will contact you to discuss this further. Please be aware sessions for Thrive have already began at school so spaces are limited.

Open Day

Our open day for parents of pre-school children, looking for school places for the next academic year, 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.

NHS- Is my child too ill for school?

We appreciate that ascertaining whether or not your child is too ill to attend school can be a challenge, particularly post COVID. The NHS has produced a document called “Is my child too ill to attend school?” which lists some of the common minor ailments and gives advice on when pupils should stay at home and when they can attend school. To access this document please visit

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Virtues

The children have made a wonderful start to the new year over the last couple of weeks, our whole school virtues this term are **Grateful and Generous.**

- Grateful means feeling really thankful for all the good things that God and others have given us. It's like saying "thank you" to God and those who care for us.
- Generous means being kind and willing to share with others, just like how Jesus taught us.

We have been talking about building God’s community at school and home by being living examples of the gospels through; helping each other, being respectful, having manners, using our gifts to through hard work and effort, sharing and putting the thoughts of others first because we want to, not because we need to. Well done Children!!!

**God of plenty, we thank you for all that you have given us.
Help us to remember what is really important in our lives and to be generous in all that we do.
Amen.**

Yours sincerely,

G M O’Hara
Principal

L Chambers
Vice Principal

J Lynch
Assistant Principal

Dates for your diary September 2023		
Wednesday 27 th Sep	9am	Year 6H Class Assembly
Thursday 28 th Sep	8:45am	Coffee & Chat- all welcome
Wednesday 4 th October	9am	Year 6J Class Assembly
Sunday 7 th October	9am	Family Mass at Holy Trinity Church
Monday 9 th October	Various	Arise Project Assemblies (Anti-Racism)
Monday 16 th October		Reading Workshop
Wednesday 18 th October	9am	Year 5W Class Assembly
Wednesday 18 th October	6pm	Y6 Parents meeting with Fr Ryan about Confirmation –in School
October Half Term- School closed- 30 th October to 3 rd November		
Monday 6 th Nov		INSET Day- school closed to pupils
Tuesday 14 th Nov	9am	Year 5R Class Assembly
Wednesday 15 th Nov		Parents’ Evening
Thursday 16 th Nov		Parents’ Evening
Saturday 18 th Nov	6.00pm	Year 6H Confirmation Mass with ArchBishop Bernard Longley
Sunday 19 th Nov	11.00am	Year 6J Confirmation Mass with ArchBishop Bernard Longley
Wednesday 22 nd Nov	9am	Year 4R Class assembly