



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Ainsdale Road South Oxhey Watford WD19 7DW
Tel 020-8428 5371 Fax 020-8421-0568

11th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome to the Autumn term and especially to our new children and their parents. It is lovely to be back and to hear the sound of children's voices gracing the school building once again.

I am very excited about the year of learning ahead of us and I am sure your children will thoroughly enjoy their time at school this year. During these first few weeks, we will be focussing on settling the children in and making sure that they feel happy and comfortable being back at St Joseph's.

Over the course of this term, it is our intention to run school as normally as we can and once again provide the routine, social opportunities and education which the children richly deserve. It goes without saying that some things will be different and there will be many changes to practice that will need to be navigated as we move through the year. One of the things we have been looking into is not losing our sense of community as a school and so we will be delivering a number of events (such as the Phonics Workshop and Class Assemblies) via Zoom. Look out for emailed details and invites coming soon.

Over the summer, we have been very busy decorating the Year 3 and Foundation 2 classrooms. Both classes look fantastic.

I am hoping to get new windows in Year 3 but this will require for us to raise approximately £10,000; therefore, could you please ensure that you pay your Building Fund donation which is £30 per child, per term. This can be paid via the School Gateway App. Thank you.

WELCOME

I would like to say welcome to the following children and their families:

Foundation 1: Anna, Mitchell, Alfred, Alice, Florie, Olly, Ronni, Quinn, Ophelia, Adam, Charlize, Noah, Sienna and Harley

Foundation 2: Alexander, Olivier, Callum, Tyler, Jessica D, Arthur, Denis, Shay, Niam, Harry, Jessica M, Cian and Dempsey

Year 1: Dineen

Year 3: Chase

Year 6: Molly

I hope you enjoy learning with us at St Joseph's!

Health and Safety Updates

The staggered start to the day has proven to be very tricky but after the chaos of day 1, I am delighted to say it is now running much more smoothly. I would like to thank you for sending your children into school at the correct time. We will, of course, continue to evaluate these procedures and change anything if needed.

To limit mass gatherings, it would be helpful if the area outside the school gates is kept clear; particularly when dropping off and collecting at the end of the school day. If you are waiting to collect a sibling, please remain away from the school gates until the allocated pick up time. Please relay this information to anyone who drops off or picks up your child. This would be greatly appreciated.

Here are just a few of the measures we have put in place to keep your child/ren safe. To reassure you, the following procedures will be followed:

- the temperatures of all staff and pupils will be checked as they enter the building and throughout the day, using our thermo-sensor cameras;
- all children will wash/sanitise their hands as they enter the building at regular intervals throughout the day;
- where applicable the children will sit forward facing and in pairs;
- children will have their own equipment at their workstations. This has been provided by the school;
- workstations will be cleaned throughout the day;
- children in EYFS will wash their hands before using equipment. Additional cleaning of the equipment will occur throughout the day;
- classroom doors will be propped open and windows opened to ensure rooms remain well ventilated;
- packed lunches (school kitchen or from home) will be eaten in the classrooms or outside;
- social distancing will be followed as far as possible. Although, we cannot guarantee this with children;
- there will be stricter rules regarding using the toilet – 1 child at a time to ensure no mixing;
- children may wear masks from home;
- all of this is subject to government guidance and may change at any time.

Important Secondary School Transfer Information for Year 6 Parents

Secondary School admissions opened at the beginning of September and the closing date for all applications is 31st October 2020. Year 6 parents must complete the online form at www.hertsdirect.org/admissions and complete the School's Supplementary Form which you can obtain from the School's Website or School Office.

Please note, all Catholic Secondary Schools require a Certificate of Catholic Practice which can be obtained from your parish priest.

There will be a virtual parents meeting via Zoom on Friday 2nd October 2020 at 2.00p.m. Please download the Zoom app. Details will be sent to parents via School Gateway.

Secondary School Open Evenings will probably be 'Virtual' this year, due to Covid-19. Please contact the schools individually by visiting their websites to find out more about their Virtual Open Evenings.

Breakfast Club

We are very pleased to report that the Breakfast Club is now open. Children will be placed in areas of the dining room/hall with other children from their cohort to maintain their class 'bubbles'. All the usual breakfast offerings will be available. School staff will need to maintain a 2 metres distance from the children at all times; apart from in an emergency situation. Should such a situation arise, staff will wear PPE equipment.

The Breakfast Club starts at 7.35 a.m. and costs £5 per session. If you arrive after 8.00a.m., the cost is £3.50 per day.

Breakfast Club has limited spaces which must be booked and paid for in advance. Spaces **will not** be available on the day; therefore, you **must** book in advance. Payments and bookings may be made via the School Gateway App.

First Holy Communion

If you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion next year, please ensure you complete the online form by clicking the link below:

<https://carpenderspark.org.uk/2020/06/27/first-holy-communion-programme-registration-form/>

Newsletters

I will send out newsletters fortnightly. If you do not receive a newsletter via e-mail, please inform the office. If you do not have an e-mail account, paper copies will be given.

PE kits

Please ensure that pupils have the correct PE kit in school with them each day; PE is a vital part of our school curriculum here at St Joseph's and the children participate in two hours of PE per week.

Last term, a number of girls had plimsolls which look similar to the shoes in the picture. These plimsolls are not appropriate as they do not provide the correct support around the ankle area. Children must wear black plimsolls or black/white trainers for PE lessons.



On days when your child has their PE lesson, your child must come into school in their PE kit. If it is cold or wet the school's tracksuit must be worn. Please ensure your child wears their PE kits on the following days:

PE Days for Year Groups

Class	Day
Foundation 1	Friday
Foundation 2	Wednesday
Year 1	Tuesday
Year 2	Monday
Year 3	Monday
Year 4	Friday
Year 5	Thursday
Year 6	Wednesday

Important Notice

1. **Individual and sibling photographs** will be taken on Monday 28th September.
2. Please may I remind you that dogs are **not** allowed anywhere on the school site. Thank you for your co-operation.
3. The Home-School agreements and other related forms (ICT acceptable use, etc) will shortly be sent out. Please take time to read these with your children. We would request this year that these forms are digitally signed and sent back to, admin@stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk via School Gateway. Please help the office staff with this essential admin task by returning forms as promptly as possible.

4. Flu vaccination sessions will take place in school on Monday 5th November and Thursday 3rd December. Consent forms should be completed and returned to the school office as soon as possible.

Have a great week,

Linda Payne

Dates for the diary

More than ever - please treat this calendar as a guide – I am sure as we progress through the year there may be variations to this. Dates in blue may change due to Covid restrictions.

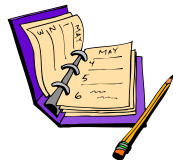
The acronym TBC means to be confirmed.

September	
Friday 25 th September	Foundation Stage Macmillan Outside Coffee day, which will be outside. Foundation Stage parents are welcome to attend. More information to follow.
Monday 28 th September	Individual/Sibling Photographs

October	
Friday 2 nd October 2020	Year 6 Parents Secondary School Transfer Meeting 2p.m.via Zoom at 6.00p.m.
Friday 16 th October	Pink Non Uniform Day to support Breast Cancer Appeal (Children may wear pink).
Week commencing 19 th October	Virtual Parents' Evening (all week) TBC - To Be Confirmed
Thursday 22 nd October	Virtual Harvest Assembly (F1 – Y6) All parents welcome to watch our virtual Harvest Assembly. More information to follow. End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
Friday 23 rd October	School Closed – Deanery Inset Day
26 th October – 30 th October	Half Term Holiday – School Closed

November	
Monday 2nd November	Start of term
Thursday 5 th November	Flu Vaccination Session 12.30p.m. – 3.00p.m.
Thursday 5 th November	Year 5 Remembrance Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 5 parents are welcome to virtually attend.
Friday 6th November	Virtual Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Thursday 19 th November	Year 4 Refugee Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 4 parents are welcome to virtually attend.
Thursday 26 th November	Year 6 Advent Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 6 parents are welcome to virtually attend.
Friday 27 th November	Occasional Day – School Closed
Monday 30 th November	St Andrew's Non Uniform day (children may wear blue white or tartan).

December	Flu Vaccination Session 8.30a.m. – 12.00p.m.
Thursday 3rd December	
Friday 4th December	Virtual Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.



	Last swimming for Year 3 and Year 4 TBC
Wednesday 9 th December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play (dress rehearsal- parents and toddlers welcome). Starts at 9.30a.m. All parents welcome to attend if Covid restrictions are lifted. (otherwise it will be streamed)
Thursday 10 th December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play. Starts at 9.30a.m. All parents welcome to attend if Covid restrictions are lifted. (otherwise it will be streamed)
Friday 11th December	Whole School Trip Pantomime, Watford Palace Theatre
Monday 14th December	KS2 Advent Service. Starts at 1.30p.m.TBC / Virtual
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day (children may wear a Christmas jumper/teeshirt).
Thursday 17 th December	Whole School Christmas Virtual Quiz & Foundation Stage Party
Friday 18th December	Mass in church or virtual Mass TBC 9.15a.m. End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass/Virtual Mass
21st December – 4th January	Christmas Holiday – School Closed

January 2021	
Spring Term	
Monday 4th January	Start of term
	Swimming starts for Year 3 and Year 5 TBC

February	
Thursday 4th February	Maths meeting for F1 & F2 parents. TBC
Friday 5 th February	Virtual Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Monday 8 th February	Parents' Evening TBC Save the date
Tuesday 9 th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 9 th February	Parents' Evening TBC Save the date.
Friday 12th February	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
15th – 19th February	Half Term holiday – School Closed
Monday 22nd February	Start of Term
March	
Monday 1 st March	St David's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green, red, white or yellow).
Thursday 4 th March	World Book Day – Book Character Non Uniform day. All parents are welcome to attend the World Book Day Assembly if Covid restriction are lifted. This is a non-uniform day. Children may dress up as their favourite book character.
Friday 5 th March	Virtual Parents' Forum
Friday 12 th March	Mother's day Class Assembly starts at 9.00a.m. All F1 – F2 mothers/carers welcome to attend. Outside/Virtual TBC
Wednesday 17 th March	St Patrick's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green or white).
Friday 19 th March	St Joseph's Day Mass – date to be confirmed. (TBC)
	Last swimming for Year 3 and Year 5 TBC
Monday 22 nd March	Lenten Cake Competition (all children may enter by baking a

	cake). Cake sale.
Tuesday 23 rd March	Lenten Toy Sale (please donate old toys).
Friday 26th March	Easter Bonnet Parade (F1 – Y6 classes) (F1-Y6) All parents welcome to attend the Easter Bonnet Parade TBC. Children to make the bonnets at home and bring them into school. All children may participate in this event. End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.
Monday 29 th March	Easter School for Year 6
Tuesday 30 th March	Easter School for Year 6

April	
Monday 12th April	Start of Term
Friday 23 rd April	St George's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear red, white or blue).
	Swimming starts for Year 3 and Year 6 TBC

May	
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday. School closed.
Friday 7 th May	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
3 rd – 21 st May	KS1 SATs- Year 2
Monday 10th – 13th May	KS2 SATs – Year 6 Tests (free breakfast club for Year 6 pupils all week, starting at 8.00a.m.)
Monday 10th May	KS 2 Spelling, punctuation and Grammar Paper 1 & 2 tests
Tuesday 11th May	KS2 Reading Test
Wednesday 12th May	KS2 Maths Paper 1 & 2 Test
Thursday 13th May	KS2 Maths Paper 3 Test
Monday 17 th May	Walk to School Week
Tuesday 18 th May	KS1 Sports Day at 9.30a.m. KS1 parents may attend.
Tuesday 18 th May	KS2 Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Thursday 20 th May	Year 5 Secondary School Transfer Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 5 parents are welcome to attend)
Friday 28 th May	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
31 st May – 4 th June	Half Term Holiday – School Closed

June	
Monday 7th June	Inset Day – school closed.
Tuesday 8th June	Start of Term
Tuesday 8 th June	Year 1 Phonic tests commence Year 4 Multiplication tests commence
Tuesday 15 th June	KS1 Reserve Sports Day at 9.30p.m. KS1 parents may attend.
Tuesday 15 th June	KS2 Reserve Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Thursday 24 th June	Phonic meeting for F2 parents- Getting ready for Year 1 at 2.00p.m
Friday 25 th June	F1 new pupils visits 1.30p.m.
Friday 25 th June	St Peter & St Paul's Mass in school at 9.00a.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass
TBC	Year 6 School Journey

July	
Thursday 1 st July	Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
Friday 2 nd July	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Friday 2 nd July	F1 visits and new parents meeting 1.30p.m.
	Final Year 3 swim – double session TBC
Wednesday 7 th July	Reserve date: Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
Wednesday 7 th July	Year 2 to Year 3 Transition Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 2 parents are welcome to attend)
Thursday 8 th July	Transition Day for all pupils Secondary School Transition day New to F2 Parents' Meeting at 9.15a.m. (Current F1 parents to attend).
Friday 9 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass Whole School Picnic starting at 12.30p.m. (weather permitting)
Monday 12 th July	FS & KS1 Teddy Bear Picnic (Please bring a Teddy Bear)
	Final Year 6 swim – double session TBC
Tuesday 13 th July	KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. KS2 parents and toddlers are welcome to attend.
Wednesday 14 th July	KS2 Play at 6.00p.m. KS2 parents are welcome to attend.
Thursday 15th July	Leavers' Assembly at 9.00 a.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass End of Term Year 6 lunch End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.