

Dear parents and carers,



The second half of the Autumn Term is now underway and the seasons of Advent and Christmas are fast approaching. This newsletter contains lots of information about special events in school through Advent and up to Christmas – please see the attached dates for your diary sheet! As always, we are here to serve you and your children and if you need our help with any issues relating to the school or your child's learning, wellbeing, happiness or safety at school, never hesitate to get in touch as soon as possible.

Safeguarding: Keeping Children Safe

Our school is committed to safeguarding and safe practices and you can read our policy on our website. The designated safeguarding lead is Mrs Chapman and Mrs Cheema, Mrs Hickman and Mrs Buckley are the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. If you are concerned about your own child or any other child, please speak to one of our safeguarding leads straight away. We strictly follow all of the local safeguarding protocols of Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership – you can find these in our policy (on our website) and on the DSPP website: <https://dudleysafeguarding.org.uk/>

Operation Encompass Our school is also part of Operation Encompass to help ensure that all of our children are looked after following incidents which may happen outside of school.

Operation Encompass is a police and education early information safeguarding partnership enabling schools to offer



immediate support to children experiencing domestic abuse.

Operation Encompass ensures that there is a simple telephone call or notification to a school's trained Designated Safeguarding Lead /Officer (Mrs Chapman) prior to the start of the next school day after an incident of police attended domestic abuse where there are children related to either of the adult parties involved.

Information is shared with a school's Designated Safeguarding Lead prior to the start of the next school day after officers have attended a domestic abuse incident. This sharing of information enables appropriate support to be given, dependent upon the needs and wishes of the child.



Together we Fly



Parents taking photos

We completely understand that parents want to capture special moments for their child in school with a photograph, which, in modern times, are mostly taken with a phone. We would not want to stop this, however we need to remind parents that they should only be taking photos of their own child and if sharing on social media other children's faces and names should not be shared. We share images as a school on our social media channels but always blur the faces of children for safeguarding purposes. Images of other children should not be shared on social media or distributed without consent. Please help us with this as we wouldn't want to be in the position where for safeguarding purposes we have to ask parents not to take any photos when they are in school. Thank you for understanding.

Attendance

It is very important that when children are well enough they attend school from 8.45-

3.15pm. The Children's Commissioner's new report emphasizes the important of addressing school absences, arguing that attendance rates have reached crisis levels.

Here at St Joseph's we work with an attendance officer and the local authority to

monitor attendance levels and address issues. This is why we have a very robust MAC

and school attendance policy – which can be viewed on our website. We understand that on occasions children may have to attend medical appointments during the school day which cannot be arranged outside of school, for

safeguarding purposes we ask for proof of appointments – please don't be offended if you're asked for proof of appointments we have to follow the policy for ALL parents – it's not that we don't believe YOU – we have to apply the policy equally, consistently and fairly across the school / MAC.



Poorly children going home

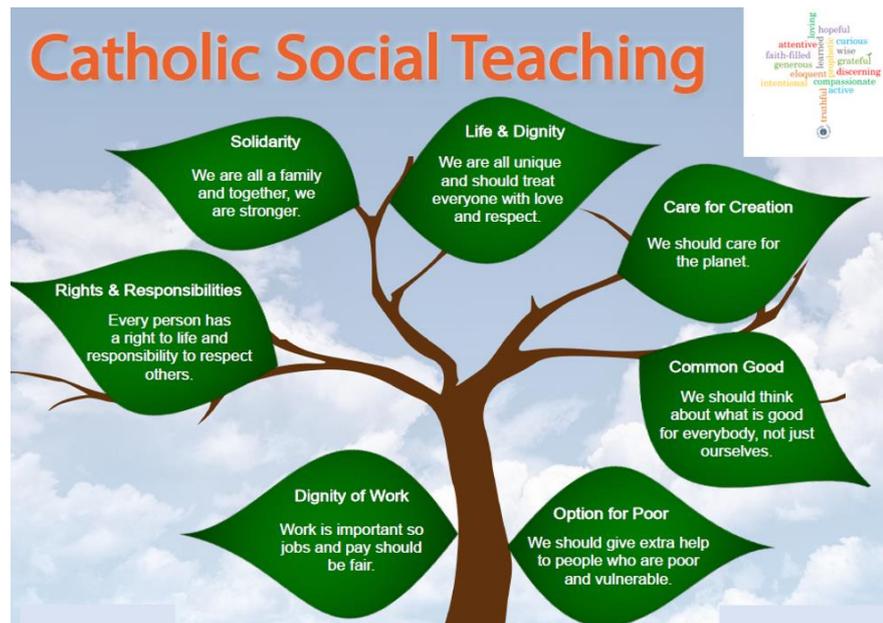
If a member of staff makes the decision to send a child home because they are poorly, this has to be checked with a senior member of staff. This is because a senior member of staff may have safeguarding knowledge which may be important when considering sending a child home. **We respectfully request that parents do not contact the parents of children they see poorly or upset in school, this is school's responsibility.** Parents may feel they are trying to help, but school is in the position of 'loco-parentis' when children are in school and it is school's responsibility to contact parents. Please understand that when parents contact other parents this can cause upset between parents which can be avoided when school make the calls. Thank you for understanding.

Our Catholic Schools Pupil Profile Values this half term are Attentive and Discerning

Attentive: Being attentive to God. Paying attention to the type of person God is calling us to be.

Discerning: Making good choices, thinking carefully about the right path to take.

Catholic Social Teaching



You may have seen our new posters at the front of the school or at the front of the hall about Catholic Social Teaching. Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is rooted in Scripture and is a moral compass guiding us how to live out our faith in the world.

There are 7 main principals of CST: Our faith calls us to love God and to love our neighbours in every situation, especially our brothers and sisters living in poverty. Following in the footsteps of Christ, we hope to make present in our world the justice, love and peace of God. Through our Prayer and Liturgy alongside our work in the classroom we

will be making links to how we can put CST into action!

The Holy season of Advent starts on the First Sunday of Advent: Sunday 3rd December



In the Catholic Church we spend the first weeks of Advent preparing not for Christmas – but preparing our lives for the time that Christ comes to the world again. In school, we are asking the children to make promises based on being more like Jesus and involving them in charitable activities. The last weeks of Advent focus on celebrating the first Christmas – and you can be assured the Nativity Gospel will be taught in detail to all of the children during Advent.

Free school meals for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2



Are you entitled?

If you are eligible for income-based free school meals, please apply so we can access the pupil premium funding. Please remember that **ALL** children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school lunch every day.

Our working kitchen, really does offer excellent quality fresh food. There is a choice of hot meals, sandwiches and jacket potatoes together with a salad bar.

Meals are provided FREE for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 – please take advantage of your entitlement. There IS such a thing as a free lunch if you're In Reception, Year 1 or Year 2!

Pupil Premium – you can help us access precious extra funding – very easily!

Please apply for free school meals if you are on a low income and / or receive benefits. As well as receiving a free school meal or sandwich every day (if you choose to take it), you will generate significant funding for our school for many years to come – funding that is all spent on better provision for the children.

Please visit <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/benefits/free-school-meals/> for full details and to apply instantly online.

Uniform Reminders

Thank you so much for upholding the high standards of uniform at St Joseph's. Please can you help us to ensure:

- **Long hair** is tied back at all times
- **Hair bows, hair bands and ribbons are small and not excessive in size.** School colours are preferred.
- **No jewellery is allowed** – no earrings, bracelets, necklaces etc. **Nail varnish is not allowed.**
- **Safe, smart and sensible school shoes are worn**, no trainers or fashion shoes.
- **Leggings are not allowed.** In the winter children can wear trousers, or skirts with tights.

Christmas Activities for the children in school

Bambinelli Sunday – Sunday 17th December – celebrated in school Tuesday 12th December



The beautiful Advent Tradition, Bambinelli Sunday, was instituted by Saint Pope John Paul II during his Papacy. The tradition follows that on the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) children and adults bring their Baby Jesus figures from home to be blessed.

Children are encouraged to create their own statue of baby Jesus in his manger with materials from home, e.g. cloth, plasticine, paper, cardboard etc and bring them into school on Tuesday 5th December where we will the priest to bless them during Mass. Children can then take them home and find a place for them in their own homes this Christmas.

Wednesday 6th December: Christmas Dinner Day

School dinners at St Joseph's are of an exceptionally high standard since our new kitchen is fully operational!

Christmas Dinner costs £2.40. It must be booked in advance so our chef can order the food in good time. Letters to book will be sent out soon!



Thursday 7th December: Charity Christmas Jumper Day / Own Clothes / Christmas Clothes Day



All of the children are invited to donate 50p or £1 (or more if you choose) to our Christmas Charity fundraising. Donating is optional and is much appreciated, but not compulsory. The children in each class will choose a charity to donate the money they raise to. Charity is an important part of Advent and this is a fun way to raise funds and help the children to think deeply about the charity they would like to support with the money they raise.

Wednesday 20th December: DISCOS and Christmas Crafts / Afternoon: Own Clothes Day

Please donate £1 towards the cost of the disco if you can. There will be a Nursery and Reception Disco, a Year 1, 2 and 3 Disco and Year 4, 5 and 6 disco. Morning Nursery children are welcome to come back for the Disco and Mrs Boyle and Miss Newey can give you the details!



Father Christmas will be calling at St Joseph's!

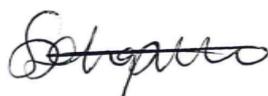
Father Christmas will be popping in to the classrooms before the end of term to say hello and drop off a bag of treats for all of the classes!

Keep in touch

Your satisfaction with our school and the happiness, safety and academic progress of your child are the reasons we are all here. If you have any concerns or worries, no matter how small, please let us know so we can do everything we can to make things better and resolve your concerns.

There is always a senior teacher on duty at the school during school hours and there is always someone who can help. Never hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you, as always, for your support.



Mrs S Chapman
Principal

Dates for the Diary!

Friday 24th November – please donate chocolate and sweets

Tuesday 28th November - Year 2 to lead Mass at 9.15am – join us if you can!

Wednesday 29th – Y5 trip in school - theatre workshop, parents are welcome to join them at school for a performance at 2:30pm

Thursday 30th – Y4 trip to the Black Country Museum

Friday 1st December – please donate bottles of pop, wine, beer, squash, bubble bath etc for our Christmas Fair

Sunday 3rd December – Advent begins

Tuesday 5th December - Year 1 to lead Mass at 9.15am – join us if you can!

Tuesday 5th December – Please bring statues of Jesus in his manger for Bambinelli Sunday

Tuesday 5th December – Y3 trip to Dudley ZOO

Wednesday 6th December – Christmas dinner day!

Wednesday 6th December – Y1 and Y2 trip to Showcase cinema

Thursday 7th December – Reception trip Winter Wonderland

Thursday 7th December: Charity Christmas Jumper Day / Own Clothes / Christmas Clothes Day

Friday 8th December - please donate tea, coffee, sugar, long life milk etc for our Christmas Fair.

Friday 8th December – Christmas Fair starting at 3.30pm

Monday 11th December – KS2 Christmas Play Performances – 9.30am and 2 pm

Tuesday 12th December - Year 5 to lead Mass at 9.15am – join us if you can!

Wednesday 13th December – KS1 Christmas Play performances – 9.30am and 2pm

Thursday 14th December – Nursery trip to Winter Wonderland

Friday 15th December – Y6 trip to West Midlands Police Museum

Friday 15th December - Flu vaccination follow up (come to school office to book)

Monday 18th December – Nursery AM and Reception class Christmas Play performance 10.45am

Monday 18th December – Nursery PM and Reception class Christmas Play performance 2.20pm

Monday 18th December – Carol Concert 5.30pm – details to follow.

Tuesday 19th December - Year 6 to lead Mass at 9.15am – join us if you can!

Wednesday 20th December – Party Day – children to wear own clothes to school

Thursday 21st December – Carols around the tree 2.30pm

Thursday 21st December – **Children break up for Christmas**