



Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Happy New Year and Welcome back to school!**

First of all, I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and I hope that you and your family enjoyed a peaceful Christmas break. Thank you so much for the many cards and gifts which were sent in for staff before Christmas. Your generosity is never expected and is very kind – thank you.

### **Staffing changes**

At the end of last term we said goodbye to Miss Simmonds and Mrs Boyle. We wish both ladies all the very best in the next stages of their careers.

Joining us as our new Nursery Teacher is Miss Hughes. Miss Hughes is a very knowledgeable and experienced teacher of Early Years and is a great addition to our St Joseph's family. We also have Mrs Ghazanfer who has worked in the school previously and is now a full-time teaching assistant – another great addition!



### **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 myself, Mrs Chapman and Mrs Cheema, Mrs Buckley, Miss Oakley and Mrs Hickman 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.

### **Keeping you informed**

I hope that you found the mini-reports informative last half term. This is something which we feel gives parents an academic update between our termly parents' evenings. In Autumn and Spring term parents are given the option to attend a parents' evening and receive a mini-report and in the Summer term there is a full written report provided to parents and the opportunity to discuss this at a parents' evening too. If you have any questions between these reporting periods, please request an appointment to speak to the class teacher after school or via a telephone call. Teachers will always do their best to speak to you the same day, but please note they can't always speak / see you immediately during the school day as they are teaching and would never be able to leave children unattended. Thank you for understanding.

### **Our values this half term are Curious and Active**

*Curious:* Being curious means wanting to learn more about the world, asking questions, and wondering about God, people, and how things work.

*Active:* Being active means getting involved, helping others, and using your gifts to make a positive difference at school, at home, and in the world.

### **Class Trips**

Once again, thank you for completing the questionnaire last term regarding trip payments. We will soon have the information to share with parents regarding the costs of trips for the Spring and Summer Terms – this obviously varies from class to class as they are linked to the curriculum. We will soon add the option on Arbor to pay trips in full – for parents that wish to – and create a way that the overall cost of trips can be paid in a monthly way, providing parents with more flexibility. We plan to schedule any monthly payments from February (January is always a difficult month after Christmas!) to June 2026. I hope this enable us to keep the lovely trips we have to support the curriculum and provide lovely experiences for our children.



### **Nut-Free School**

St Joseph's is a nut-free school. The reason for this is due to the growing number of children with mild to very severe nut allergies. We have to insist that children do not bring any items of food into school that contain nuts. We wouldn't want any child / family to feel responsible endangering another child. Please note that Nutella and some chocolate spreads contain nuts. Please be vigilant and support us to keep all of our children safe and well. Thank you for your support.



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**Please support us in maintaining our high uniform standards**

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Please ensure that children come to school in the correct uniform. Earrings (even covered with plasters), trainers, hair shavings and leggings with skirts are **not allowed**. Please see the uniform guide below taken from our school website.

**Trainers, boots or fashion shoes are not allowed.**

**Hair Styles and Nail Varnish**

Hair shaving and sculpting (e.g. tram lines, ticks, and other shavings) are not allowed. Hairstyles must be smart and neat. Use of gels or styling products should be minimal. For safety reasons all long hair (boys and girls) must be tied back at all times. Highlights, dyeing and colouring of hair is not allowed.

**Nail varnish is not allowed.**

**Jewellery**

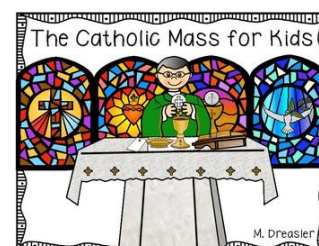
As a safety precaution and to prevent accidents during PE and other activities, the wearing of any item of jewellery in Nursery or Main School is strictly forbidden without exception. Children are allowed to wear a wrist watch however this can not be a smart watch for safeguarding reasons.

**Attendance and Punctuality**

Any one of us can be running late from time to time for good reasons – but children must ordinarily arrive at school at the correct start time – and as per school registration rules – they will be marked late if they arrive after the start time. We reserve the right to unauthorise persistent lateness and this will be recorded as unauthorised absence which can ultimately lead to intervention from the Education Investigation Service and possible penalties. Please support regular attendance and regular good timekeeping. The Children's Commissioner has produced some excellent resources related to attendance which we will be sharing in school. One important point to note from the Children's Commissioner is that – ***'if you miss 30 minutes of school a day this amounts to 19 days lost each year.'*** Please could I ask parents to contact school if your child is absent. Increasingly, parents are not letting school know which becomes a safeguarding concern for us. If we can not contact parents, we then have to follow our safeguarding procedures which include a home visit and the possibility of contacting other agencies – all of which is very avoidable. Please let us know by phoning the school office or messaging through Arbor. Thank you for your support.

**Events in school**

Please find attached a list of dates for the term ahead. Class teachers will also be letting you know dates for Parent Workshops where you have the opportunity to come into school and take part in a lesson with your child – the focus this term is Writing. Don't forget that we have Mass in school every Tuesday at 9.15am and Merit. Prayer and Liturgy each Friday at 9.15am too where everyone is welcome to join us.



**Keep in touch**

Your parental satisfaction and the progress, safety and happiness of your child is the top priority for the school. We try hard to do the best we can in all areas but we know that things can and do go wrong. What is important is the way these problems are sorted out. Never, ever hesitate to get in touch for help with any matter however small it may seem. You can speak to staff on the door in the morning or you can call the office. Teachers will always call you back and I can usually speak to you straight away. If for any reason we can't get to you immediately we will always ring you back as soon as we possibly can. Never hesitate to make contact – most things can be resolved and the sooner we know about your concerns – the sooner we can address them.

Take care,

**Mrs S Chapman**  
**Principal**



- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January – Whole School Mass – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January – Year 6 Online Safety Workshop
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Water Workshops throughout the school.
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Year 4 Mass – 9.15am please join us if you can.
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January – Whole School Computing Workshops.
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January – Year 2's Assembly – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Year 3's Mass – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February – Helping Hands Safety Workshop for Year 6.
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February – Year 1's Assembly – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Parent' Evening
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February – Year 2's Mass – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Whole School Retreat Day – Getting ready for Lent.
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Whole School Poetry Recital – 9.15am – please join us if you can.

#### **HALF TERM – MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> – FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Ash Wednesday – Lent Begins
- WB Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Brilliant in Britain Week and Ten:Ten Module 2
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Year 1's Mass – 9.15am, join us if you can.
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February – Whole School Retreat – Catholic Social Teaching Focus.
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Year 6's Mass – 9.15am, join us if you can.
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day – children invited to wear book character costume to school.
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March – Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 to take part in a Parliament Assembly from a visiting speaker.
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Year 5's Mass – 9.15am, join us if you can.
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March – Year 3's Assembly – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March – Year 4's Mass – 9.15am, join us if you can.
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Year 6 Safe Behaviour Workshop
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Reception's Assembly – 9.15, please join us if you can.
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Lenten Service at 5pm.
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Year 3 Palm Sunday Liturgy 2.30pm, please join us if you can.
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Year 3's Mass – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Year 4's Last Supper Liturgy 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Year 5's Agony in the Garden Liturgy 2.30pm, please join us if you can.
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Year 3 Palm Sunday Liturgy 2.30pm, please join us if you can.
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – End of term celebration assembly – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Year 6's Stations of the Cross Liturgy 2.15pm, please join us if you can.

**FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH – SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR EASTER and REOPENS ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

