



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

NEWSLETTER NO.4

NOVEMBER 2021

COVID Restrictions at St Joseph's

Following on from our outbreak of positive COVID cases, as a school we are still having to enforce measures to restrict the spread of COVID within our community.

There have been improvements in Yr5/6 which mean we are now able to start clubs outside again for these year groups and they can become one bubble rather than three separate bubbles.

However, following meetings with Public Health, we still have to enforce the following in our school:

- Bubbles for EYFS/Yr1/Yr2/Yr3/Yr4/Yr5 and 6
- Phased break and lunchtimes for pupils
- No large in-person gatherings in the building- no assemblies, masses, meetings
- Facemasks to be worn by all adults in the school
- Facemasks to be worn by all parents dropping off and collecting pupils from the school site

I had hoped this would have changed for the school by last week, but unfortunately, they are still to be enforced.

Report Cards and Parent Consultations

Next week you will be receiving your child's autumn report card highlighting their strengths and targets to work on. This will be followed up in the spring term with a further report card highlighting progress before receiving an end of year report card in the summer term.

Parent consultations will be held online during the week commencing 6th December. Please see the attached letter for more information.

EYFS/KS1 Christmas Celebrations

Due to the current restrictions we are unable to hold in person meetings or gatherings, therefore, we will be adjusting our EYFS and KS1 Christmas celebrations accordingly. As with last year, we will be celebrating with carols and readings in EYFS and Year 1 and having a traditional nativity in Year 2. These will be filmed and made available to parents online via a secure password at the end of the term. I understand that a lot of local schools are doing their celebrations in this way and some are still able to have parents in to watch, but unfortunately we do not have this option due to our COVID restrictions. However, this does mean that the pupils will be celebrating the season of Advent even more than in previous years, which is liturgically correct!

Staffing Update

With great sadness, we say good-bye to the wonderful Mrs Centa, a St Joseph's legend who has worked in the school office for 24 years. Begrudgingly I agreed to her wishes of not announcing it before her last day as the emotions would be too great. She retires after a great staff send off and with our very best wishes to enjoy more time around her growing family. Thank you so much, Kathy.

We are very pleased to welcome Mrs Halls to our Admin Team who will be working with Mrs Devlin and Mrs Curran in the office.

Cleaner Vacancy

We are looking to appoint an additional cleaner for the school to work 10 hours per week, term time only. If you know of anyone looking for such a role, please let the School Office or Steve, our Premises Manager, know.

'Just Talk' Campaign

Last week we took part in Hertfordshire's 'Just Talk campaign'. During our PSHE lessons last week, we were learning about the 'five ways to wellbeing': notice, learn, connect, give and be active. We learnt that doing these five things can help to keep us mentally healthy and that if anything is worrying us, we need to let a trusted adult know so that they can help us.

We all took part in the 'five ways to wellbeing' poster competition, and the winners were announced in assembly today:

KS1 - Nia in Cherry Class

LKS2 - Holly and Sophie in Oak Class

UKS2 - Grace in Willow Class

The winners were rewarded with a mindfulness colouring book, new pencils and felt-tip pens for their classes.

COVID19

If your child displays any of the COVID symptoms detailed below, please follow the NHS guidance for obtaining a PCR test as soon as possible. He or she will then need to stay off school until the test result arrives - usually within 24 hours.

Once you receive the results, please contact the school, as we have to report the outcomes of PCR tests to Public Health.

If the test is positive, your child will need to self-isolate for 10 days. If the test is negative, they will need to return to school.

School Association AGM

My thanks to all of you who attended our recent AGM and for all of those who over the last year helped to raise money for the school which we use to make your child's school experiences better. I particularly want to thank again Andrew Faulkner and Tanya McConn who have now stepped down from their posts as secretary and Chair respectively. Your boundless energy and enthusiasm has made a real difference and we have been blessed as a school by your commitment.

Remembrance Day and Poppy Appeal 2021

Thank you to all the parents and children who bought poppies at school. We will let you know how much was raised once it had been confirmed by the British Legion. In school, we had a special assembly where we reflected on the origins of the poppy in WW1 and the importance of remembering those who have died and suffered in battle for our country and peace.

Bike-ability Yr6

Well done to all of our Yr6 pupils who took part in the bike-ability course after half term. Feedback from the instructors was very positive regarding your behaviour and how confidence grew during each session as you learnt how to safely cycle on the road.

School Applications for Reception Class 2022

A reminder to all of our Nursery parents that you must complete your local authority's online application for a school place as well as completing and returning to us our school's information form with all relevant documents by January 15th 2022. Please note this is a Saturday so our school form and associated documentation should be with us by Friday 14th! More information can be found on our website.

Reminder:

No Nuts Policy: The school has a strict no nuts policy. Within school there are a growing number of children who suffer from severe nut allergies and are at risk of anaphylactic shock should they have any contact at all with nuts. It is therefore imperative that no products containing nuts are brought onto the school site or included within pack lunches or snack items.

School Uniform: We have a growing mountain of unnamed school uniform in the school. If your child has lost an item of clothing, then please come to the School Office on Monday after school to see if we have it. Unclaimed items will be washed and recycled for families in need.

PLEASE CHECK TO ENSURE ALL UNIFORM IS LABELLED!

Prayer

This week is the first week of Advent, a time of prayer and reflection as we wait with joy for the Lord, the hope of the world.

Light up our lives

Christ, come into our world of darkness

Light up our lives with your coming.

Fulfil all our longings with the joy of your birth

Strengthen our resolve to work for change in our world

And to share the hope of your birth that each Advent brings.

Amen.

Sr Bridgetta Rooney/CAFOD