

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

12 September 2014

Dear Parents

Welcome back!

The new school year is well underway and St Joseph's is in full swing. We're delighted to be back together again and the children have made an exceptionally good start to the new term. Here is the first newsletter of the new school year.

FREE school meals for everyone in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Every child in YR, Y1 and Y2 is entitled to a free school meal – you don't need to be receiving any benefits at all. The children pre-order their meal each morning so they receive exactly what they want – as well as lots of main courses there are always jacket potatoes on the menu with our salad bar and a choice of puddings. All FREE for every child in Reception 1 and 2! You don't have to do anything – your child just tells the teacher in the morning that they'd like a dinner!

Water Bottles

If you need to replace your child's water bottle, these can be purchased from the school office for £1.50. They have the school logo on them and a space to write your child's name. We encourage the children to have a water bottle in school at all times. The children need to take the bottle home each night to be washed and refilled with fresh water.

Our SATs Results for Summer 2014

Our results at both the end of Year 2 and Year 6 have improved once again. The standards reached by Year 6 are the highest ever achieved so far at St Joseph's. Rates of progress were also excellent with between 93% and 100% of children making expected progress in the various subjects. Not only this, but the percentage of children making better than expected progress was also very high. We are really proud that St Joseph's has continued to help its children to achieve results that are better than those achieved nationally and that compare well with other schools in Dudley. Well done to the children and staff and thank you parents for all of your support.

Flowers for Our Lady's Birthday

Thank you for your generous donations of flowers for the birthday of Our Lady. The display looks lovely and there are flowers by the statues in all of the classes. A photo will be put on the website very soon.

Sending Money into School

Any money that is sent into school must be in an envelope with your child's name and the purpose for the money written on the front. If you need a spare envelope to put the money into, please just ask at the office in the morning before you send the money in! Money that is not labelled causes us a lot of problems.

Becoming a Cashless School

Many schools are now becoming 'cashless' meaning that parents pay for everything either online or by making payments at a local paypoint (such as a local shop, supermarket or post office). Parents can use a credit or debit card to pay online via computer, tablet or smartphone or they can make cash or card payments at thousands of paypoints such as local shops or supermarkets. We will shortly be sending out a survey to see if you think this would be a good idea for our school. Please look out for it and please let us know your thoughts.

Uniform

It is only fair that everyone follows the simple uniform policy of the school. Please do all you can ensure your child wears correct uniform. Please remember that earrings, jewellery and nail varnish are not permitted. This school is known for its high standards of dress and it is important that we do all we can to keep the standards high. Please, please respect the uniform policy at all times. Thanks ever so much.

Kind hands, kind words...like Jesus



Hillcrest Road, Dudley,
West Midlands DY2 7PW

Principal:
Mr M Hinton, B.Ed. Hons, NPQH
Telephone:
01384 818925
Fax:
01384 818930
Website:
www.st-jo-dud.dudley.sch.uk
Email:
info@st-jo-dud.dudley.sch.uk

Part of St John Bosco Catholic Academy Company
Registered in England and Wales No. 08608177

Registered office:
Burton Road, Dudley DY1 3BY

Cooking Lessons

All of the children from Reception to Year 6 will be taking part in cooking lessons at some point during the time and they will be bringing their masterpieces home for you to taste and evaluate. Look out for the letter letting you know all about this new activity.

We're off to the Pictures!

All of the children from Reception to Year 6 will be visiting the local cinema in November with their classes, completely free of charge. We have been able to secure over 200 free cinema tickets to celebrate National Film Week. That never used to happen when we were at school!

Our New Partnership with Poland

We have established a link with SP118 primary School in Wroclaw, Poland and our children will soon be working on a shared project, led by Year 6. In October (6th to 9th) we will be hosting the headteacher (Direktor) and 3 teachers from the school's English department. There will be a special Mass on Monday 6th October at 9.15am followed by tea and coffee and the opportunity to meet our Polish visitors. Please join us if you can.

Nursery Places

We still have some places available in our Morning and Afternoon nursery for 3 and 4 year olds. Little ones can start with us in the term after their 3rd birthday. We have a beautiful Early Years setting so if you know someone who may be interested in a place, please let them know!

The New Playground

The contractors have just got to finish off the cladding of the walls and a final safety installation before we can sign the playground off as finished. As soon as this is done we will be in touch to organise a special event where everyone can come to see our lovely new play facility.

Early Years Play Equipment

The play equipment outside nursery and reception is strictly ONLY for early years. Children from Years 1 to 6 MUST NOT use this equipment before or after school. Year 1 are allowed to use the equipment every lunch time only. In addition, no Nursery or Reception child is allowed to use any of the play equipment before or after school UNLESS THEY ARE SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT. Please, for safety's sake, do not allow your little ones to use any of our play equipment unless you are supervising them before/after school. Please ensure your older children do not use any of the play areas designated for our youngest children at any time. Thank you for understanding and helping.

Keep In Touch

We want to be the best school we possibly can and we are constantly trying to improve things for our children and families. If you ever need our help for any reason, however small, it is essential you get in touch straight away. Myself and Mrs Chapman (Deputy Head) can normally see you straight away and if we can't, we will always call you back. Mr Seex and Mrs Hancox are our senior teachers and they are also available to help you. Mrs Hancox is in charge of the Early Years Unit and Mr Seex is our special educational needs coordinator. Both of them are available to help everyone, regardless of which class your child is in. It is usually possible for you to see your child's teacher the same day though they might not be able to see you until after school. It is very important to us that your child is happy in our school and every member of staff will do all they can to help you. If you are ever dissatisfied, you can always contact myself or Mrs Chapman and we will do all we can to sort things out immediately.

We hope to see you in school at some point during the term and we look forward to working with you and your children this year. Thank you again for your support of our school.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Hinton
Principal