



Building Works Update

Following our final meeting today with Kier, our appointed builders, I can now confirm that the groundworks to install the mobile classroom building for Year 2 classes will start this Monday. Health and safety for all is our primary concern. The works will be self-contained with secure fencing to ensure the safety of all of our community and nobody will be able to get access to where they are working. Deliveries to the site will be restricted so to limit any disruption to the normal working day. Kier staff will have DBS clearance and they have a successful track record of working on live school sites for the Government, including St Mary's.

At this moment, unfortunately it looks like the playground equipment on the KS1 playground will have to be removed in order to gain access to the field to site the mobile unit. Tree works will also be undertaken during this time to the area around the KS1 playground and field area.

The timeline at the moment is to have the building handed over to the school during our first week back after the October half term. As soon as the building is in our possession, we will go about setting up and moving classrooms for our Year 2s. We will let you know if /when there are changes to this timeline.

Having finally been given planning permission for the project, we are now working with the DfE and the LA to secure increased costs to our project, which have now reached nearly £7million. We are hoping and praying that the Local Authority will agree to their increased contribution at their Cabinet meeting later on in this month so that contracts can be signed in November/December.

If parents have any questions regarding these first set of works starting next week, I will be available on Friday 18th at 09.00 in the hall to help answer any questions you may have.

Once we have the final green light to proceed with the major building work, we will host a series of meetings for parents to go through arrangements prior to the work commencing.

Meet your Teacher Sessions

Thank you to all of you who managed to attend these sessions at the start of the term- I am glad they were of use. The presentations are on the website and can be found on the school website –

Pupils/Curriculum/Information Sessions

Or here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6ft7cp7>

Start of Year Mass and Chaplaincy Food Bank Collection

Fr Carlos celebrated our start of term mass last week and commissioned our new chaplaincy team who will work with all the pupils and staff to develop our Catholic life at the school. The first task they have chosen has been inspired by their visit to the local food bank where there is a great need for toiletries to be collected.

Each class is being asked to collect different items over these next three weeks – please double check with your child or the communication sent out earlier this week regarding this cause.

Bikeability Week

Congratulations to all the Year 5 and 6 pupils who took part in the bikeability scheme recently and achieved their level 1 or 2 awards. Having two year groups did provide us with more challenges than usual with the bike shed but we wanted to ensure that our Year 5s had the opportunity that may not be possible next year.

Late at the End of Day

There may be an occasion when circumstances beyond your control lead you to picking your child up late. If this is the case please do contact the school as soon as possible so that we can make the class teacher aware to bring your child down to the Office for collection. If we do not get the message prior to 15.30, your child will be brought to the Office for collection.

Please be aware that the local authority has very clear guidance on pupils being constantly being picked up late that include notifying children's services.

If a different person is collecting your child than expected, please do communicate this with the School Office as early as you can on that day.

Diary Dates

Please find attached updated diary dates with class masses for this term. Some key dates which have already been promoted coming up include:

Year 6 PGL Meeting on Monday 14th October in Willow Class at 15.45

Flu immunisation on Monday 14th October

Awards Assembly on Thursday 24th October

Cake Sale and Second hand Uniform Sale on Thursday 24th October

INSET day on Friday 25th October- no pupils in school.

School Association AGM on Thursday 7th November 15.35-16.00

Mode Shift Stars Silver Award

It was confirmed earlier in the start of the term that the school has now gained the mode shift stars silver award for the work undertaken during the last year. The Modeshift schools awards scheme has been established to recognise schools that have demonstrated excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable travel. Our great thanks to Vedran Biondic, our lead governor on this project.

Dinner Money for Juniors

Please note: Dinner money must be paid in advance. School meal prices are £2.60 per day, £13.00 per week. You may pay any amount of your choice to keep your balance in credit. Please pay online using the School Gateway system. All you need to do to activate an account is download the school gateway from your app store or visit the website www.schoolgateway.com and click new user. You will receive a message with a PIN number and you can use this to log in. Please be sure the school office has your up to date email and mobile phone number.

Two weeks' notice in writing to Nicky Thompson, our Catering Manager, is required for any changes in dietary pattern.

Milk Order

Milk is available to all age groups through the school. If you would like your child to receive mid-morning milk please just visit www.coolmilk.com to register and place your order.

Finally

We would like to welcome all of our new pupils and families who have joined the family of St Joseph's this term, including our new Reception and Nursery cohorts. It has been so pleasing to see the children settling into our school life so quickly. In addition, we also welcome Mrs Ruth Bamlett as SenCo who has already made a great start to her role here.

Prayer to Mary, Mother of the Holy Family

Our Lady, who did ask for the Holy House to be built here in England, lead us to contemplate the hidden life of the Holy Family in Nazareth and to listen to the voice of God in the stillness of our hearts. May we find sanctuary in your maternal care and comfort in your prayers. Guide us on this pilgrimage on earth, that, by imitating your joyful welcome of the Divine Will, we too may one day dwell with the Blessed Trinity forever. Amen.