



St Joseph's Catholic School Newsletter No. 22

Friday 1st March 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a fantastic week in school and we know that many of the children particularly enjoyed their poetry day earlier in the week. We also like to take this opportunity to wish any of our families who are Welsh or have Welsh heritage a happy St David's Day, Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus!

Dates for next week

Tuesday 5th March 2:45pm- Year 2E Class Assembly

Thursday 7th March 9am- SATs Information talk for Year 6 parents

Thursday 7th March- World Book Day- Children dress up as their favourite character

Thursday 7th March 3:30-4:30pm- PTA Meeting- all welcome

[X 'Twitter' feed and Low School Pupil Numbers](#)

The low birth rate across Birmingham has been felt in pupil numbers across the city including St Josephs, only 33 children in FY.

When full we have 420 pupils – 60 per year group. This year we have far less =397.

We have increased numbers in KS2 (an additional 9 above our PAN *Pupil Admission Number* to address the shortfall (placed by independent panels)).

There is no indication that birth rate numbers have increased for next year and therefore this again is a concern as schools are funded mainly per pupil numbers.

Each child's weighting is about £3400 therefore having 23 children less equates to £78200, if next year's numbers replicate this year we will be looking at a shortfall of @ £180,000.

This is obviously a concern for all, including the governors, who like me are keen to market the school to possible families and pupils especially in FY and Y1 and FY Sept 2024.

Unfortunately, the school cannot be seen from the road as passers-by can for schools like; Coppice, Four Oaks etc.... and as such prospective families can't see the wonderful buildings, fields, stream, playground and environment we have. The governors would therefore like us to change our X 'twitter' status from closed to open – this way more can see it and may wish to explore pupil places here. Obviously, staff monitor the footfall on our account and we will continue to ensure that parents who have informed us that their children's images should be withheld will be.

Please could I ask all families who may know others in other local schools to consider a place here. Yes, we are a Catholic school but we accept children from other faiths and none. In fact, every year group has a healthy mix of Catholics, other faiths and no faith children. Of our 397 children we have 101 none Catholics.

[Fundraising for Lent](#)

During Lent we are encouraging all pupils to raise money for our two chosen charities which are Father Hudson's and CAFOD. As an extra incentive we have a book voucher prize to give away for the child/siblings who bring in the most amount of money raised.

[Dinner Money increase](#)

From Monday 4th March the price of a school dinner is being increased by 10 pence a day to **£2.50**. This is due to service charges and cost of food being passed onto the school.

[Poetry Day](#)

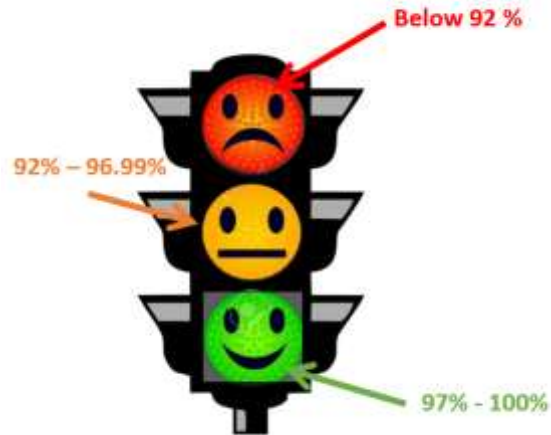
On Tuesday the whole school enjoyed a visit from the poet Andy Tooze who led workshops for each year group. The children loved spending some time developing their poetry skills and performing their poems to Andy and each other.



Attendance

FYBS	97.79%
FYM	97.06%
Y1S	97.84%
Y1L	97.22%
Y2E	89.58%
Y2K	97.92%
Y3J	94.32%
Y3G	99.22%
Y4L	97.18%
Y4R	98.39%
Y5W	98.28%
Y5R	97.58%
Y6J	96.77%
Y6H	89.58%

ATTENDANCE TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM



Where we appreciate those parents that contact the school by 9.30am to let school know their child is going to be absent there are a small number of parents that don't make any contact. As per the school policy (and LA requirements), please could you let the school know either by telephone, email or parent mail by 9.30am if your child is going to be absent and a reason why. This will enable us to add the correct absence code to your child attendance record and avoid any unauthorised absences or home calls / visits.

PTA Meeting

Just a reminder that our PTA will be meeting on Thursday 7th March at 3:30pm to discuss plans for their upcoming Easter events and ideas for further events in the Summer term. It would be greatly appreciated if you are able to give up an hour of your time to attend this meeting.



This Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of Lent and also St David's Day



Dear Lord, we thank You for giving us Your servant, St. David, as an example of holiness. Help us to imitate the love of You he showed in his many years serving You throughout his home country of Wales.

Dates for your diary Spring 2024

Tues 5 th March	2:45pm	Year 2E Class Assembly
Thurs 7 th March	9.00am	SATS information talk for Year 6 parents
Thurs 7 th March		World Book Day- children dress as their favourite book character
Thurs 7 th March	3:30pm-4:30pm	PTA Meeting
12 th - 14 th March	2.15-3pm	Afternoon Tea with Mum
Thurs 14 th March	9.00am	Multiplication Times table Check information talk for Year 4 parents
Friday 15th March	Y3G- 11.00am Y3J- 1.45pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation in Church

Friday 22 nd March		PTA Non-Uniform Day
Mon 25 th March	9am	Year 4 Palm Sunday Assembly
Tues 26 th March	9am	Year 3 Last Supper Assembly
Wed 27 th March	9am	Year 5 Stations of the Cross Assembly
Wed 27 th March		KS1 Easter Egg hunt & KS2 Easter Egg Design Competition
Fri 29 th March		Good Friday and School closed for Easter Holidays
Mon 15 th April		Children return from Easter Holiday

Yours sincerely,

Mr G M O'Hara
Principal

Mrs L Chambers
Vice Principal

Mr J P Lynch
Assistant Principal