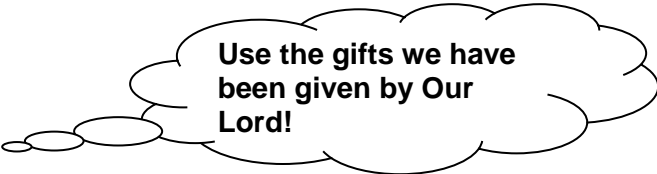




St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Ainsdale Road South Oxhey Watford WD19 7DW
Tel 020-8428 5371 Fax 020-8421-0568

15th January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,



Thought of the Week

Happy New Year and I hope you all had a great Christmas! The staff and I would like to thank you all for your kind gifts. It is very thoughtful and greatly appreciated.



Times Tables Rock Stars

I just wanted to remind all parents about our fabulous, interactive homework programme. By the end of Year 4, all pupils should know all of their times tables. When it comes to times tables, speed and accuracy are important – the more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to do harder calculations. Times Table Rock Stars is a fun and challenging programme designed to help pupils master the times tables. To be a Times Table Rock Star you need to answer any multiplication fact up to 12x12 in less than 3 seconds.



The goal is for all participating rockers to be Times Table Rock Stars after 20 weeks!

Please find attached the letter for Times Tables Rock Stars. This contains all the information you need to support your child to become a Times Tables Rock Star. You can also download the free App by visiting your Play Store. To log on use the school's postcode- WD19 7DW.

School Council

The new school council have been very busy this term. They recently met to discuss new ideas to improve playtime and lunchtime activities. This term, we will be purchasing new playground equipment. I particularly liked their idea about having a jacuzzi on the roof - I had best start saving!!!



Football News

The football teams have been very busy playing lots of league fixtures. They all played well and the results can be seen in the table below.



Boys			
St Joseph's	5	York Mead	1
St Joseph's	9	Rickmansworth Park	1
St Joseph's	2	Greenfields	1
St Joseph's	0	Little Green	0
St Joseph's	3	Oxhey wood	2

Girls			
St Joseph's	0	St Mary's	9
St Joseph's	0	York Mead	3
St Joseph's	1	Little Green	7
St Joseph's	15	Oxhey Wood	1

PE kits

Please can you ensure your child has the correct school 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. Therefore, please ensure your child brings the correct, labelled PE kit to school on Mondays. Children may wear black plimsolls or black trainers for PE lessons.



Breakfast Club

The parents' forum would like the Breakfast Club to start earlier. From the 24th February, the Breakfast Club will start at 7.35a.m. Please do not send your child into school any earlier as the school will not be open. There will be an additional charge of £5 if your child attends before 8.00a.m. If your child attends after 8.00a.m., it will be the same price, which is £3.50.

I am sure the early start will be very successful but please note, if I am unable to cover the staff costs due to lack of numbers, I will have to stop the early start. However, I will give you plenty of notice if this is the case.

Pupil Premium Funding

In certain circumstances schools are able to claim approximately £1,600 extra of funding per child for pupils whose parents are in receipt of various benefits. The criteria are the same as they would be for applying for 'free school meals' in KS2. The money can be used to support anything that improves a child's enjoyment, wellbeing, achievement or attainment at school. Recently, we have used such funding to pay for individual music tuition, 1:1 maths/literacy support, breakfast club and after school club places etc.

If you think that you or your partner may be eligible to claim this extra money for your child, I urge you to speak to Mrs Tannian in the school office as soon as possible. All enquiries of this nature will be treated in strictest confidence. If you know you are entitled to Pupil Premium funding you can apply directly using the following website: www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals Once successfully applied for, this funding will remain in place each year that your child is with us. Please note that this extra funding is available to all eligible children in school, from Nursery to Year 6.

Attendance

Is there a proven link between attendance and children's achievement in school?

There is a clear link between poor attendance at school and lower academic achievement. In primary schools, less than 65% of children get good results in Maths and English in schools, when they have an average of 15 days absence, compared to around 90% in schools where the average is less than 8 days. Many parents are surprised how quickly their children accumulate 15 days absence.

Of the children who miss more than 50 per cent of school, only 3% manage to achieve five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C. 73% of children who have over 95% attendance achieve five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C. While GCSEs may seem some time away, setting good attendance and punctuality patterns from an early age, from nursery and Reception through to Year 6, will really help.

Over the next two weeks, your child will be receiving a traffic light certificate, letting you know what your child's attendance has been for the term.

Important Notices

Nursery Admissions

The paragraph below is very important for all parents with pre-school children. You will need to apply for a Nursery place if your child was born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017

You will need to complete the **School's Supplementary Form** and **Certificate of Catholic Practice**. Please note, you do not need to apply online.

A Supplementary Information Form is obtainable from the school office. Your priest will also need to complete a **Certificate of Catholic Practice** which is obtainable from your church. All forms must be completed and returned to the school office before admission can be considered.

Therefore, in order to apply for a nursery place, we must receive:

- Supplementary Information Form
- Certificate of Catholic Practice (if applicable)
- Baptism Certificate (if applicable)

The closing date is 24th February. Please do not be late as this could jeopardise your child's place at the school.



Attendance Award

This week, Year 4 class have won the best attendance award! Well done Year 4! Keep up the good effort!

Have a great week

Linda Payne
Headteacher



Dates for the diary

January 2020	
Spring Term	
Friday 17 th January	Swimming starts for Year 3 and Year 5
February	
Tuesday 4 th February	Maths meeting for F1 & F2 parents. Starts at 2.30pm or 6.00p.m.
Friday 7 th February	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Monday 10 th February	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 11 th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 11 th February	Parents' Evening
Friday 14th February	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
17th 21st February	Half Term holiday – School Closed
Monday 24th February	Start of Term
Wednesday 26 th February	Ash Wednesday Mass starts at 9.15a.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass
Friday 28 th February	St David's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green, red, white or yellow). Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
March	
Thursday 5 th 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.
Friday 6 th March	Parents' Forum
Tuesday 17 th March	St Patrick's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green or white).
Thursday 19 th March	St Joseph's Day Mass – date to be confirmed.
Friday 20 th March	Mother's day Class Assembly starts at 9.00a.m. All F1 – F2 mothers/carers welcome to attend.
Friday 27 th March	Last swimming for Year 3 and Year 5
Monday 30 th March	Lenten Cake Competition (all children may enter by baking a cake). Cake sale.
April	

Thursday 2 nd April	Lenten Toy Sale (please donate old toys).
Friday 3rd 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.
Monday 6 th April	Easter School for Year 6
Tuesday 7 th April	Easter School for Year 6
Monday 20th April	Start of Term
Thursday 23 rd April	St George's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear red, white or blue).
Friday 24th April	Swimming starts for Year 3 and Year 6

May	
Friday 1st May	Parents' Forum
Friday 8th May	Bank Holiday. School closed.
4 th – 22 nd May	KS1 SATs- Year 2
Monday 11th – 14th May	KS2 SATs – Year 6 Tests (free breakfast club for Year 6 pupils all week, starting at 8.00a.m.)
Monday 11th May	KS 2 Spelling, punctuation and Grammar Paper 1 & 2 tests
Tuesday 12th May	KS2 Reading Test
Wednesday 13th May	KS2 Maths Paper 1 & 2 Test
Thursday 14th May	KS2 Maths Paper 3 Test
Monday 18 th May	Walk to School Week
Tuesday 19 th May	KS1 Sports Day at 9.30a.m. KS1 parents may attend.
Tuesday 19 th May	KS2 Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Thursday 21 st May	Year 5 Secondary School Transfer Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 5 parents are welcome to attend)
Friday 22 nd May	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
25 th May – 1 st June	Half Term Holiday – School Closed

June	
Monday 1st June	Inset Day – school closed.
Tuesday 2nd June	Start of Term
Wednesday 3 rd June	KS1 Reserve Sports Day at 9.30p.m. KS1 parents may attend.
Wednesday 3 rd June	KS2 Reserve Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Friday 5 th June	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Monday 8 th June	Year 1 Phonic tests commence Year 4 Multiplication tests commence
Thursday 18 th June – 19 th June	Year 5 Overnight trip to Phasels Wood (New date)
Monday 22nd June – 26th June	Year 6 School Journey (New date)
Wednesday 24 th June	F1 new pupils visits 1.30p.m.
Thursday 25 th June	Phonic meeting for F2 parents- Getting ready for Year 1 at 2.00p.m
Friday 26 th June	St Peter & St Paul's Mass in school at 11.00a.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass

July	
Wednesday 1 st July	F1 visits and new parents meeting 1.30p.m.
Thursday 2 nd July	Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
Friday 3 rd July	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Friday 3rd July	Final Year 3 swim – double session
Wednesday 8 th July	Reserve date: Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
Wednesday 8 th July	Year 2 to Year 3 Transition Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 2 parents are welcome to attend)
Thursday 9 th July	Secondary School Transition day New to F2 Parents' Meeting at 9.15a.m. (Current F1 parents to attend).
Friday 10 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass Whole School Picnic starting at 12.30p.m. (weather permitting)
Monday 13 th July	FS & KS1 Teddy Bear Picnic (Please bring a Teddy Bear)

Friday 10th July	Final Year 6 swim – double session
Tuesday 14 th July	KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. KS2 parents and toddlers are welcome to attend.
Tuesday 14 th July	Year 6 Barbecue at 1.30p.m.- 3.00pm. Year 6 parents welcome to attend. Parents to bring party food please.
Wednesday 15 th July	KS2 Play at 6.00p.m KS2 parents are welcome to attend.
Thursday 16th July	Leavers' Assembly at 9.00 a.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.