



**St Joseph's Catholic Infant School, Hazell Avenue, Aylesbury,  
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## JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

**Welcome to 2023...Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year**



Welcome back everyone and a big welcome to our new families starting with us this in our Lent term. We start the term reminding ourselves of the message of Christmas – peace, hope joy and love. In school we celebrated Epiphany by recalling the journey of the Wise Men, and remembering how a bright star led them to Jesus the 'light of the world'. We use this theme as part of our Star Awards celebration on Fridays when two children in each class are chosen as shining class stars for the positive way they have led others.

### Talking to Staff

To help us maintain good communication we ask that you please email the office or write a note/email with any information you wish to pass to the class teacher at drop off in the morning. Staff are often dealing with the children at this time and a verbal message may be missed. Staff are usually available at the end of the day to chat with you once children are safely dismissed, and it is always possible to phone or email the office to arrange a time to chat with staff at other times.

The office will pass on any messages and class staff will get back to you when needed by email, telephone or at the end of the day.

### Care Club Arrangements

Our Care Club is very popular. Please can you make sure that you make any requests for sessions or changes to sessions are made in writing addressed to the school office. A form for completion can be requested from Club staff or downloaded from our website.

<https://www.stjosephsrcinfant.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/breakfast-and-after/>

## **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL ADMISSIONS STARTING SCHOOL – RECEPTION CLASS - SEPTEMBER 2023**

Parents of children born between 01/09/2018 - 31/08/2019 must make an online application for a school place for their child/ren via the Buckinghamshire Council website (see link below).

**The closing date for online applications for school places in Reception for September 2023 via the Buckinghamshire Council primary portal is on 15th January 2023.**

Applications must be submitted online via the [Buckinghamshire Council website](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk).

If you are applying on faith grounds, please submit a completed Supplementary Form for Bucks Catholic Schools, along with your child's original Baptismal certificate. These faith documents should be submitted via the school office to support your application by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

**You must apply for a school place for your child by the deadline even if your child currently attends St Joseph's Pre-School.**

If you need further information regarding the admission process please see the Buckinghamshire Council website [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk) or contact the school office.

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL ADMISSIONS JUNIOR SCHOOL - YEAR 3 - SEPTEMBER 2023

**Year 2 Parents** must make a junior school application online for their child/ren via the Buckinghamshire Council website.

**The closing date for online applications for school places for September 2023 via the Buckinghamshire Council primary portal is on 15th January 2023.**

Junior School Applications **must be submitted online** via the [Buckinghamshire Council website](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk). The junior school you are applying to will be able to advise what supplementary forms and additional evidence they will require.

### **Learning Information Reminder**

Information about what your child is learning is available on the school website each week (Weekly Learning) with a termly overview at the start of each term.

<https://www.stjosephsrcinfant.bucks.sch.uk/learning-with-us/weekly-learning/>

<https://www.stjosephsrcinfant.bucks.sch.uk/learning-with-us/curr/termly-curriculum/>

### **Energy Week - 16-20<sup>th</sup> January**

This week across the school we will be focussing on learning about energy and how we can do our bit to save energy.

The School Guardians (school council) will be starting the week off with an assembly and everyone will be working hard on this in school

You will receive a challenge sheet for use at home so you can join in with our energy week too.

More information to follow on the school website.

### **PARKING REQUEST AGAIN!!!!**

Please, please can we ask you (also taxis and relatives) not to drive up to the school gates at drop-off and collection times. We have already witnessed drivers speeding up to the gates when children are crossing, and drivers parking on the path beside other cars already trying to turn at the gate. This endangers all of our children and other pedestrians.



### **PUPILS MISSING EDUCATION – REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Regular attendance at School is essential if children are to attain their full potential. Please note that all absence from school will impact on your child's learning. We know that this is sometimes unavoidable due to illness or exceptional circumstances but at other times it can be avoided.

We are not able to authorise requests for leave of absence during term time except for exceptional circumstances. All requests for Leave of Absence should be submitted using the Exceptional Leave of Absence application form available on the school website or from the school office..To assist you with planning ahead, our school term dates are found in all newsletters and are also available on the school website. Please support us in providing the best education for your children.

### **PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING - Free School Meal and Pupil Premium check**

This funding helps schools give a little extra support to children whose families qualify for Pupil Premium and more information can be found about this fund on our website.

<https://www.stjosephsrcinfant.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/pupil-premium/>

**A form is issued annually but you can request a form from the school office or download and submit a form from our website at any time if your circumstances change.**

When you complete and return the Free School Meal and Pupil Premium check request, the school will be told if your child is eligible. You will be notified if your child is eligible and the school will use the funding to help children in different ways such as class support, help with uniform costs, resources, visit costs or club fees. The funding is per pupil and is limited. It will be used at the discretion of the school to best support the pupil's long term educational attainment.

### **PROMPT START TO THE SCHOOL DAY**

Can we remind all parents that lessons start promptly at 9.00 am. We open the doors for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 for a staggered drop-off at 8.50 am to allow all children to be in place for the start of school. We have noticed a growing number of late arrivals and whilst we appreciate the traffic in the town is a serious issue, it is vital that children are not missing the first part of the school day. We are keen to reduce lateness and we will be following up with parents where there is persistent lateness.

### **Candlemas and Lent**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February we celebrate Candlemas when we remember when Jesus was presented at the temple and when we renew and bless our class candles. We will be preparing for Lent this term - the time when we get ready to celebrate Easter.

The children will be making Lenten promises in school. Children can think of things they can try to do to help others and live like Jesus wants us to.

### **PUPIL PROGRESS MEETINGS FOR PARENTS**

#### **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**

Parents Meetings will be this half term and will be a 10 minute appointment with you to specifically discuss your child's learning and progress.

Further information and dates to follow.



### **Musical Enhancement in School (YR, Y1, Y2)**

We are delighted to inform you that we have begun sessions of music tuition (including drumming) with groups of children for a number of sessions with year groups in rotation.

The children will develop their rhythm, vocal and practical skills using a variety of instruments and songs.

### **Birthday Treats**

We have noticed a growing trend across the year groups - giving out sweets outside the class doors. We have many children with allergies and at this busy time of the day it is not always safe/acceptable for children to be eating items that their parents have not given consent to. It also puts parents in a difficult position if they have to refuse an item because their child has an allergy or dietary requirement. We must therefore ask that you **do not give out** sweets/food items to children on the school site. We appreciate many of you wish to celebrate your child's birthday and your children want to share something with their classmates. We have a birthday assembly in school and celebrate any birthdays together in class or in assembly with a sticker and a song.

### **SCHOOL MILK**

Our school provides a milk scheme which is available to all pupils via our milk supplier Cool Milk.

Free milk is available to order for all children under five. When your child turns five, parents have the opportunity to pay a subsidised rate for their child to continue to receive milk in school.

Pupils entitled to Pupil Premium funding are entitled to free school milk.

If you would like more information or to register your child to receive school milk please visit our milk supplier's website, [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)

### **Earrings**

**PLEASE NOTE** that for Health and Safety reasons, jewellery (including earrings, necklaces etc) **should not** be worn for school.

**TERM DATES 2022 - 2023**  
**ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL**

	<b>Open on morning of:</b>	<b>Close at end of afternoon of</b>
<b>Spring Term 2023</b>	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February
	Monday 20 February	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March
<b>Summer Term 2023</b>	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May
	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July

**INSET DAYS FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/23:**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023**

More information about current term dates and future Buckinghamshire Council term dates can be found on the school website (Key Information >Term Dates).