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Friday September 25th 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The children are settling well into the new routines and it has been lovely to see the new Reception children staying for their first school dinners. Next week will be their first full week in the Reception class and we are looking forward to that. Congratulations to the children who made their first Holy Communion last Sunday, it was lovely to see them all. They have waited so long to receive Jesus and I am sure their day was extra special because of that.



It is also with sadness that we say goodbye to Father Tom this week, he will be leaving the Parish on Sunday to join the priests of Notre Dame de Vie in France. We will really miss him and we wish him all the best. He has brought so much spiritual support and help to our school over the years. We will be welcoming Father Richard Elson to our parish in October, he will be coming from a Parish in Swindon and joined the Priest hood after many years as a teacher.



***"Together we love, together we hope, together we learn."***



## **Maths at St Josephs**

Mrs Matravers sent out a comprehensive and informative newsletter earlier this week; please take some time to read it as it has information about our maths progression in school.

The government is clear that we need to check that children have not fallen behind; Numberbots takes children through from first numbers up to subtraction of two-digit numbers. It works in "Story Mode" and the challenges start from easy and work up through the arithmetic skills. This is useful for all children in KS2 to revise and check their understanding. The "Gig" mode in TTRockStars does the same for times tables.

In line with the government guidance, we are also restarting our award scheme to make sure there are no gaps in understanding. This means children will cover some topics again but they can move quickly through the levels in school. Stickers will be put in their journals to indicate where they are and what they need to practice next.

## **Google Classroom**

Please make sure you visit your child's classroom with them. All homework will be set on this platform including projects and spellings. This will also be the platform for teaching in the event of a class bubble being asked to work from home.

## **PTFA**

Please see the attached "Cake of the Week" poster. In the current circumstances it is very difficult for the PTFA to function as normal and to be able to raise funds for the school. If you would like to make a donation in lieu of normal fundraising events, you can set up a standing order or send in a one-off donation in a sealed envelope to the school office.

## **Start and end to the school day**

Reception children will be starting at 8.30 and finishing at 2.50 next week. Could I ask Year 2 parents to use the big double gates to enter and leave the playground and Reception and Year 1 to use the smaller pedestrian gate. Thank you to every one for wearing a mask when they are in the car park and the playground we can all do our bit to help stop the spread of the virus.

## **Dropping equipment or coats**

We are going to go back to the system that we had during lockdown. If you have anything that you have forgotten please leave it inside the double doors in the box on the floor. The article should be labelled and if necessary in a plastic bag. We will check on the box regularly during the morning and take the box around to the classrooms so that your child only handles the bag or item. Please drop letters or forms into the box on the front gate or the box inside the Foyer. E mail or telephone the school with your queries instead of coming into the front office.

## **Car Park**

Thank you also to everyone for being patient with regards the car park and parking off site if the car park is full. I want to reiterate that parents **should not** park in the pub car park across the road as this is not an overspill car park for us but private land. On Monday morning the landlord has specifically asked that parents do not park in the car park as they are having a cancer coffee morning fund raiser. He would however really like you to join in and of course you would be welcome to park if that was the case.



## **Coronavirus news**

Today, NHS Test and Trace has launched the [NHS COVID-19 app](#). The app has been launched to help control the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). It will do this by alerting people who may have been exposed to infection so that they can take action.

The app is available to download on smartphones for anyone over 16. Please download the app to help control the spread of the virus.

**Please see the important letter attached to this newsletter from the NHS.**

## **Lunch time next week**

Next week Fish and chips will be available on Thursday as this is census day. I can't emphasise enough how important it is for your child to have a school lunch on this day whether it is a wrap or fish and chips. The Government uses the census to award different grants and remuneration to the school. The lower the number of children taking school meals on this day the less money we get. Some schools ban packed lunches on this day unless a pupil has a severe allergy. I don't want to do this but please help us by getting your child to have a school dinner next Thursday.

## **Parent's evenings:**

Settling in and progress during term 1: Reception-Year 6

Monday 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, these will be held by telephone and you will be given an hours slot for a 10 minute phone chat. We will send out this information in your child's school diary week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> of October. You will be able to email the school office if the time is unsuitable. We are going to try and use the appointments from last year to gauge the appropriate times you might be available.

## **Nut allergy**

We would like to remind everyone that we are a **nut free school**, please do not send your child to school with nuts either for a snack or in their lunch box. We have several children who are severely allergic to nuts.

## **Reading at home**

Thank you to all of those parents and children who read 5x or more at home this week. Well done to Year 3 for coming top this week. This is super beneficial for your child's reading development at every age. Please sign your child's school diary if they have read to you for 10 minutes at home. The older children like to record their own independent reading but we would ask that parents still check and sign the journals.

## **School Uniform Reminder:**

Summer uniform can be worn up to Friday 2nd October. If you are unsure of the uniform code there is a list available in the office and on the web site. Please make sure everything is named as it will go into the lost property box if it is left unnamed around the school. **Please** remember that your child needs a coat as the weather is getting cooler, a waterproof coat is essential if it is raining as we still like to get the children outside even if it's drizzling.

PE kits can be worn into school when it is your child's PE day, your class teacher will let you know when these days are.



## **Safeguarding**

The NSPCC provides a wide range of useful advice for parents, carers and teachers. You might find this link useful:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/>

It has various topics, some of which might be particularly topical in the current COVID climate.

## **Starting school September 2021**

If you have a child born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017, then now is the time to apply for a place at our school for admission from September 2021 onwards. You must complete an application form that is available from the school admissions team of North Somerset Council. [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions)

If your child has been baptised and you wish to apply for our school, you must also provide a copy of the baptism certificate to the school. Please ensure you apply by the closing date of 15 January 2021." The closing date for reception applications is 23:59 on 15 January 2020. There are open afternoons when you can visit the school at 3pm on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 22<sup>nd</sup> October and the 19<sup>th</sup> of November, please contact the school office if you wish to attend. These will be socially distanced open afternoons and will take place after the children have gone home. We are asking for parents only to attend these afternoons.

## **Fruit snack**

If your child is in Reception or KS2 they do not need a snack from home at break time. We have an assortment of fruit to give to the children. We only allow a piece of fruit or vegetable at snack time as part of our healthy schools programme.

## **Free School Meals**

If your circumstances have changed or you are a new Reception parent on a low income you may be entitled to free school meals you can apply on line or come into the school office and we can help. <https://www.gov.uk> > [Childcare and parenting](#) > [Schools and education](#)

Remember although your child may be entitled to free Infant school meals you can also apply if you feel you are eligible as the school also get support for your child to help with support teaching, equipment, subsidy for trips, music lessons, after school clubs and school uniform.



**God Bless  
Mrs Jackson and Mr Bath**