



## ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

**NEWSLETTER NO.1**

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

Dear Parent/Carers

We welcome all of our new families in Nursery, Reception and throughout the school who joined the family of St Joseph's this term. It has been really noticeable how the family of St Joseph's has grown with another class of pupils joining on top of in year starters. We are now over 400 pupils strong and running two forms of entrance throughout the whole school with waiting lists in most year groups. Visiting the classrooms, I have been really proud of the way our pupils are getting back into good routines and enjoying their learning.

### **Communication with the School**

Please be aware that you can contact the school in person, via note or letter, telephone and through email- [admin@stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk). Please do not pass on messages or communicate with staff via the Tapestry or Seesaw apps – these are used by the school to upload work etc. The reason for this is to ensure that there is only one gateway for communication via the school admin team, who will pass on the messages to staff. Teachers do not look at the Tapestry or Seesaw apps regularly during the week and therefore this is not an effective way to receive a message.

If you are writing to either myself or Miss Cassidy-Jones, we will do our best to get back to you within five working days from receiving your correspondence. The admin team will confirm when the communication has been passed on to either of us.

Most concerns can be dealt with quickly and easily. However, if you do have a complaint, please be aware that we have to follow the Trusts complaints policy, which is available on the school website.

### **Uniform/Lunchboxes/Water Bottles**

Please do ensure that all uniform, lunchboxes and water bottles are labelled so that we have a fighting chance of getting your child's belongings back to them when they are left in the playground. This week we had fourteen jumpers and cardigans that were left on the playground. Fortunately, twelve were clearly named, but two lunch boxes were not.

### **KS1 and KS2 Meet the Teacher Sessions**

The access codes for the sessions next week will be sent to you shortly. Whilst we use Google Meet as our platform, you should be able to attend remotely on the internet without a Google Meet account. The presentations will also be available on the website at the end of the school week for those unable to join one of the sessions.

### **ESAFETY Newsletter to Parents**

HFL's autumn term safety newsletter for parents is being sent home today. Please do find some time to read it and upskill your knowledge or awareness on this important issue.

### **School Timings and Lateness**

A reminder that the school opening and closing times are as follows:

Nursery AM: 0840-1140

Nursery PM: 1230-1530

Reception: 0845 – 09.05 pupils enter class and registration ends

Reception end of day: 1515

KS1: 0840 pupils enter playground/0845-0900 pupils enter classroom

KS1 end of day: 1520

KS2: 0840 pupils enter playground/0845-0900 pupils enter classroom

KS2 end of day 1525

We have a soft start to the day and staggered closing times to enable parents to drop off and pick up their children as efficiently as possible. We know from experience that pupils really feel embarrassed walking into their classroom late, and they miss out of phonics teaching and other important start of day learning. Whilst we understand that life can cause a one off disruption, please do not get in the habit of consistently being late at drop off or pick up- it will have a negative consequence on your child.

### **Local Governing Body News**

In July, we said goodbye to long standing Foundation Governors Mrs Suzanne Fitzgerald and Mrs Brenda O'Carroll who completed their fourth and fifth terms of office in the summer. Suzanne had served numerous terms of office, with many as Chair, taking a lead role in the recruitment of staff and leading the new school building team of governors and staff, in addition to supporting PTA events and being a former parent. Brenda was our very supportive RE Governor who attended so many different events and masses in school, as well as working with our chaplaincy teams each year. She also took an active role in the recruitment of staff and the curriculum and donated many wonderful banners and displays throughout the old and new school.

Mrs Suzie Carpenter's term of office is drawing to a close this half term. Mrs Carpenter is one of our two elected parent governors and takes a lead in the curriculum and admissions committees, as well as our SEND governor. I am very pleased that she is happy to be nominated to serve another term of office. If there is another parent who also wants to stand for this parent governor position, please let the school office know by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September and an election will take place. If not, then Mrs Carpenter will serve for another four years.

### **And finally...**

As we have shared earlier in the week, schools will be closed on Monday 19th as a mark of respect for Her Majesty, the Queen, and the state funeral. The only time I saw the Queen in person was during her silver jubilee celebrations in 1977 when our family waited for hours in the pouring rain to see her procession in Edinburgh. She looked cold, wet but still managed to wave to the crowds with a grimace rather than a smile! This week in assembly, we shared and celebrated the joy she brought to many and her commitment to serve our country, as well as remembering her family in prayer.

### **Prayer for the repose of the sole of Queen Elizabeth II**

We beseech you Almighty God, that your servant Elizabeth,  
who by your mercy received the government of this realm,  
and who dedicated her life entirely to the service of her people,  
may now rest from her labours in the peace of Christ which surpasses all understanding.  
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.