



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

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7 September 2012

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the new school year, we hope you had a very happy holiday and that you have enjoyed watching London 2012! This letter gives you some important dates for the term. There will of course be lots more as the term goes on but we will write to you to keep you posted. Don't forget that the diary is kept completely up to date on our website so if you ever need to check something, just log on to the website.

### **Thank you for your kindness**

Thank you from all of the staff for your kind words, messages, cards and gifts at the end of last term. Your warmth and kindness is very much appreciated by every single member of staff and those kind words have meant a great deal to everyone. We are glad that so many of you had good things to say about your child's time in school and we promise you we are trying hard to make the school even better in 2012/13!

### **New heaters, boilers, fans, air conditioning and shelters**

The school has been a busy place during the holidays. We were fortunate enough to secure significant funding to modernise our heating system in school. All of the old heaters have been replaced and 2 new boilers will soon be fitted. Gas has been installed so we no longer have to use oil for heating. Air conditioning has been fitted to the ICT suite to stop the room becoming uncomfortable and fans will soon be fitted to the classrooms for the warmer weather. We will also be fitting shelters outside the main school entrance and alongside the hall for Key Stage 1 parents meaning that everyone can take shelter from the weather this winter when waiting to collect their children!

### **Breakfast Club**

Our breakfast club is open every school day. It costs £3 per day and includes breakfast and activities. It is run by our own staff. There is no contract and once you are registered you simply pay as you go – you don't have to use it every day or even every week – just use the club as and when you need it. The only rule is you need to register before you first use the club. See the office or Miss Sibley for more details.

### **Attendance and Timekeeping - Important**

Firstly, special thanks to all parents who have worked so hard to help us improve attendance and timekeeping to the **highest standards so far in the school's recorded history!** We cannot thank you enough for your support and the massive impact it makes on **your** child's learning. As a school we have a **legal duty** alongside parents to ensure that all children attend school **each day** and **on time**.

It is essential that all of the children are **in school** and **on time every day**. Please do everything you possibly can to avoid being late and only keep your child at home if they are genuinely too sick to attend school for the day. Holidays during term time are agreed solely at the school's discretion and will not be authorised if your child's absence is not good. Any time off that is not agreed in advance with the school is unauthorised and this can lead to the local authority taking your child off roll meaning you could lose your place in school. **We don't want this to happen** – so please do all you can to ensure your child's attendance is good.



Our attendance consultant makes home visits where children's attendance and/ or timekeeping is not of a good standard. We also work with the Education Investigation Service and make referrals to them for **persistent absence** and **persistent lateness**. The EIS have powers to prosecute in extreme cases and they have recently done so in Dudley. **We don't want this to happen** so once again – please work with us to improve attendance and timekeeping. **THANK YOU SO MUCH.**

### Uniform, hairstyles, jewellery

Firstly, thank you for your support of our uniform policy. It is to your credit that so many people comment on the very smart appearance of the children!

Please follow the school's policies which are in the home school agreement and on the website. Jewellery of any kind is not allowed and the children must wear school shoes and not trainers. We do not allow any hair shavings, engravings, Mohicans or hair colourings / highlights or bandanas / scarves / strings in hair. Simple headbands in school colours are allowed. Long hair must be tied back for safety please. Girls can wear a uniform dress, skirt or trousers but please no leggings.

### Autumn Term Diary

**Friday 21 September.**

**Year 4** class assembly 2.30pm.

**Tuesday 5 October:**

**Harvest Mass**, 9.30am. **Year 3** class assembly. Please could you donate a **tin of food** for the Good Shepherd Homeless Shelter. Please send your donation in on Monday or Tuesday for the display.

**Friday 12 October:**

Please donate children's and adults **BOOKS** in good condition, if you can, for us to sell at the Christmas Fair. Thank you.

**Tuesday 16 October:**

3.30-6.30pm, Parent's Evening. An appointment form will be sent out nearer the time.

**Thursday 18 October:**

School closes for half term. (Friday 19<sup>th</sup> and Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October are staff training days)

**Tuesday 30 October:**

School reopens after half term.

**Friday 2 November:**

**Year 2** class assembly. Please donate **TOILETRIES AND GOOD QUALITY UNWANTED GIFTS** for the Christmas Fair if you can. Thank you.

**Friday 9 November:**

**Year 6** class assembly. Please donate **CUDDLY TOYS** for the Christmas Fair if you can spare them. Thank you.

**Friday 16 November:**

Please donate **small selection boxes/ stockings/ boxes of chocolates** for the Christmas Fair, if you are able to. Thank you.

**Monday 19 November-**

Anti Bullying and Anti Racism Week – more details nearer the time.

**Friday 23 November**

**Friday 23 November:**

**Year 1** class assembly. Please donate **BOTTLES** for the Christmas Fair if you

can. Thank you!

**Friday 30 November:**

Please donate **CAKES** for the Cake Stall at the Christmas Fair, if you can. Thank you.

**Friday 30 November:**

3.30pm – Christmas Fair

**Friday 7 December:**

**Year 5** class assembly.

**Monday 10 December:**

2pm Key Stage 2 Christmas Play, 6pm Key Stage 2 Evening Performance of the play

**Wednesday 12 December:**

2pm Key Stage 1 Christmas Play, 6pm Key Stage 1 Evening Performance of the play

**Tuesday 18 December:**

2.15pm Nursery (afternoon) and Reception Christmas Play

**Wednesday 19 December:**

9.30am Nursery (morning) and Reception Christmas Play

**Wednesday 19 December:**

Christmas Parties and Discos. Own Clothes Day for everyone. Please send a donation of £1 towards the Disco – details of food for parties etc nearer the time!

**Wednesday 19 December:**

Disco for years 3 to 6 after school until 4.30pm.



**Thursday 20 December:** Christmas Carol Service in the Church 6pm (children at Church for 5.45pm – details to follow)

**Friday 21 December:** Break up for Christmas Holidays.

**Monday 7 January:** School Reopens for Spring Term.

### **Masses – all welcome**

School Masses begin on Tuesday 18 September and then take place every week at 9.30am. It is very unusual for Mass to be cancelled but we recommend phoning us first if you are making a special journey. We will be in touch soon with the dates for our Sunday Masses – Father is away at the moment.

### **Friday Assemblies – all welcome**

Our weekly merit assemblies take place each Friday at 2.30pm. Again, it is extremely unusual for them to be cancelled but we would recommend calling ahead first if you are making a special journey or have a long way to travel. There will be no assembly on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November because of the Christmas Fair.

### **Earphones/Earbuds**

To ensure that all children using the Computer Room (Year 1 upwards) can concentrate on their work, we are inviting parents to provide their child with a cheap set of Earphones or Earbuds, if you are able to. These are often available from the pound shops. Would you please send them in for your child labelled with your child's name and class. Unfortunately, due to hygiene considerations we cannot provide shared headsets. This is entirely optional.

### **Home-School Agreement**

I am enclosing a copy of our Home-School Agreement. Please read this document carefully. It is designed to help the school work in partnership with parents and children to ensure that we provide a safe, secure, happy and supportive environment in which everyone in our school community can work, learn and grow together.

Please sign the tear-off portion and return it to school by the end of next week. The rest of the form should be kept for reference.

### **Pupil Record Form**

I am also attaching a copy of our Pupil Record Form. It is **very important** that we have accurate up to date contact details should we ever need to contact you in an emergency. Please complete and return this form as soon as possible and **inform us should there be any changes to these details during the year.**

**Rights Respecting School Award** As you have already seen through our school assemblies, we are striving to gain the 'Rights Respecting School Award', which focuses on the rights of children throughout the world. The United Nations have developed a list of the rights every child should have. Through our newsletters we will be sharing this list with you.

***Article 2 (without discrimination) The Convention applies to every child whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say, no matter what type of family they come from.***

### **Thanks again**

Thanks a lot for all of your support for the school. We wish everyone a very successful and happy 2012/13 school year.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Hinton  
Headteacher

