



8th September 2016

Dear Parents

Welcome back to you all! I hope that you had a wonderful holiday! 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.

Over the summer, we have been very busy decorating the Year 1 class and the ICT Suite. Both rooms look fantastic. In addition, a number of repair works have taken place, as a result of the flood last term, but we are still waiting for the new hall floor to be fitted and the skirting boards need to be painted. The works will be completed within the next few weeks.

# WELCOME

It has been a very energetic and busy start to the school term and I am pleased to report that all of our pupils have settled back into school life exceptionally well; a particular mention must go to our new pupils who are now well and truly part of the furniture! It has been wonderful to see them settle so quickly and happily into school life and routines. I would like to say welcome to the following children and their families:

**Foundation 1:** Oskar, Lily, Ingrid, Callum, Jack, Ella-Rose, Sophia, Bella, Jacob, Isabella, Rebecca, Shealun, Isla, Hanna, Emily, Aiden, Jonathon, Zion, Holly, Olivia, James and Haven Mari.

**Foundation 2:** Amelia, Jakub, Luca, Miguel, Sophia, Jorge, Jessica, Tommy and Emily.

**Year 3:** Javi.

**Year 5:** Carmen and Ines.

**Year 6:** Maria.

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

## **Mass**

There will be a welcome Mass for the new children, staff and families on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September, in school, at 9.30a.m. Please do come along and help us celebrate this special occasion.

## **Important Secondary School Transfer Information**

Secondary School admissions opened on 1st September and the closing date for all applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016. Year 6 parents must complete the online form at [www.hertsdirect.org/admissions](http://www.hertsdirect.org/admissions) and complete the School's Supplementary Form which you can obtain during the School's Open evenings.

Please note, all Catholic Secondary Schools' application forms, require a priest's signature and asks how often you attend Mass.

## **Breakfast Club**



The Breakfast Club starts at 8.00a.m. The club costs £3.00 per day. If you are paying by cheque please make cheques payable to St Joseph's School.

### **Newsletters**

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

### **Parents' Forum**

We are actively seeking out the views of parents in our school to ensure that we are in touch with the needs and concerns of the parents and pupils. Your views concerning the school are very important to us. Therefore, if you have any ideas to help improve the school or any issues you would like to discuss, please come along to any of the following Parents' Forum dates: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November, Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June starting after assembly, at approximately 9.45a.m.

### **School Uniform**

The children are looking very smart in their new school uniforms. However, there are a few children wearing the wrong polo shirt or cardigans. I am very proud to have your children attend St Joseph's and wear our uniform. In addition, I want the whole community to know your child attends our school. Therefore, please ensure your child is wearing the correct polo shirts and cardigans with the school logo on. Uniform may be purchased from the school office. Thank you for your help regarding this matter.

### **PE kits**

I would also ask that parents ensure that pupils have 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.

Last term, a number of girls had plimsolls that looked like shoes in the picture. These plimsolls are not appropriate as they do not provide the correct support around the ankle area. Children may wear black plimsolls or black trainers for PE lessons.



### **Important Notice**

Please remember to inform the school office or class teacher if your child is being picked up from school by a person other than yourself. Thank you.



### **SAM Learning**

As you know, we are continuously evaluating ways to raise the achievements of our pupils. I am pleased to announce that the school has subscribed to SAM Learning Homework programme for our Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils. SAM learning is a top quality eLearning service that has been proven to improve outcomes for pupils.

To access the service at [www.samlearning.com](http://www.samlearning.com), your child needs the following details:

**Centre ID:** WD19SJ

**User ID:** Date of birth followed by two initials; first name then last name. Example: 010809DJ is the User ID for David Jones born 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 2009.

**Password:** Initially same as User ID, Learners are encouraged to keep the same password.

We do hope that you will take full advantage of this service and thank you in anticipation of your support for this initiative.

The school has also subscribed to another online Maths service which can be accessed at [www.mathletics.co.uk](http://www.mathletics.co.uk). You will receive a copy of your child's log-in details in the reading record shortly.

## **Important Notice**

### **Individual/ Sibling Photographs**

1. Individual and sibling photographs will be taken on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September.

### **School's Procedures**

2. I would like to reiterate the end of day and before school procedures for your information only.

### **Before School**

We have a number of children coming into school very early in the morning without a parent/carer being present. Please note, all Key Stage 2 pupils are allowed on the school playgrounds by themselves at 8.40a.m. However, if your child arrives before 8.40a.m. they must be accompanied by an adult. Also, all Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 pupils must be accompanied by an adult until the whistle goes for the start of school at 8.50a.m.

### **End of Day Procedures**

- I. Children will exit the school in the normal manner. Foundation 2 will leave through Foundation doors. Key Stage 1 will leave via the Key Stage 1 corridor and Key Stage 2 will leave via Key Stage 2 doors. Key Stage 2 parents are welcome to meet their children at the Key Stage 2 doors or by the main gate.
- II. The playground will be cleared as soon as possible to ensure all children have left the school safely with a parent.
- III. If you have children in Key Stage 1 and 2, please pick up the younger children first. In addition, you may wait on the Key Stage 1 playground area for the older children or wait inside the main gated area.
- IV. Either myself or another member of staff will always be by the main gates saying goodbye to the children.
- V. If you would like your child to be picked up from school by another person, please inform the school office or class teacher. Please do not pick up other children other than your own, without parental permission.
- VI. If you need to find any lost property, please go via the school office.
- VII. If in the unfortunate event you are delayed in picking up your child or stuck in traffic, please call the school office.

### **Wet Day Procedures**

1. Children will enter the school through the normal morning entry areas **from** 8.40a.m. For example: Foundation 2 and Key Stage 1 will enter through the Key Stage 1 door. Key Stage 2 will enter through the Key Stage 2 doors. Foundation 1 will enter through Foundation 1 canopy area. Please do not arrive at the school any earlier than 8.40a.m as the doors will be closed.
2. Children will go directly to their classes. Parents/carers, please say your goodbyes on the playground.

### **Before School & After School**

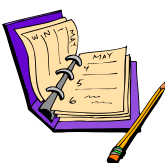
- At the end of the school day, the teachers are very busy looking after your children. Therefore, please refrain from talking to the teacher until they have dismissed all of the children. Similarly in the morning, the teacher will be unable to discuss any issues with you once the whistle has been blown at 8.50a.m. However, if it is an

urgent message, please either write in the Home-School Link book or inform the office.

- Please shut all gates behind you. Thank you.

Thank you for your help in following the school procedures and keeping our pupils safe.

### Dates for the diary



Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Individual/Sibling Photographs
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Welcome Mass at 9.30 a.m. in school
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Foundation Stage MacMillan Coffee Morning at 9.00a.m.
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Forum at 9.45 a.m.
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 2 Meeting at 2.30pm
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Pink Non Uniform Day to support Breast Cancer Appeal
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Harvest Assembly at 9.05a.m.
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Start of term
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	PTA Fireworks Night at 6.30p.m.
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' Forum at 9.45 a.m.
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5 Class Mass. Starts at 2.00p.m.
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4 Class Mass. Starts at 2.00p.m.
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	PTA Disco
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	St Andrew's Non Uniform day
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Year 6 Class Mass. Starts at 2.00p.m.
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	New F1 pupils visit to the school
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Parents' Forum at 9.45 a.m.
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Play - dress rehearsal. Starts at 9.30a.m
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30p.m New F1 Parents meeting (January intake only)
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Play. Starts at 9.30a.m.
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Choir singing at Watford Colosseum 7.15pm
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Advent Service with Carols. Starts at 1.30p.m.
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Foundation Stage & KS1 Pantomime, Watersmeet Theatre
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Key Stage 2 Pantomime at Watersmeet Theatre
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Mass in church 9.15a.m.
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.
	
<b>Spring Term 2017</b>	
	
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Start of term
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Welcome Mass (for new F1 January intake) starts at 9.30a.m.
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Parents' Forum at 9.45 a.m.
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' Evening
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
13 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Half term break
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Start of term
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Ash Wednesday Service at church
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day – Book Character Non Uniform day
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	St David's Non-Uniform Day
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	St Patrick's Non-Uniform Day
	St Joseph's Day Mass – date to be confirmed.



Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March  
 Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March  
 Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March  
 Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March  
 Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March  
 Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April  
 Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April

Lenten Toy Sale  
 Lenten Cake Competition  
 Mass in School  
 Easter Bonnet Parade  
 End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.  
 Easter School for Year 6  
 Easter School for Year 6



**Summer Term 2017**

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April  
 Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April  
 Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April

Start of term  
 St George's Non-Uniform Day  
 Parents' Forum at 9.45 a.m.

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May  
 Monday 8<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> May  
 Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> May  
 Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May  
 Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May  
 Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
 Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May  
 29<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June

May Day. School closed.  
 KS2 SATs – Year 6 Tests  
 KS1 SATs- Year 2  
 Parents' Forum at 9.45 a.m.  
 KS1 Sports Day at 1.30p.m.  
 KS2 Sports Day at 1.30p.m.  
 End of half term. School closes at 3.15p.m.  
 Half term break

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June  
 Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June  
 Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June  
 Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June

School Closed – Inset day  
 Start of term  
 KS1 Reserve Sports Day  
 KS2 Reserve Sports Day

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June  
 Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June  
 Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June  
 Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June  
 Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June

Year 1 Phonic tests commence  
 Phonic meeting for F2 parents- Getting ready for Year 1  
 Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m  
 Year 6 School Journey  
 F1 new pupils visits

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July  
 Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July  
 Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July

F1 new parents meeting  
 Foundation Stage Sports Day  
 Parents' Forum at 9.45 a.m.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July  
 Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July

Foundation Stage Reserve Sports Day  
 Transition day

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July

Year 6 Leavers' Mass

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July  
 Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July

KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m.  
 KS2 Play at 6.00p.m

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July  
 Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July

FS & KS1 Teddy Bear Picnic (Please bring a Teddy Bear)  
 Year 6 Barbecue



Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July

Leavers' Assembly at 9.00 a.m.  
 End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.