

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

"To Live Love and Learn in a Caring Christian Community"

NEWSLETTER NO.27 Part 1 JULY 2020

Dear Parents

It has been very strange for us all over the last 12 weeks. Not being able to see your children every day and celebrating their success has been challenging. On the positive side, we have been able to adapt our home learning and I know those pupils who have undertaken some work every day will be in a stronger position come September.

Thank you to the great number of parents who thanked us for what we have provided over these last twelve weeks. The White Rose maths and the Seesaw App, as well as utilising the best bits from the National Academy, has made a positive impact in terms of engagement for the pupils. It certainly has been a learning experience for us in school in providing home learning. As teachers we always plan too much rather than too little for lessons and this could well have been the case with the home learning tasks. Therefore, we will leave the work on the school website for you to continue to access over the holidays, particularly if your child has only partially engaged with some of the home learning.

Thank you and well done to all of you who have managed to juggle family life and home learning requirements for all of your children during this challenging time. Let me know if you now have the urge to change careers and become teachers!

End of Term Arrangements

Term finishes for the Reception/Year1/ Key Worker bubbles this week on Thursday afternoon at the normal afternoon end of day pick up time during lockdown- 14.45/15.00/15.15. (We are not closing at 13.30) Year 6 pupils will be in school on Friday 17th July between 09.00 and 13.00. The Year 6 leavers' liturgy and awards celebration will start at 11.00. As we have already informed you, please remember that unfortunately only one person can attend this service from each family, eg one parent. Siblings and additional adults/parents cannot attend and will have to be turned away I am afraid.

We will not be sending books and work home this week but will hold onto them until September. Like last year, we will continue to use the pupils' last maths and English books and return them to you once that book has finished at the end of the year. Any remaining belongings that have labels in will also be returned if they have been left in school since March.

School Building News

Unfortunately I have not been able to share any update about the school building works with you since lockdown due to restrictions placed by the DfE on their building projects. As a result, I have not been allowed to share any progress photos or information. Obviously if you have been on site or walked passed the school, you can see for yourself how well the building is coming along. I hope that when we return in September, I will be able to share that the building work is still on schedule!

We hope to have the keys to the building on December 23rd 2020 and then we have to pack up everything that is going to the new building by January 4th 2021. Moving, unpacking and ensuring the school is ready for pupils will take up to two weeks. Whilst we are in the new building, the current building will be demolished and the landscaping completed between January and August of 2021, leaving us able to officially open the school in September 2021.

Academic Year Dates 2020/21

Please find below the planned academic year dates for the upcoming school year. You will notice that due to the need to move into the new school building, pupils are not due back to school until Monday 18th January 2021. As we have previously mentioned, the school has to close for five additional days on top of INSET and our occasional day in order to logistically move between our current buildings into the new school building. In order to minimise the impact on the children, we will be sending home learning for the week of the 11th January. It is not ideal to have to close the school for an additional five days, but it is necessary. At least we are experienced in setting home learning now!

Obviously the week of 11th January is at the mercy of the building project still keeping to its current schedule. We will of course let you know if we hear differently from the DfE and Kier that we need to re-arrange that week to a different point in the year.

Academic Year Dates 2020/2021

Autumn Term 2020:

Tuesday 1st September INSET- No Pupils Wednesday 2nd September Pupils Return INSET- No pupils Monday 26th October Friday 30th October Half Term holiday

Friday 18th December Last day of term (13.30 finish)

Spring Term 2021:

Monday 4th January

Tuesday 5th January

Wednesday 6th January

Thursday 7th January

Friday 8th January

Occasional Day- No pupils

INSET- No pupils

INSET- No pupils

INSET- No pupils

INSET- No pupils

Monday 11th January- Friday 15th January Moving to New Building- No pupils

Monday 18th January

Monday 15th February-Friday 19th February

Half Term holiday

Friday 26th March Last day of term (13.30 finish)

Summer Term 2021:

Monday 12th AprilPupils ReturnMonday 3rd MayBank HolidayMonday 31st May - Friday 4th JuneHalf Term holiday

Thursday 22nd July Last day of term (13.30 finish)