



11<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Keeping Safe**

**Thought of the Week**

This week, the children have been thinking about keeping safe. The children have been learning about the importance of keeping safe when using the internet.

**Feeling Good Week**

This week is Feeling Good Week. Promoting positive mental health and well-being is a key priority for us at St Joseph's. It is important that our children are happy in school because when a child is happy they will learn more. Therefore, this week we have been promoting Positive Thought Thinking or PTT as it is also known by. While it is natural to have Automatic Negative Thoughts (ANTs), research has shown that letting ANTs dominate your child's thinking can feed feelings of fear or sadness, which can lead to anxiety or depression. To help promote Positive Thought Thinking, here are examples of some of our conversation starters:



**Conversation Starters**

- ✓ What was the best bit of your day?
- ✓ What did you do today that made you proud?
- ✓ Tell me two things that went well in your lesson?
- ✓ How can I support you with your learning?
- ✓ What have you done today to make someone else feel happy?



Here are a few photographs of our Feeling Good Week. The children have been learning mindfulness exercises and breathing techniques; alongside writing down how they are feeling. Today, everyone took part in 'Dress up to Express' non-uniform day to show how they are feeling. It has been a great week in school.



### **St David's Day**

On Tuesday 1st March, there will be a non-uniform day to celebrate St David's Day, the Patron Saint of Wales. The children may wear green, white or red on this day. We are asking for a voluntary £1.00 contribution.

### **Twitter**



Please follow us on twitter to see what your children are learning about in school. Please feel free to share photographs or videos of your child's learning too. Our twitter address is: **@stjosephs775**

### **Safer Internet Day**

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February, we celebrated Safer Internet Day. Each class, spent the day learning about the importance of staying safe online.

### **Parent Zone**

Parent Zone offers advice and support to parents and carers to help children be safer online, develop resilience to cope with online challenges and help educate them for their digital futures. There is a specific parent area of the website where tips and information from experts about parenting in the digital world can be found.

There is also a comprehensive parental guide section which gives information and safety advice on many popular games and apps including; Fortnite, Disney+, Clash of

Clans and Roblox. For more information, please click on the link below:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/advice/parent-guides>



### **Celebrations**

We have been celebrating the Chinese New Year in our Foundation Stage. First, the children listened to the Zodiac story, learning about the Year of the Tiger. Then they made a dragon and performed a Chinese New Year dance

To see the dance please click on the link below.



<https://twitter.com/i/status/1491803463176491012>



## **Book Day**

To promote our love for reading, we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March. Children may dress up as their favourite book character. Please see start times below for our virtual assembly. All parents and carers are welcome to attend our virtual assembly via Google Meet.

| <b>Year Groups</b> | <b>Assembly Start Time</b> |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| F1 & F2            | 9.00a.m.                   |
| Years 1 & 2        | 9.30a.m.                   |
| Years 3 & 4        | 10.30a.m.                  |
| Year 5 & 6         | 11.30a.m.                  |

On the 1<sup>st</sup> March, each class will have a poetry workshop, which will be led by the visiting Poet, Ian Bland. He has written several poetry books including; The Dinner Lady Dance; A Bug in my Hair and Go to the Head! I am sure the children will have a great day.

## **Art**

Over the next few weeks, a local artist and parent of our school (Mrs Miller) has been coming into school to work with each class on an art project. This week, Year 2 looked at Wassily Kandinsky and Georgia O’Keeffe, concentric circles in squares and sunrise/sunset using oil pastel & watercolour ink. Thank you Mrs Miller for your time and expertise.



## **Sports News**

The children have been very busy competing in various sporting events against other schools.



Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 came second in the Rickmansworth Sports Partnership Gymnastic Competition. It was a great effort by all.

Our Year 4 girls won Rickmansworth Sports Partnership Athletics Competition and got through to the County Athletic Sports Partnership Final where they came fifth. Well done to all involved.

To find out more about your child's learning, please have a look at our website, curriculum pages. <http://stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk/statutory/curriculum>



### **St Patrick's Day – Non Uniform Day**

On Thursday 17th March, there will be a non-uniform day to celebrate St Patrick's Day. He is the Patron Saint of Ireland. The children may wear green, white or yellow on this day. We are asking for a voluntary £1.00 contribution towards our Lenten appeal. Please pay via the school gateway.

### **Fundraising**

Thank you for your kind donations to our book appeal. We have purchased 85 home reading books and we have also purchased guided reading books, which we are using in school.

### **Parents Views**

Last Friday, we had our first ever 'blended' Parents Forum. It was lovely to see parents logging in from home or attending in person. Thank you for your suggestions and ideas to make our school even better. Ultimately, we all want the same outcome, which is to provide the best education possible for your children. Together we can achieve more.

Your views are important to us. Therefore, please contact the school if you have any suggestions for the next Parents Forum. If you missed the Parents Forum and would like to discuss any suggestions or ideas, please contact the School Office, who will be happy to arrange an appointment at a convenient time.

### **Homework**

Homework was a hot topic of conversation at our recent Parents Forum. Please note, if your child is struggling with homework, please inform the Class Teacher by writing a message in your child's homework book or reading record. Your child should be able to complete their homework independently; if this is not the case then please let us know.

## **Important Notices**

### **1. Medicines in Schools.**

If your child has an asthma pump or has an epi-pen, please ensure your child's medicines are correct and in date. Thank you.

### **2. Nursery School Applications**

If you require a full-time Nursery place, please inform the school office. The paragraph below is very important for all parents with children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019. Admission to our Nursery Class is now open.

Please ensure you complete the **School's Supplementary Form which you can obtain from the school's website or the school office.** All forms must be completed and returned to the school office before admission can be considered.

Therefore, in order to apply for our school, we must receive:

Supplementary Information Form & Nursery Application Form

Certificate of Catholic Practice (if applicable)  
Baptism Certificate (if applicable)

**Have a great half term.**

**Linda Payne**  
**Headteacher**



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| <b>14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> February</b> | <b>Half Term holiday – School Closed</b> |
| <b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>            | <b>Start of Term</b>                     |

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| <b>March</b>  |   |
| Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March   | St David's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green, red, white or yellow).   |
| Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March   | Ash Wednesday Service – More details to follow.   |
| Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March<br><br>World Book Day – Book Character Non Uniform day | World Book Day – Book Character Non Uniform day. This is a non-uniform day. Children may dress up as their favourite book character. <b>Virtual TBC</b>   |
| Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> March   | St Patrick's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green or white).  |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> March   | St Joseph's Day Mass – <b>date to be confirmed. (TBC)</b>   |
| <b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March</b>   | <b>Last Swimming for Year 3 and Year 5</b>  |
| Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> March   | Mother's day Class Assembly starts at 9.00a.m. <b>Virtual TBC</b>   |
| Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> March   | Lenten Cake Competition (all children may enter by baking a cake).<br>Cake sale.  |
| Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> March   | Lenten Toy Sale (please donate old toys).   |
| <b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>  | Easter Bonnet Parade (F1 – Y6 classes) (F1-Y6) <b>Virtual TBC</b> Children to make the bonnets at home and bring them into school. All children may participate in this event.<br><b>End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.</b> |

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| <b>April</b>                         |   |
| <b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b> | <b>Start of Term</b>  |
| Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April        | St George's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear red, white or blue). |

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| <b>May</b>                             |                                     |
| <b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>       | <b>Bank Holiday. School closed.</b> |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> May             | Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.          |
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| 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> May | KS1 SATs- Year 2                    |

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| <b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> May</b> | <b>KS2 SATs – Year 6 Tests (free breakfast club for Year 6 pupils all week, starting at 8.00a.m.)</b> |
| <b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>                   | <b>KS 2 Spelling, punctuation and Grammar Paper 1 &amp; 2 tests</b>                                   |
| <b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>                 | <b>KS2 Reading Test</b>   |
| <b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May</b>               | <b>KS2 Maths Paper 1 &amp; 2 Test</b>   |
| <b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May</b>                | <b>KS2 Maths Paper 3 Test</b>   |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> May                        | Walk to School Week   |
| Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May                       | KS1 Sports Day at 9.30a.m. KS1 parents may attend.  |
| Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May                       | KS2 Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS2 parents may attend.  |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> May                      | Year 5 Secondary School Transfer Meeting at 2.30p.m.<br>(All Year 5 parents are welcome to attend)    |
| Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May                        | <b>End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.</b>   |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> May – 3 <sup>rd</sup> June        | <b>Half Term Holiday – School Closed</b>  |

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| <b>June</b>  |   |
| <b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June</b>                    | <b>Inset Day – school closed.</b>   |
| <b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June</b>                   | <b>Start of Term</b>  |
| Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June – 11 <sup>th</sup> June | One World Week – Working together for a just, peaceful and sustainable world. |
| Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June                         | Year 1 Phonic tests commence<br>Year 4 Multiplication tests commence          |
| Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June                        | KS1 Reserve Sports Day at 9.30p.m. KS1 parents may attend.                    |
| Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June                        | KS2 Reserve Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS2 parents may attend.                    |
| Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June                       | Phonic meeting for F2 parents- Getting ready for Year 1 at 2.00p.m            |

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| Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June         | Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.   |
| <b>July</b>                           |  |
| Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> July           | F1 visits and new parents meeting 1.30p.m.   |
| Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July          | Year 2 to Year 3 Transition Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 2 parents are welcome to attend)   |
| Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July        | Reserve date: Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.   |
| Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> July         | Transition Day for all pupils<br>Secondary School Transition day<br>New to F2 Parents' Meeting at 9.15a.m. (Current F1 parents to attend).                       |
| Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> July          | Year 6 Leavers' Mass<br>Whole School Picnic starting at 12.30p.m. (weather permitting)   |
| Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> July          | KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. KS2 parents and toddlers are welcome to attend.   |
| Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July         | KS2 Play at 6.00p.m. KS2 parents are welcome to attend.  |
| <b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July</b> | Leavers' Assembly at 9.00 a.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass<br>End of Term Year 6 lunch<br><b>End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.</b> |

