



SEPTEMBER 2017

NEWSLETTER



We are starting the year with a 'bumper edition' of our newsletter.

Welcome back to what promises to be another busy, exciting and rewarding year at St. Joseph's.

A special welcome to all children new to our school. We wish them a happy and successful school career at St. Joseph's.

Other 'new arrivals'

We are pleased to welcome Mrs R Armstrong as Year 2 class teacher and Mrs N

Robson, Learning Support Assistant Early Years, to the staff of St. Joseph's. We wish them happiness and success in their new role.

Please read the newsletter as it contains important reminders and updates for the year ahead. In particular please read the attached information regarding **Election of a Foundation Governor.**

The children have settled well into their new classes and look very smart in their uniform. Please encourage your child to wear their uniform every day

and ensure that appropriate footwear is worn for school. In the interests of Health and Safety no jewellery is to be worn at school (if earrings are worn, small stud earrings only are permitted. These **must** be removed or covered for P.E.). Children with long hair must have it tied back. Please note that shaved patterns/styles in hair are not appropriate for school.

We take great pride in wearing our uniform and being good ambassadors for St. Joseph's.

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A message from our Chair of Governors

On behalf of the school Governing Body, I would like to welcome you all, especially new children and staff, to the start of the school year. We hope that this will be a happy, hard-working and fulfilling time for everyone.

In our turn, governors have pledged to work hard and to keep up-to-date

and knowledgeable about the school. We take part in training, join staff meetings, visit lessons and talk to the children. We come to parents' meetings and to school events so that we get to know children and parents and they get to know us.

At the moment **we have a vacancy for a Foundation Governor.** Your

Lynne Potter, Chair of Governors

Governing Body is friendly and supportive. If you feel that you would like to consider becoming a Foundation Governor or would like any further information or have any queries then please contact Miss Mathews.

Thank you to all families for your continued support.

Breakfast Club (Rec to Yr6)

Breakfast Club is open to all children in school at no charge. Doors open at 8.10am and close at 8.30am. Children will **not** be admitted into Breakfast Club after 8.30am. Children must be into breakfast club by 8.30am so as to allow time for them to enjoy their breakfast.

Children are not expected to be left unsupervised on the school yard before 8.45am.

School Staff are not on duty outside before 8.45am

Your co-operation in these matters is expected as the safety and well-being of the children is paramount. Thank you.



not to miss out on these valuable opportunities.

Absence

If your child is absent from school, you must ring us each morning of absence to inform us of the reason. Please do so by calling 0191 2739063, selecting option 1 and leave a message clearing stating your child's name, class and reason for absence.

After School Clubs

There are a number of after school clubs operating this term for children at KS2. We are very grateful to the staff who give so generously of their time to provide these activities for the children in our school. Please ensure your child returns their permission form in good time so as

Student Information Sheet

Your child's 'Student Information Sheet' to be checked, changed and confirmed is attached and should be returned to school no later than Friday 8th September.

It is important that records are kept up to date and that school is informed as soon as possible if there are any changes so that we are able

to contact you easily in the event of an emergency. It is important that we have a form on file for each individual child.

Please note your first emergency contact will be the number used for our texting and cashless system.

Please ensure your form is returned to school no later than Friday 8th September 2017.

Please sign and date at the bottom of the form and tick to confirm changes.

Even if no changes are made, the form must be signed and returned to indicate that the information held is correct.

Thank you.



Dates for the Diary

Term Times & Holidays

Please find attached Term times and Holidays 2017-18. Please note that there is 1 further Training Day to be taken in term time. Families will be notified of the date as soon as it is confirmed.

Open Evening

Open Evening for all parents and carers of children in Year 1 to Year 6 will take place on **Wednesday 1 & Thursday 2 November, 2017.**

Nursery parents/carers will be given the opportunity to meet with the staff at the end of the morning session during the week beginning **Monday 16 October, 2017.**

Reception Class parents/carers will be given an opportunity to meet with the class teacher after school each afternoon of the week beginning **Monday 16 October, 2017.**

This is a valuable opportunity to meet with the class teacher to

discuss the start your child has made to the year. As you know children make the best possible progress when home and school work together. Appointments will be confirmed with parents/carers week ending **Friday 6 October, 2017.** Our Parent Support Adviser, Mrs B. Hepple, will also be available to meet with parents. Mrs Hepple can offer support to children and parents/carers in a number of areas, for example with behaviour, attendance, health etc.

Reading.

As you know we place a great emphasis on the importance of reading and developing a love of books. Your child will bring their reading folder and book home every day. Daily practice is essential for children to make good progress. We are very fortunate to have a number of volunteers who come into school each week to help children practise their reading. Please practise reading with your child. Your support is greatly appreciated.

If you are able to spare approximately an hour a week to support the practice of reading in school please contact your class teacher. All offers are very much appreciated.



Health and Safety

A few reminders...



Collecting children at the end of the day

Please ensure the school office/class teacher is aware of any change of arrangement for collecting children at the end of the day.

Unless there is a pre-arranged agreement, parents are asked **not** to collect other children as we have had on occasion children thought to be 'missing' because they have been collected by another family but without the parent's agreement. This can happen when for example parents are delayed and arrive to school to find their child is no longer in school. This causes a great deal of anxiety both for the family and school.

Please reinforce the message given in school to all children that if the adult they are expecting to take them home is not on the yard at the end of the day they **must** return to their class teacher.



No Dogs

Families are advised that dogs **must not** be brought onto the school premises at any time. Whilst they may be friendly and loving pets, I am sure you will appreciate that not all children are comfortable or confident with dogs. We ask parents/carers to be vigilant in this and alert school staff as necessary.



No Smoking

We are a **no-smoking zone.** Smoking (including the use of e-cigarettes) is not permitted anywhere within the school grounds.

Birthday treats

Due to the increasing number of children with known food allergies, please be aware that we are no longer able to accept birthday cakes/treats into school to be shared out.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

Road Safety

Please be aware that the school mini buses are used throughout the week for a variety of visits and activities. The entrance to school **must be kept clear** with the yellow school markings clear of **ALL** traffic to allow access for the mini buses in order to return children safely to school at the end of the school day.



School Meals

A reminder that the cost of school meals for Key Stage 2 children is £10.00 per week (£2.00 per day).



Free School Meals

Please can all families who think they may qualify for Free School Meals complete an application form, which is attached or can be done online. (This includes families whose children receive a Universal Infant Free School Meal because they are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2)

If you are entitled to Free School Meals, they are granted until a child's 18th birthday, unless your circumstances change. For a child in Reception and Year 1 and Year 2, completing the form now means that, if you are eligible, your child will continue to receive Free School Meals as they move

School Uniform

Please ensure that **all** items of clothing are clearly marked with your child's name.

Children do remove their sweatshirts on a number of occasions throughout the day. Given that all items of uniform look very similar, it is essential that clothing is labelled so that children go home in the same clothes they arrived in! Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

We have a stock of good 'almost new' uniform in school. If any family would like spare uniform then please do not hesitate to speak to the class teacher or office.

To order school uniform visit www.stjosephsrcprimary.co.uk/website/uniform orders can be

into Year 3 without the need for you to complete further forms. It also means that you won't have to pay for meals while you wait for the form to be processed by the Local Authority.

It is very important that all the children eligible for Free School Meals are known to school as this affects other funding that school receives, in particular Pupil Premium where school receives additional funding to improve educational outcomes and provide a wide range of enrichment activities for children in school. Please help us not to miss out on this funding.

If you have any questions or queries, then please do not hesitate to contact the school office or Mrs Hepple, our Parent Support Adviser. We are more than happy to help!

delivered to school free of charge or to your home address for a small charge.

Book Bags and Book Satchels

We have a limited number of Book Bags and Book Satchels available in school. You are able to purchase these via School Money.

The Book Satchels are also available from the supplier using the above link.

PE Kit

We are pleased to be extending our PE provision at St. Joseph's this year. As well as ActiveKids delivering PE in school for KS2 (Yr 3-6) we are delighted to be working with a coach from Newcastle United Foundation this year. The coach will

Cashless System

Each family should now have their log in details for School Money, alternatively should you require a PayPoint slip, please inform the School Office.



PARENTS SHOULD ALL BE ABLE TO ACCESS THEIR ACCOUNTS ONLINE.

Admin staff should not be taking card payments as an alternative to cash payments as this still creates congestion at the office. If you do not have internet access, you can pay using the PayPoint method.



School Visits

School Visits are to be paid at www.schoolmoney.org or using your PayPoint slip. Please ensure correct barcode is scanned.

work in school, 1 day per week, delivering PE to KS1 and KS2 children throughout the year.

This is an excellent opportunity for all children to participate in a wide range of high quality PE activities.

Children **must** have their PE kit in school every day. In the interests of Health and Safety, they must have sandshoes or trainers to be able to take part in outdoor activities.

Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school on a Monday and that it remains in school until Friday when it can be taken home for washing. This means that if there are any changes to the timetable during the week children are always able to participate in PE activities.

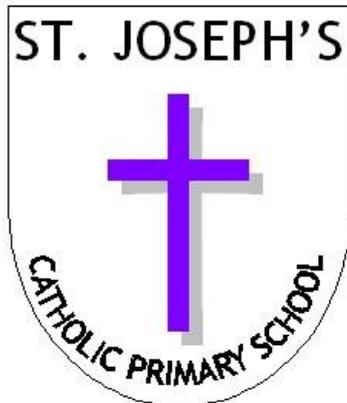


Living, Learning and Loving
together with Christ.



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Edible Garden

This year all classes will have their own box in the Edible Garden in which to plant and grow a range of fruit, vegetables and flowers which will support and inspire work across all areas of the curriculum.



If you are interested in helping your child's class with the Edible Garden please contact the class teacher who will be delighted to hear from you.

Please look out for requests of donations of seeds/cuttings too.

I have no doubt that our Edible Garden will flourish under the 'green fingers' of all children and staff.



Conduct on the Yard

All members of our school community are expected to be good role models and give good example to our children. We expect everyone to act with courtesy and consideration and to be mindful that, as role models, everything that is said and done in and around our school must be appropriate for children to see and hear and not cause offence to anyone.

If there is a matter which you need to bring to the attention of the class teacher or myself, then please contact the office to make an appointment or come into school at the end of the school day. You may have to wait a few minutes until all children have been collected for the staff to be available. Thank you.

Celebration Assembly

All family and friends are invited to our weekly celebration assembly which takes place on a Friday at 9.15 a.m. This is an opportunity to share in our many achievements and successes, and to hear about the different and varied activities which take place in school during the week. Please come and join us. We look forward to seeing you there.



School Website

Please remember to check our website regularly for information and updates.

www.stjosephsrcprimary.co.uk



MISSION STATEMENT

At St Joseph's we aim to promote a learning community based on the Gospel values of Love, Trust and Respect, where the achievements of everyone are recognised and celebrated.

Living, Learning and Loving together with Christ.