



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
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9th February 2018

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.

Key Stage 2 2017 Achievements

I am delighted to inform you all that our school is in the top 1% of schools nationally for combined progress across Key Stage 2 in reading, writing and mathematics. This is fantastic news and I would like to thank you for supporting your children with their learning and thank the staff and pupils for their hard work. A special thank you to Miss Winterman, Mrs Carter, Mrs Holdaway and Mrs Bright for their continued hard work supporting Year 6.

Book Day

To promote our love for reading, we will be celebrating International Book Day on Thursday 1st March. The children may dress up as their favourite book character and there will be a special assembly starting at 9.00a.m. All parents and carers are welcome to attend our assembly.

St David's Day

On Friday 2nd 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 towards our Lenten Appeal.

Healthy Lunches

Thank you to all the parents that have made a great effort in providing their child with a healthy lunch. May I just remind you all, that **sweets, crisps** and **fizzy drinks** are not allowed at school. However, the children may have a small treat in their lunch boxes such as a biscuit or a small chocolate bar. Fruit, water and juice, are also allowed at playtime.

Supporting Children with their Reading

This year, we are focusing on improving the children's reading skills. In school, the children are taught different strategies to help them read. Studies have shown that when children read every day at home, they become better readers.

Improving reading is a way to enable children to maximise their opportunities in all other areas of schooling, so it is crucial that this is done every day. Therefore, it is very important that your child reads at home, daily for at least ten minutes. However, I know many children already read daily at home and I would like to thank you for your support.

When your child has read each day, I would ask that you sign and date your child's reading record. Whilst reading with your child, it is important to ask a few questions about what they have read. This will also help develop their comprehension skills.

Questions such as 'What do you think will happen next?' or 'Why did the author use those words?' are good starters.

Finally, a list of the most common words can be found at the following website: www.highfrequencywords.org. If you could help your child, read and spell the high frequency words that will really help them with their schooling.

Attendance

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, 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. Your child will be receiving a traffic light certificate, letting you know what your child's attendance has been for the term. Of the children who miss more than 50 per cent of school, only 3% manage to achieve five or more GCSEs at grades A* (now known as grade 9) to C (now known as grade 4). 73% of children who have over 95% attendance, achieve five or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 4. GCSEs may seem some time away however good attendance and punctuality (from an early age) helps improve their chances of success.

All holidays during term time are not permitted and will be classed as unauthorised. Please note, if a pupil has 15 unauthorised sessions (half day= 1 session) in a term (including unauthorised holidays), a Penalty Notice will be issued. The Penalty is £60 (per parent/per child). Thank you for your co-operation and support.

Nursery Admissions: Foundation 1 Place

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 2014 and 31st August 2015. You will need to complete the **School's Supplementary Form, Nursery Application Form** and **Certificate of Catholic Practice**. This year, you do not need to apply online.

Supplementary Information Forms and Nursery Application forms are 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
- Nursery Application Form
- Certificate of Catholic Practice (if applicable)
- Baptism Certificate (if applicable)

Please do not be late as this could jeopardise your child's place at the school. The closing date for all applications is 16th March 2018.

Important Notices

1. Please ensure your child wears a coat particularly when it is raining.
2. Please ensure your child wears black shoes to school. Black trainers or boots are not part of the school uniform.
3. White, cream or brown tights only. Thank you.

Prayer of the Week



Dear Lord,

Please take care of my family and friends and let them all receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

By Olivia Year 5



Attendance Award

Year 1 have won the best attendance award this week. Well done Year 1. Keep up the good work.

Have a great half term.

Linda Payne
Headteacher

February	
Friday 9th February	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
Monday 19th February	Start of Term
March	
Thursday 1 st March	World Book Day – Book Character Non-Uniform day (F1 – Y6 classes). All parents are welcome to attend the World Book Day Assembly. This is a non-uniform day.
Friday 2 nd March	St David's Non-Uniform Day (F1 – Y6 classes) Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Friday 16 th March	St Patrick's Non-Uniform Day (F1 – Y6 classes) No assembly today.
Monday 19 th March	St Joseph's Day Mass – date to be confirmed. (F2 – Y6 classes). All parents are welcome to attend.
Monday 26 th March	Lenten Cake Competition (F1 – Y6 classes)
Wednesday 28 th March	Lenten Toy Sale (F1 – Y6 classes)
Thursday 29th March	Easter Bonnet Parade (F1 – Y6 classes) All parents welcome to attend the Easter Bonnet Parade. Children make bonnets at home and must bring them into school today. All children may participate in this event. End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.

April	
Tuesday 3 rd April	Easter School for Year 6
Wednesday 4 th April	Easter School for Year 6
Monday 16th April	Start of Term
Monday 23 rd April	St George's Non-Uniform Day (F1 – Y6 classes)
Friday 27 th April	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.

May	
Monday 7th May	May Day. School closed.
Tuesday 8 th – 25 th May	KS1 SATs- Year 2
Monday 14th – 17th May	KS2 SATs – Year 6 Tests
Friday 18 th May	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Monday 21st -25th May	Walk to School Week
Monday 21 st May	KS1 Sports Day at 1.30p.m. KS1 parents are welcome to attend.
Tuesday 22 nd May	KS2 Sports Day at 1.30p.m. KS2 parents are welcome to attend.
Friday 25 th May	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.

June	
Monday 4th June	Inset Day – school closed.
Tuesday 5th June	Start of Term
Wednesday 6 th June	KS1 Reserve Sports Day at 1.30p.m. KS1 parents are welcome to attend.
Thursday 7 th June	KS2 Reserve Sports Day at 1.30p.m. KS2 parents are welcome to attend.
Friday 8 th June	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Monday 11 th June	Year 1 Phonic tests commence
Thursday 21 st June	Phonic meeting for F2 parents - Getting ready for Year 1
Wednesday 27 th June	F1 new pupils visits
Friday 29 th June	St Peter & St Paul's Mass in school at 9.15a.m. (F2 – Y6 classes). All parents are welcome to attend.

July	
Monday 2 nd – Friday 6 th July	Year 6 School Journey
Thursday 5 th July	F1 new parents meeting
Tuesday 10 th & Wednesday 11 th July	Year 5 Overnight Trip to Phasel Wood (new date)
Wednesday 11 th July	Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. FS parents are welcome to attend.
Thursday 12 th July	Secondary School Transition day New F2 Parents' Meeting at 9.15a.m.
Friday 13 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass (F1 – Y6 classes) Whole School Picnic starting at 12.30p.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass and picnic.
Monday 16 th July	KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. KS2 parents and toddlers are welcome to attend.
Tuesday 17 th July	KS2 Play at 6.00p.m KS2 parents are welcome to attend.
Wednesday 18 th July	Year 6 Barbecue at 1.30p.m. - 3.00pm. Foundation Stage Reserve Sports Day at 9.30a.m. FS parents are welcome to attend.
Thursday 19 th July	FS & KS1 Teddy Bear Picnic (Please bring a Teddy Bear) (F1 – Y2 classes)
Friday 20th July	Leavers' Assembly at 9.00 a.m. All parents are welcome to attend. End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.