

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

3 March 2016



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Dear Parents

Lent at St Joseph's

The season of Lent where the church asks us to pray, fast and give is well underway. We would like to say a massive thank you for your support of our sponsored pancake flip – we will be donating all of the money raised to charities and the Church and we will let you know the full amount raised nearer to the end of term. There are a number of other special events this Lent as we prepare for the Holy Season of

Friday 11th March: CAFOD Lent Fast Day – give up playtime snacks and give pennies to CAFOD instead.

Friday 11th March: Year 1 Assembly 2.30pm

Sunday 13th March: School Parish Mass in Church at 11am – all welcome.

Monday 14th March: Brilliant in Multicultural Britain Week begins.

Friday 18th March: EYFS/KS1 Multicultural Performances (Music and Dance) 9.15am (Hall opens at 9.05am).

Friday 18th March: KS2 Multicultural Performances (Music and Dance) 2.30pm (Hall opens at 2.20pm).

Monday 21st March: HOLY WEEK ASSEMBLIES BEGIN

Monday 21st March: Year 3 re-enact the events of Palm Sunday at 9.15am

Tuesday 22nd March: Year 4 re-enact the events of The Last Supper at 2.45pm

Wednesday 23rd March: Year 5 re-enact the events of The Agony in the Garden at 9.15am

Wednesday 23rd March: Holy Week Service in Church at 5.45pm (children back for 5.30pm – Mrs Hancox will be in touch).

Thursday 24th March: Merit and Attendance Assembly 11am

Thursday 24th March: Year 6 re-enact The Stations of the Cross at 2.15pm

Thursday 24th March: School closes for Easter Holidays at 3.15pm

Monday 11th April: School reopens for Summer Term

CAFOD Lent Fast Day on Friday 11th March

On this day we invite the children to give up (fast) their playtime snack and give some pennies to CAFOD instead. By fasting for just a short time we observe the Church tradition of Lenten fasting and we are in solidarity with the world's hungry for just a short time. By giving our pennies to CAFOD we help to support the world's poor and hungry including refugees and those trapped in Syria.

Kind hands, kind words...like Jesus

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Burton Road, Dudley DY1 3BY

The Catholic Church's YEAR OF MERCY

Pope Francis has declared this year to be a special Year of Mercy worldwide. Throughout the world schools, churches and religious communities are working hard to live out the value of Mercy and share it with the community. We have organised a number of special events and initiatives throughout the year for the Year of Mercy including:

What is Mercy?

In our school and with our children aged 3 to 11 we are interpreting mercy to mean:

- Helping others
- Being charitable
- Welcoming outsiders and refugees/foreigners
- Praying for and helping the sick
- Remembering the dead
- Praying for those in troubled places
- Being forgiving
- Praying for others
- Being kind



Mercy Doors (Holy Doors)

All over the world prominent Churches and Cathedrals have identified special 'Holy Doors' that have been opened specially for the Year of Mercy. When walking through these doors we are asked to pray for God's mercy on ourselves and others. We are pleased to let you know that we have had a number of professionally designed 'Mercy Doors' in our school to encourage everyone to pray for Mercy. You can see the photos of these beautiful doors on our website.

Pilgrimages

During the course of the year all of the children will take part in a pilgrimage to a holy place. Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will visit our Parish Church for a special service. Year 3 and Year 4 will visit Harvington Hall, a Diocesan place of pilgrimage, Year 5 will visit the Birmingham Oratory and Year 6 will visit St Chad's Cathedral where there is an official Holy Door of Mercy.

Kindness and charity

Our school has a long tradition of helping those in need through acts of charity and fundraising. We also take our fantastic choir to senior citizens lunches and Russells Hall Hospital.

Other News

Mr Hinton

Mr Hinton has been designated as a 'National Leader of Education' (NLE) by the National College for Teaching and Leadership. He is one of only 107 headteachers nationwide to be awarded the designation in this round. This is in recognition of the track record of improvement at St Joseph's and the support our school has given to other schools to help them to improve.

National Support School (NSS)

Alongside Mr Hinton's designation, the school has been designated as a 'National Support School.' This again is a prestigious accolade and recognises the high quality of education and care provided by ALL of the staff at St Joseph's. In particular we are also recognised for our work to support other schools to improve.

Sponsor Money

Please return your Pancake Flip sponsor money as soon as you can. We will work out the final total and let you know the charities we have supported before the Easter holidays.

Earrings

A reminder that earrings are not allowed in school under any circumstances. If you are considering having your child's ears pierced you should do this at the start of the summer holidays in July so that they can be fully removed before they come back to school in September.

Holidays in Term Time – VERY IMPORTANT

Holidays in term time are strictly not allowed in law and headteachers cannot authorise them. We have recently had a number of cases of parents withdrawing their children from school without authorisation to travel abroad. These cases have all been referred to the Education Investigation Service who will decide whether to fine each parent for each child's absence.

YOU COULD LOSE YOUR SCHOOL PLACE

If you take your child out of school without authority and remain away for an extended period we have the right in law to take your child off the school roll. We must make you aware that we **will** comply with the legislation and we **WILL** take children off the register and give their place to the next child on the waiting list. **You will then have to find a new school when you return.**

Asking for leave for medical reasons e.g. sick relatives overseas

Only if you can produce compelling, substantial, genuine and verifiable medical evidence of a very serious critical illness will we even consider agreeing to a **few days of compassionate leave.** **Under no circumstances will we consider authorising any more than a few days.**

Asking for leave for compassionate or other special circumstances

Substantial evidence as above will be required and again we will only ever authorise a maximum of a **few days.**

Please don't risk a fine. Please don't risk losing your child's place in our school. Please do not cause us or you any embarrassment by asking for holidays that cannot be authorised. If you keep your child away from school without authority for an extended period you are almost certain to be fined and you will lose your child's place in our school.

Parentview

OFSTED collects the views of parents about their child's school to inform their inspections and judgements of a school. At St Joseph's we study Parentview and use it to help us identify where we can improve. Several parents have left reviews on Parentview over the years. The problem is – they only remain 'live' for 1 year! So, if you submitted a review last year it could soon be archived!

We encourage parents to make use of Parentview. All we ask is that if you have a problem you speak to us first and give us the opportunity to put things right. An anonymous rating on Parentview doesn't allow us to sort out individual problems! Please let us know first!

Please go to www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk You will need to register and you will need an email address. Thank you ever so much for your support.

Keep in touch

It's really important to us that all parents know that you can come in to school or phone us and we will always try our best to sort out any problems you have – however simple they might seem. Very simply, we don't want our children or parents to be unhappy about anything and there is always a senior member of staff available during school hours to help you. Please don't ever leave any problems to escalate – if you tell us early on we will do our very best to sort them out for you.

With best wishes,

Mr M Hinton
Principal

