



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
HILLCREST ROAD, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS, DY2 7PW

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Hinton, B. Ed Hons, NPQH

Telephone: 01384 818925 Fax: 01384 818930

www.st-jo-dud.dudley.sch.uk

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Dear Parents

Lent Fundraising

A very big thank you for your generosity. So far we have raised far more than we could have expected. The Fast Day raised nearly £150 for CAFOD and the Big Brew last week raised nearly £50 for our Lenten Charities. As I said in the previous newsletter, we really appreciate your generosity in supporting our fundraising **if you can**. We realise that it's not always possible to give to charity so please do not feel obligated or inhibited if you can't help for any reason. Anything you can give is appreciated and helps others.

Sponsored Zumbathon

A Sponsor Form is attached and the children will all be Zumba dancing this Friday 16th March. The action takes place between 9.30am and 11.30am with the classes dancing half hour sessions. If you fancy having a bit of a Zumba yourself – come along!

Mufti Day this Friday – own clothes – bottles for Bottle Stall

The last of our mufti days is this Friday and we are appealing for bottles for the bottle stall. Children can wear their own clothes and we recommend track suits / t-shirts / sports wear for the Zumba sessions. If your child would prefer to change into their P.E. kit, this is also fine.

Lent Carnival

The high point of our fundraising is next Friday 23rd March at 3.15pm. There will be a bottle stall, Easter Egg tombola and name the cuddly toy game as well as food and drink and a raffle. Raffle drawn at 4.15pm.

Can you help us with the Lent Carnival?

Would you be able to make and sell some food? Or do you know someone who could donate a good raffle prize? Please let me know if you can! If you could help us set up the hampers and maybe sell a few raffle tickets on the day – we would be grateful – please let me know. Thank you.

Parent's Evening Years 1 to 6 – tomorrow evening from 3.15pm until 6.45pm

If you have not yet booked an appointment please contact the teacher in the morning or call at the office. There will be a crèche provided in the old Reception class for all children and refreshments will be available. We hope this makes parent's evening as comfortable as possible.

Easter Service in the Church – Thursday 29th March at 6.00pm in the Church

We hope you will join us to sing, pray and reflect over the events of Holy Week as retold by our wonderful children. Miss Morgan is recruiting singers, readers and actors – please support us if you can – it's a wonderful way to prepare for Easter. (Children back at Church for 5.45pm)

Mrs Harrold

Mrs Harrold returns from her illness absence tomorrow. As you know she will be retiring at Easter after nearly twenty years service to the school and a lifetime's career in Catholic education. There are several events being held at the end of term. Some parents have asked us if there will be a collection taking place. Parents can make a donation towards the gift the school will be presenting to Mrs Harrold if they wish or you may prefer to buy a card or give a little gift of your own. If you wish to donate, please put your gift in an envelope marked 'Mrs Harrold's Present' and send it to the office. It is completely up to you, however, **there is no expectation that you need to donate** – the school will be buying a special gift and this will be from the **entire community**. Please feel free to do exactly what you are happiest with. And be assured the school gift will be **from us all**.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

School Parish Mass – this Sunday in Church at 11.00am

Please support our Mass this Sunday. It's a lovely start to Mother's Day! Nursery and Reception children please sit with their families. Key Stage 1 and 2 children are invited to sit at the front with the rest of the children but we do need to ask for your help if your child becomes restless – they might be best sitting with you. Parents, feel free to sit at the front with the school and your child if this helps. Thank you.

St Patrick's Day Festival at The Public West Bromwich

Year 6 will be dancing at 12 noon this Saturday at The Public, West Bromwich, in the presence of the Mayor of Dudley! This is part of the excellent (and FREE) St Patrick's Day Festival that is on from 10am to 3pm. Everyone is welcome for a family day of music, dancing and entertainment as well as food, drink and games. It's a family day out for everyone – you don't have to be Irish! The Public is well signposted in West Bromwich Town Centre and there is a car park just over the road (it is the pink, funny looking building in the town!)

Attendance

Our most recent register inspection showed that attendance is continuing to be good. Thanks for your support. A reminder that holidays in term time are only agreed to if your child's attendance is at least 90% **and** the holiday absence will not cause it to drop below 90% - please, please check your holiday can be agreed **before** you book. If you take your child out of school without the holiday being agreed you could be in danger of losing your place – please work with us to avoid this upset. Thanks for your understanding.

Building Work and Refurbishments

The building work is nearly complete and the work on the outside play area is about to start. Nursery and Reception are in the process of moving into their new space this week. Miss Oakley will let you know when the proper entrances can be used again. A massive thank you to everyone for their cooperation during the building work. Once everything is up and running we will be having a special event so everyone can come and see our new space.

There will be other refurbishments taking place in school. Year 2 will move to the old Reception classroom where they will be alongside Year 1 and can share the space outside the classrooms and also the outdoor space. All of these inside areas will be painted and carpeted and new equipment purchased.

Year 3 will move to the old Year 2 classroom. This is a fully refurbished classroom with new carpets, furniture, decorating and blinds. This will be a very good move for year 3 as they will have a much bigger classroom.

The current Year 3 classroom will become a space for parent groups, family learning, Breakfast Club and meetings as well as a room for group work with children. We are really looking forward to having more space to do things with parents and families and you can be assured we will put the 'new room' to good use.

During the Easter Holidays the upper dining hall is being painted and refurbished and a bright new floor will be installed.

When we return after Easter this will mean that the entire school has been repainted and many new carpets, floors and blinds will have been installed. We will be having a series of open days next term to give everyone the chance to come and see our school at work and see how the Governors have supported us to create a beautiful learning environment for the children. Details to follow.

Your mobile number – we need it!

Our text service enables us to keep you fully up to date. It only works if we have your correct mobile number. If you change your number please let the office know and ask them to ensure the mobile phone database is updated. Thank you.

School Website

Our school website is kept very up to date indeed. You can find copies of letters, holiday lists and details of what we have been doing in school. It is well worth checking the website regularly to keep in touch with what we are doing in school.

Keep in touch

As always, do not hesitate to get in touch if we can help you. We will always try to see you as quickly as possible – in the case of myself I will see you straight away if I am available. The teachers will always endeavour to see you the same evening. If I am not available please see Mrs Chapman, Assistant Head or Mrs Harrold, Assistant Head. You can also ask to see the senior teachers Mr Seex or Miss Oakley if you need urgent help. If you leave a message be assured we will call you back as quickly as we can.

Every good wish

M Hinton
Headteacher

