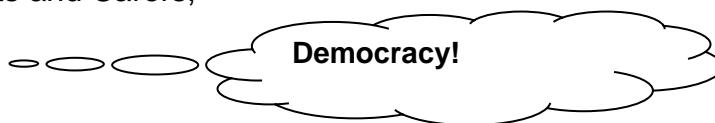


29th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,



At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we believe in celebrating our community's increasingly diverse cultural backgrounds whilst promoting and holding true to what we recognise as British Values.

Democracy is at the heart of our values. The children have been following Christ's teachings by making decisions about their learning and behaviour towards each other. Pupils are taught to listen carefully, with concern for each other, respecting the rights of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. This week, pupils will be given the opportunity to vote for the House Captains and School Council members.

The elections of the School Council members and House Captains are based solely on pupil votes, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action. The pupils will then be given the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through our School Council and regular questionnaires.

Covid Guidance Updates

From 1st October, we will be gradually reducing our Covid Restrictions. To start, we will return to regular school opening hours, meaning all children must be in school by 8.50a.m. We will also resume our soft start to the day, which means the doors will open at 8.45a.m. and shut just after 8.50a.m. Anyone arriving before 8.45a.m. must attend our Breakfast Club. The roads around the school get very busy at drop off and pick up times. Therefore, please remember to park considerately and not park on Matlock Crescent's corners or block our neighbours' driveways. Remember, if needed, you can park at the church and walk from there to school.

For ease of reference, the end of the day procedures can be seen in the table below:

Year Group	End of Day time
Foundation 1 (Nursery)	12.00p.m.
Foundation 2 to Years 4	3.15p.m.
Years 5	3.17p.m.
Years 6	3.20p.m.

Pre-Covid lunchtime and playtime procedures will resume after half term, which means the children will be eating in the dining hall and playing together.

Our Harvest Festival and Parents Evenings will be virtual. However, after half term, we hope to invite parents/carers back into school for school events such as Class Masses, Nativity Play, Parents Forum and the Carol Concert.

We will continue to keep the following Covid Safety measures in place:

- the temperatures of all staff and pupils will be checked as they enter the building and throughout the day, using our thermo-sensor cameras;
- staff will continue to do lateral flow tests;
- all children will wash/sanitise their hands as they enter the building and at regular intervals throughout the day;
- workstations will be cleaned throughout the day;
- children in EYFS will wash their hands before using the equipment and additional cleaning of 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 until half term.

School Improvement Priorities for 2021-2022

As a school, we are constantly striving for academic excellence.

This year, the school's priorities are:

1. implementing the recovery curriculum to address gaps in pupils' knowledge and understanding
2. developing pupils' reading, writing and mathematics skills
3. implementing the new government changes to the music curriculum
4. continuing to develop parental engagement in the Catholic Life of the school and in their children's religious education

Foundation 1 (Nursery)

We are now offering nursery places to children who are 'rising three'. Therefore, children may join our school, the term after they are three. Please contact the School Office, if you would like your child to join our **current** Nursery Class.

Foundation 1 Consultation

Next year, we are hoping to offer a full-time, 30 hours nursery. Please complete the survey below if you have a child who is born between **September 2018 to 2019**.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=pV4aTzpwKkOAokpUTVO9cqFGL2yolDICg_H3ZAJrDQ1UQ1RaMVIUqjVKNU9OMFZIOEszOU4wRExZQi4u



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Well done to Foundation 1 and Foundation 2 for raising £170.00 during their recent coffee morning. All proceeds raised have been donated to Macmillan Cancer Campaign. Thank you for your kind donations.



Pink Non School Uniform Day

On Friday 15th October, there will be a non-uniform day to raise money for Breast Cancer Research. Children may wear pink or red clothes. We are asking for a £1 voluntary contribution. Please do support this worthwhile cause.

Fireworks Night

The financial outlay to hold our fireworks display is approximately £1500. Sadly, we have decided there will not be a fireworks display this year due to the potential risk of another lockdown. Although this is highly unlikely, we cannot afford to take a chance in the hope that the display will take place.



First Holy Communion

If you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion next year, please collect a form from the church after any of the weekend Masses

Healthy Lunches!

As we are a healthy eating school, we also ask that your child has a healthy packed lunch. Children may have a small treat per day, such as a chocolate biscuit. Crisps are only allowed on Fridays. Glass bottles or cans of fizzy drinks are not allowed. Fruit, dry fruit, water, squash and juice are also allowed at playtime.

Nut Allergies!

May I remind you that nuts are not allowed in school because we have a few children with nut allergies. This is a life-threatening condition, so please ensure your child's lunch or break time snack does not contain nuts or nut products, e.g. peanut butter, Nutella and cereal bars. Thank you.

School Uniform

The children look fantastic in their new school uniforms. Please may I remind you that children may wear small gold or silver stud earrings only. Other jewellery such as bracelets, rings, hoop earrings or coloured earrings are not permitted. Brightly coloured socks and headbands are also not allowed. In addition, please ensure your child is wearing the correct school PE kit. Leggings and hoodies are not allowed. Thank you.

Important Notices

1. Important Secondary School Transfer Information

The closing date for Secondary School Admissions is 31st October. Year 6 parents must complete the online form at www.hertsdirect.org/admissions and complete the Supplementary Form which can be downloaded from the school websites.

Attendance Award

Year 5 had the best attendance last week with 98%! Well done

Have a great week.

Mrs Linda. Payne

New dates in blue

Dates for the diary

September	
Tuesday 14 th September	Individual/Sibling Photographs
Friday 17 th September	Swimming starts for Year 3 and Year 4
Friday 24 th September	Foundation Stage Macmillan Coffee Morning. Foundation Stage parents are welcome to attend. More information to follow.

October	
Friday 15 th October	Pink Non Uniform Day to support Breast Cancer Appeal (Children may wear pink).
Week commencing 18 th	Virtual Parents' Evening (all week) Class days TBC - To Be

October	Confirmed
Monday 18 th October	Flu Vaccination Session
Thursday 21 st October	Harvest Assembly (F1 – Y6) More information to follow. End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
Friday 22 nd October	School Closed – Deanery Inset Day
25 th October – 29 th October	Half Term Holiday – School Closed

November	
Monday 1st November	Start of term
Thursday 4 th November	Year 5 Remembrance Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 5 parents are welcome to attend.
Friday 5 th November	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Thursday 18 th November	Year 4 Refugee Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 4 parents are welcome to virtually attend.
Friday 26 th November	Occasional Day – School Closed
Tuesday 30 th November	St Andrew's Non Uniform day (children may wear blue white or tartan).
Tuesday 30 th November	Flu Vaccination Session

December	
Wednesday 1 st December	Year 6 Advent Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 6 parents are welcome to attend.
Wednesday 8 th December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play (dress rehearsal- parents and toddlers welcome). Starts at 9.30a.m
Thursday 9 th December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play. Starts at 9.30a.m. All parents welcome to attend .
Friday 10 th December	Last swimming for Year 3 and Year 4
Monday 13 th December	KS2 Advent Service. Starts at 1.30p.m.TBC / Virtual
Wednesday 15 th December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day (children may wear a Christmas jumper/teeshirt).
Thursday 16 th December	Whole School Christmas Virtual Quiz & Foundation Stage Party
Friday 17 th December	Whole School Trip Pantomime, Watford Palace Theatre
Tuesday 21st December	Mass in church 9.15a.m. End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass
22nd December – 3rd January	Christmas Holiday – School Closed

January 2022 Spring Term	
Wednesday 5th January	Inset Day – School Closed
Thursday 6th January	Start of Term

February	
Friday 4 th February	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Monday 7 th February	Parents' Consultations all week Save the date

Monday 7 th February – Friday 11 th February	Feeling Good and Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 8 th February	Safer Internet Day
Friday 11th February	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
14th – 18th February	Half Term holiday – School Closed
Monday 21st February	Start of Term

March	
Tuesday 1 st March	St David's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green, red, white or yellow).
Wednesday 2 nd March	Ash Wednesday Service – More details to follow.
Thursday 3 rd March	World Book Day – Book Character Non Uniform day. All parents are welcome to attend the World Book Day Assembly This is a non-uniform day. Children may dress up as their favourite book character.
Thursday 17 th March	St Patrick's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green or white).
Friday 18 th March	St Joseph's Day Mass – date to be confirmed. (TBC)
Friday 25 th March	Mother's day Class Assembly starts at 9.00a.m. All F1 – F2 mothers/carers welcome to attend.
Monday 28 th March	Lenten Cake Competition (all children may enter by baking a cake). Cake sale.
Thursday 31 st March	Lenten Toy Sale (please donate old toys).
Friday 1st April	Easter Bonnet Parade (F1 – Y6 classes) (F1-Y6) All parents welcome to attend the Easter Bonnet Parade. 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.

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

May	
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday. School closed.
Friday 6 th May	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
3 rd – 20 th May	KS1 SATs- Year 2
Monday 9th – 12th May	KS2 SATs – Year 6 Tests (free breakfast club for Year 6 pupils all week, starting at 8.00a.m.)
Monday 9th May	KS 2 Spelling, punctuation and Grammar Paper 1 & 2 tests
Tuesday 10th May	KS2 Reading Test
Wednesday 11th May	KS2 Maths Paper 1 & 2 Test
Thursday 12th May	KS2 Maths Paper 3 Test
Monday 16 th May	Walk to School Week
Tuesday 17 th May	KS1 Sports Day at 9.30a.m. KS1 parents may attend.

Tuesday 17 th May	KS2 Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Thursday 19 th May	Year 5 Secondary School Transfer Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 5 parents are welcome to attend)
Friday 27 th May	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
30 th May – 3 rd June	Half Term Holiday – School Closed

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

Wednesday 29 th June	Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
July	
Monday 4 th July	F1 visits and new parents meeting 1.30p.m.
Tuesday 5 th July	Year 2 to Year 3 Transition Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 2 parents are welcome to attend)
Wednesday 6 th July	Reserve date: Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
Thursday 7 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 15 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass Whole School Picnic starting at 12.30p.m. (weather permitting)
Monday 18 th July	KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. KS2 parents and toddlers are welcome to attend.
Tuesday 19 th July	KS2 Play at 6.00p.m KS2 parents are welcome to attend.
Wednesday 20th 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.