



St. Joseph's RC Primary School  
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Newsletter no. 1

6th September 2019

### Upcoming events

**Monday 9th September**  
Year 6 Swimming begins

**Tuesday 10th  
September**  
Guitar lessons  
(lunchtime) begins

Y3/4/5/6  
Football/Games after  
school begins

**Wednesday 11th  
September**  
Welcome Mass in Church  
9.15am

First Holy Communion  
Meeting  
Y4 Classroom 3.15pm  
Dance classes KS2 after  
school begins

**Wednesday 18th  
September**  
Sewing lessons Y4/5/6  
after school begins

### Welcome Back!

Hello and welcome back to all of our families after the Summer Break. Everyone has settled in so well, including our new Nursery and Reception children, and we are all ready to learn. A big welcome to our new families - I am sure you already feel a part of the St Joseph's family.

### Building Work

During the Summer, builders were extremely busy around school, ensuring that work was completed in readiness for the new term. We are delighted with the result; our Foundation Stage now have shared areas to work in, with a new meeting room for us to use. The new fencing also ensures we are fully compliant with safeguarding requirements. The signs around school, provided by NEDisplay, also enhance our environment. Thank you to all involved.

### Staffing

Just a few changes to our staffing this year. Miss Doran has started with us as a Teaching Assistant in Early Years. As well as this, we welcome Miss Lee and Miss O'Connor who are training with us on the Initial Teacher Training programme.

### Uniform

It is always a delight to see so many children in their bright new uniforms. Our uniform shows that we are part of St Joseph's Primary School community, and we have the highest expectations from our pupils with regards to school uniform, including wearing shoes not trainers. Please could we ask that all uniform is clearly labelled with the child's name? Any clothing (including hats, gloves etc) that has been left in school will be collected from cloakrooms each Friday and placed in the Lost Property Box which will be in the Reception area outside the office. Children should also have their PE kits available (labelled if possible) and this does include plimsolls for all children, not trainers.

### Earrings

If your child has recently had their ears pierced, please can you make sure they are removed by the end of September at the very latest. In the meantime, please ensure that they are covered with a plaster.

### Fundraising

Thank you for all your support last year in our quest to develop our outside areas. The Friends of St Joseph's worked relentlessly through the year, and will be able to inform us soon of how much they raised. All involved at St Joseph's are members of this group, and we will be holding an AGM soon which you are welcome to attend. Our page on Easyfundraising shows we raised £377.14 last year, simply by clicking on the logo when purchasing online. As well as this, I must thank Jenny Wood in Year 4 who has been raising money all year, including making £110 this Summer selling cakes. What a little Superstar!

### **Summer Holidays 2020**

I know it seems early, but you may not realise that next year we have a 7-week Summer holiday. I felt it would be beneficial to let you know early in case you need to sort holidays (and you may be able to get a cheap one in the last week of the break!).

### **Punctuality**

We already have a number of children who are arriving at school after 9.00. This means that not only do they miss the beginning of their learning, but also staff need to be taken out of class to come and collect them. We are monitoring the children who are regularly late and parents will be contacted to discuss this.

### **Walking Home From School**

We expect children from Nursery to Y4 to be picked up from school by a known adult. Some parents want to encourage independence when their children reach Y5 and Y6 and they start to allow their children to walk home. This is a parental decision, but we will only allow this to happen if the parent informs the office in writing that they are happy for this to happen. If your child attends after school clubs, we can't allow them to walk home alone.

### **Extended Schools Activities**

School staff and outside coaches currently offer a range of extended schools clubs and activities (for example, football/games, Mini Vinnies, recorder, library, etc.) both during lunchtimes and after school. We are looking at ways to complement our already packed programme and would like to know if any parents, carers, grandparents or other friends of the school have a suitable level of skill or relevant qualification and would like to offer their services to run or support an extra-curricular activity. We will consider all suggestions – it would be nice to have any people come forward who can do gardening or art as well as sporting support. If you think that this is something you would like to get involved in, please contact Mrs Whalen or the school office.

### **School Calendar and events**

Please find attached the school calendar showing some of the events for the coming term. There are some events which we have not been able to finalise yet. When other events are scheduled during the year, you will receive more detailed information through our newsletters, our website, social media and our messaging services.

### **Finally...**

A big thank you from myself for the kind words at the end of last year. It is good to know we have the support of our wonderful school community and you can be assured that we continue to strive for the best for your children.

Yours

Mr P Craig  
Headteacher