



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
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17th March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thought of the Week

Be kind.

This week, we have been learning about Lent. This is a time when we seek to renew our friendship with God and with each other. Each day, the children will spend time raising their minds and hearts to God in prayer. In addition, the children will be busy raising money for our chosen charities and carrying out kind deeds over the Lenten period. Please see our Lenten Newsletter for more details.

Bishop Paul McAleenan

We are delighted to inform you that Bishop Paul will visit the church this weekend and celebrate mass with us. The children are very excited to meet Bishop Paul. Hopefully, I will see you all there.

World Book Day

We had some great book characters and interesting words in school on World Book Day, such as Harry Potter, the Cat in the Hat, Little Red Riding Hood and Alice in Wonderland - you name it, we had it. Well done, everyone, for your fantastic costumes. Here are a few of our World Book Day photographs.







RE

As part of our other Christian faiths topic, Year 5 visited the local Baptist church and found out about the similarities and differences between our churches.



Science

This week, we have been celebrating Science Week in school by having Science Workshops, led by Laura Cross. The children had great fun learning how spies have used cyphers, codes and binary to communicate with each other.

Parents Forum (You said, we did..)

Thank you for your contributions to our Parents Forum. Together we can make a difference in your child's learning. Your suggestions are important because ultimately, we both want the same outcome: to provide the best education possible for your child. The following points were raised:

1. To provide more information about the curriculum

Some parents would like more information regarding what their children are learning; therefore, I will include more information in my newsletters. Please note

this is a taster of what the children have been learning about and only includes some of the subjects taught.

Year Group	Learning
F1	In Foundation 1, we have been learning a range of positional language: in front, above, behind, next to, underneath. We have been using positional language to build towers. In PE, we have been learning an Irish dance. We will dance to the Pinewood Lodge residents, as one of our Lent deeds, on Wednesday 22nd March.
F2	In Reception, we have been exploring different Traditional Tales. In our role-play area, the children had lots of fun dressing up as knights and princesses and creating a banquet in Sleeping Beauty's castle. They have enjoyed constructing bridges for the Three Billy Goats to cross, inspired by the Billy Goats Gruff, and have created a range of magical items to sell in our Fairy Tale Shop. In maths, we have been looking at counting two sets of numbers up to 10 and representing number combinations on a tens frame. We listened to a very special story about Jesus and Zacchaeus in RE. We discussed how we could turn to Jesus to help us to say sorry and the children shared different ways to show that you are sorry. The children came up with some wonderful suggestions for us to include in our 'Kindness' book.
Year 1	In English, Year 1 have been writing their own alien stories inspired by the book 'Beegu'. They have been trying to use adjectives in their stories to make their writing descriptive. In maths, we have been using resources to look at the place value of two-digit numbers. In our science topic, we have been learning about our five senses. To investigate our taste sense, we tried different Fruit Pastilles to see if we could identify the flavour without seeing the colour.
Year 2	Year 2 have started a new topic in maths about money. They have been counting coins and notes. In Literacy, we were surprised to find a set of footprints, in our class only to discover that they were a Dodo's. The book "A Journey Home" by Frann Preston Gannon has inspired some fantastic writing. In science, we planted some bulbs to watch over the next couple of weeks. In RE, we have been continuing our Mass topic and learning about the roles and responsibilities of a priest.
Year 3	Measuring jugs have come in very handy for Year 3, as we have been working hard exploring volume. They have been finding the volume and capacity by answering some tricky word problems. In English, the children have been giggling away to the revolting rhyme of 'Cinderella' by Roald Dahl and enjoying our class author's twist on this classic tale. In RE, the children discussed the importance of Sundays, why they are special to us by attending church and spending time with Jesus.
Year 4	In English, we have started a new book called the Matchbox Diary. The children were excited to find different boxes and a matchbox containing clues from the book. We asked questions about these items and all will be revealed as we read the story, in the next few weeks. We have also been looking at subtracting fractions and fractions in word problems. The children have shown resilience in their learning and we have overcome many obstacles. In RE, we have been looking at the characteristics of Joseph. We created a 'coat hanger' poem based on these characteristics. We have started an exciting new topic in Science - States of Matter. We started this unit by finding out what a solid, liquid or gas is by using water, ice and air in balloons. In music, the children have been plucking the Violin along to different types of music. The children's favourites are a 90s and a heavy metal piece.
Year 5	Year 5 have been learning about ordering, adding and subtracting decimals in maths. We are writing a non-chronological report about an imaginary planet in English using descriptive and scientific vocabulary. In science, we are studying air resistance, whilst in RE, the class has been interested in learning about our class saint, St Josephine Bakhita. Year 5 has had a very active week. The coaches commended on our pupils' exemplary behaviour and attitudes at a Junior Games Maker training day, while the catch-up swimming group have been working hard towards meeting the target of swimming one length of the pool, with great success!
Year 6	Year 6 have been busy learning many new skills whilst consolidating others. In maths, they have been learning how to add, subtract, multiply and divide mixed numbers and improper fractions. Having read about the 1888 matchgirls' strike in their English lessons, the children expressed both their support for this industrial action and shock at that girls' plight, by writing persuasive and supportive speeches in the formal style using a range of punctuation. In art, they have used a range of media to produce some beautiful artwork in the style of Gustav Klimt.

In addition to the above information, please do not forget to look at our termly curriculum letters and information on our website. Please click on each subject link for more information. [Curriculum & Early Years | St Joseph's Catholic Primary School \(stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk\)](http://Curriculum & Early Years | St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk))

2. To increase the number of school clubs

Shortly, I will be sending out a questionnaire regarding our school club provision. For your information, here are the clubs we currently offer in school. As a result, of the School Council's views, we have now introduced a Tag Rugby Club.

	Morning	Lunch	After School
Monday	Breakfast Clubs (all years groups)	Huff and puff playtime	Irish dancing (KS1) Tag Rugby (KS2)
Tuesday	Breakfast Clubs (all years groups)	Huff and puff playtime	Irish dancing (KS2) Football (Y5 & Y6)
Wednesday	Breakfast Clubs (all years groups)	Netball (KS2)	Football (Y3 & Y4)
Thursday	Breakfast Clubs Cheerleading (all years)	Huff and puff playtime	Art
Friday	Breakfast Clubs (all years groups)	Tennis	

3. Reminders for the Parents Forum dates

The next Parents Forum will be on Friday, the 6th of May at 9.45a.m. Parents also asked for different start times. Our last Parents Forum started at 6p.m. therefore, our next meeting will start at 9.45a.m. We will continue to alternate our start times so that we meet the needs of our working parents as well as those who prefer an earlier start time.

4. End of day procedures for Key Stage 2.

We are currently reviewing our handover procedures for Key Stage 2 children in the hope of making it swifter for you. As you know, the teacher currently dismisses your child at the Key Stage 2 gate. I fully appreciate that the gate areas gets extremely congested with other parents and I know it takes time, but my priority is to ensure your child gets handed over to you safely.

5. Uniform issues.

I understand there has been an issue with our uniform supplier. Hopefully, this is not the case anymore as I have spoken to our supplier.

6. How to volunteer for school trips.

If you would like to volunteer on our school trips, please email the school or tell the Class Teacher. All volunteers will need to complete our safeguarding checks and have a DBS certificate.

As always, your feedback is greatly appreciated.

Design & Technology

Over the last couple of weeks, a local artist and parent of our school (Mrs Miller) has been coming into school to work with each class on an Design and Technology project. The children have been learning different techniques, such as sewing, pottery skills and weaving. Thank you, Mrs Millar.



Twitter

Please follow us on Twitter for news about our school. Please feel free to share photographs or videos of your child's learning too. Our Twitter address is: **@stjosephs775**



Sports News

Football

We are delighted to report the girls won their last football match of the season, which means that they have won the league. Well done, girls.

Netball

We are incredibly proud of our netballers. The netball team got through to the partnership finals and came 5th out of 19 schools. Well done team.



Cake Competition

The Class Apostles have asked me to remind you about the cake competition on Monday 27th March. A prize will be awarded to each class for the best cake. If you would like to buy back your cake, please write this clearly on the cake container (£3 to buy back). All cakes will be on sale during playtime and all children may bring in £1- £3 (maximum) to buy cakes.



Toy Sale

Our Class Apostles, need your unwanted toys for their toy sale on Wednesday 29th March. Please drop all unwanted toys to the School Office. Please check these for missing parts before sending in. Thank you.

All proceed raised will go towards our Lenten Appeal and help those in need.

Important Notices

1 Nursery School Applications

We now offer full-time Nursery provision (9.a.m. to 3p.m.). Applications for admission to our Nursery Class opened on the 31st October, for children who were born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020.

Please ensure you complete the **School's Supplementary Form which you can obtain from the school's website or the school office**. All forms must be completed and returned to the school office before admission can be considered.

Therefore, in order to apply for our school, we must receive:

Supplementary Information Form & Nursery Application Form
Certificate of Catholic Practice (if applicable)

2. Medicines in Schools.

If your child has an asthma pump or an epi-pen, please check that your child's medicines are in date. Thank you.

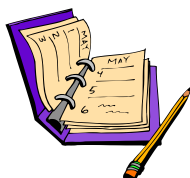


Attendance Award

Well done, Year 5, for having the best attendance.

Have a great week.

Linda Payne
Headteacher



Prayer for the Faithful by St. Patrick



*May the Strength of God guide us
May the Power of God preserve us
May the Wisdom of God instruct us
May the Hand of God protect us
May the Way of God direct us
May the Shield of God defend us
May the Angels of God guard us-
Against the snares of the evil one.*

*May Christ be with us!
May Christ be before us!
May Christ be in us!
Christ be over all!*

This day, O Lord, and forevermore. Amen

March	
Monday 20 th March	St Joseph's Day Mass in church – 9.15a.m. All parents welcome to attend.
Monday 27 th March	Lenten Cake Competition (all children may enter by baking a cake). Cake sale.
Wednesday 29 th March	Lenten Toy Sale (please donate old toys).
Friday 31 st March	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	
Monday 17th April	Start of Term
Friday 21 st April	St George's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear red, white or blue).
May	
Monday 1st May	Bank Holiday. School closed.
Friday 5 th May	Parents' Forum at 2.30p.m.
Monday 8th May	Bank Holiday. School closed.
2 nd – 20 th May	KS1 SATs- Year 2 only
9th – 11th May	KS2 SATs – Year 6 Tests (free breakfast club for Year 6 pupils all week, starting at 8.00a.m.)
Tuesday 9th May	KS2 (Year 6 SATs) Spelling, punctuation and Grammar Paper 1 & 2 tests
Wednesday 10th May	KS2 (Year 6 SATs) Reading Test
Thursday 11th May	KS2 (Year 6 SATs) Maths Paper 1 & 2 Test
Friday 12th May	KS2 (Year 6 SATs) Maths Paper 3 Test
Monday 15 th May	Walk to School Week
17 th – 18 th May	Year 5 Phasel's Wood Trip
Thursday 18 th May	Ascension Mass in church at 9.15a.m. All parents welcome to attend.
Thursday 18 th May	Year 5 Secondary School Transfer Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 5 parents are welcome to attend)
Tuesday 23 rd May	KS2 Sports Day at 9.30a.m. KS1 parents may attend.
Tuesday 23 rd May	KS1 Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Friday 26 th May	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
29 th May – 2 nd June	Half Term Holiday – School Closed
June	
Monday 5th June	Inset Day – school closed.
Tuesday 6th June	Start of Term
Tuesday 6 th June	Year 1 Phonic tests commence Year 4 Multiplication tests commence
Thursday 8 th June	Class Photographs
Tuesday 13 th June	KS2 Reserve Sports Day at 9.30p.m. KS1 parents may attend.
Tuesday 13 th June	KS1 Reserve Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Thursday 29 th June	St Peter and St Paul Mass in church at 9.15a.m.
Tuesday 27 th June	Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
July	
Monday 3 rd – 7 th July	Year 6 Trip to Wales
Monday 3 rd July	F1 new children and parents visits 1.30p.m.
Tuesday 4 th July	Reserve date: Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
Tuesday 4 th July	Year 2 to Year 3 Transition Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 2 parents are welcome to attend)

Wednesday 5 th July	New to Year 2 SATS & Transition Meeting (All Year 1 parents are welcome to attend)
Monday 10 th July	F1 new children and parents meeting 1.30p.m.
Thursday 13 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 14 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass at 11.00.a.m. Whole School Picnic starting at 12.30p.m. (weather permitting)
Monday 17 th July	KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. KS2 parents and toddlers are welcome to attend.
Tuesday 18 th July	KS2 Play at 6.00p.m. KS2 parents are welcome to attend. Year 3,4,5 and 6 pupils must be back in school at 5.40pm
Wednesday 19th 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.