



SEPTEMBER 2018

NEWSLETTER

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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.

Please read the newsletter as it contains important reminders and updates for the year ahead.

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.

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. Alternatively, this stock of uniform can be accessed on a Thursday after school, from the downstairs Meeting Room. We would appreciate a contribution of £1 per item. Please do make use of this stock of uniform as it is a shame to see it go to waste, particularly as some children grow out of their clothes so quickly!

When ordering uniform, please note that having the school logo on items of uniform is entirely **optional**. As long as children are in the colours of our uniform, school has no preference as to whether children

have the logo on their uniform or not.

To order school uniform visit www.stjosephsrcprimary.co.uk/website/uniform Orders can be delivered to school free of charge or to your home address for a small charge. School does not hold new stock. New uniform is **only** available from the supplier, Tots to Teams.

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 continuing our PE provision at St. Joseph's this year. As well as Active Kids delivering PE in school we are delighted that we are continuing to work with a coach from Newcastle United Foundation. The coach will 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.

All children in Yr 1 to Yr 6 will be given a school drawstring bag in which to keep their PE kit. Spare PE kit is available in school should there be an occasion when your child does not have their PE kit. If PE kit is borrowed from school, please ensure it is washed and returned so that other children can use it if needed.

Thank you

Please note, the only school bag that children need is their book bag. Children are asked not to bring any other bags to school as these cause cloakroom areas to become congested with children then struggling to hang up their coats.

Breakfast Club (Rec to Yr 6)

Breakfast Club is open to all children in school from Reception to Year 6 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 are paramount. Thank you.

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 clearly stating your child's name, class and reason for absence. Alternatively, email us at absence@stjosephsrcprimary.co.uk

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.

Nut Allergies

No products containing nuts are allowed in school.



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/sweets into school to be shared out. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

Pupil Information Sheet

A 'Pupil Information Sheet' has been sent home with your child. Please ensure you have returned the sheet, checking, changing and confirming details. These should be returned to school no later than **Friday 21 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 21 SEPTEMBER 2018

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

Thank you.



Litter

We work hard to keep our school environment clean and safe and free from litter. Please ensure that any litter goes into the bin on the yard and is not dropped onto the ground.

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.



Inclement Weather



Having already experienced 'wet weather' play, please ensure your child comes to school with a coat and wellies/waterproof shoes when it is raining. Children (and staff!) don't mind the rain and can still go out to play if the rain is not too heavy... but not without a coat and shoes which will keep their feet dry. Thank you.

School Improvements

We are delighted to be able to redesign and refurbish the Early Years outdoor area. Work has begun this week and all being well, should be complete by Friday 21 September. Let's hope the weather is kind to allow the works to progress as planned!



I am sure you will appreciate the hard work that has gone into making our school a vibrant learning community and we thank Mr Wilson and his team for their hard work in ensuring school is a clean, safe and healthy place for us all.



School Meals

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



A School Meal Menu is attached.

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 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!

Cashless System

Each family should now have their log in details for 'eduspot' (formerly School Money), alternatively should you require a PayPoint slip, please ask at 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.

When logging on to 'eduspot', please ensure you click on '[schoolmoney parent login](#)'

School Visits

School Visits are to be paid at eduspot.co.uk or by using your PayPoint slip. Please ensure the correct barcode is scanned.

After School Clubs

There are a number of after school clubs operating this term. 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 attends each week. If they are unable to attend, please inform school as to the reason why. Some clubs are over subscribed and it is disappointing and unfair to those children who have not been allocated a place, and are on a waiting list, if children who have a place do not attend.

Dates for your Diary



Term Times & Holidays

Please find attached Term times and Holidays 2018-19. Please note that there are 2 further Training Days to be taken in term time. Families will be notified of the dates as soon as they are confirmed.

Next Training Day:- Friday 26 October 2018

Open Evenings

Years 1 to Year 6

Open Evening for all parents and carers of children in Year 1 to Year 6 will take place on:

Tuesday 23 & Wednesday 24 October.

Early Years

Early Years parents/carers will be given an opportunity to meet with the class teacher each afternoon of the week beginning **Monday 15/22 October.**

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 for Yr 1 to Yr 6 will be confirmed **Monday 15 October.**

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.

Online Safety

Our new On-Line Safety Policy is now on the school website. Please take the time to look at this. All children from Yr 3 to Yr 6 have signed the On-Line Safety Code of Conduct for Pupils. A copy of this will be sent home with your child. Please read through this with your child and then sign and return the slip on the letter as requested. Thank you.



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.



School Website

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

www.stjosephsrcprimary.co.uk



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.



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.

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 9.15am. 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.

