



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

JUNE/JULY 2023

Please remember all newsletters, weekly learning and termly letters, and term dates are also placed on our website for you to view.

OUR CATHOLIC LIFE...

St Peter & St Paul Feast Day 29th June

On this day, we celebrate the life of two special saints. We celebrate with Mass in the parishes and in school we will be holding special prayer sessions in the classes with the children and teaching them about St Peter and St Paul.

Did you know...

St. Peter and St. Paul are both patron saints of Rome and considered cornerstones of the Church.

St. Paul became a good man when he heard the voice of God and spent the rest of his life preaching the Gospel. His letters are included in the writings of the New Testament, and through them, we learn much about his life and the faith of the early Church. He is acclaimed as one of the most important apostles who spread the word of Jesus

St. Peter was once named Simon and he was a fisherman of Galilee. Jesus gave him the name Cephas (Petrus in Latin), which means 'Rock,' because he was to become the rock upon which Christ would build his Church. St. Peter was one of the 12 apostles, as well as the first Pope and founder of the Roman Church.

Governors for our Catholic Schools

If you are interested in becoming a school Governor in our school or one of the schools in our Trust Family of schools - please contact us for more information. As long as you are over 18 and meet the Governor criteria, you can apply. **(Please note that to become a Foundation Governor you do need to be a practising Catholic, and a Parent Governor must be a parent of a child under the age of 18).**

We need a wide range of skills and experiences, people from all walks of life who can bring different abilities and talents to the table. Everyone here has a set of skills and experiences that the Local Academy Committee of Governors will find useful. It is a serious commitment; however, the demands on your time are extremely reasonable. We expect that most Governors will spend roughly 6 hours a month on their role.

COMING UP SOON...

Transition Arrangements 2023

There will be a range of activities your child will be involved in to help them prepare for the next class/school. This can be an emotional time for children and parents and it is helpful if the adults can support and encourage their children to see this as an exciting new adventure and something to look forward to. If you have any worries or questions please speak to a member of staff or send an email to the school office. If you are anxious, your child will be anxious.

Transition Day – Tuesday 4th July

Children across the county visit their new schools/classes.

This will be arranged in school for children moving up a class in our school.

If your child will be attending another school in September, you will have been given instructions by your new school for this day.

Children who attend Club can attend their session as normal and will be taken by Club staff to their new class. If they are attending St Edward's please inform Club staff if you wish them to be taken across to St Edward's or you will be doing this yourself. You can also collect your child yourself or they will be collected by Club staff to attend their paid for After School Club or Multi-Sport session. Please notify the school office of your drop off and collection arrangements for Transition Day.

Strike Action

There is planned national NEU teacher strike action on Wednesday 5th and Friday 7th July 2023. Please be prepared for possible disruption.

End of Year Celebration for Year 2

We have organised some special events for children in Year 2 as they come to the end of their time at St Joseph's:

Leavers' Disco – Friday 14th July – TIME TBC – Please confirm if your child is able to attend via your ParentMail account ('Events' tab) – please look out for a ParentMail which will be sent with more details when booking is open.

Leavers' Assembly – Wednesday 19th July – 2.00 pm (for a 2.15 start) – This assembly will be a celebration of the children's achievements and a chance for them to reflect on their time here at St Joseph's.

Reading Books & School Resources Return

All school books will be collected in from week beginning 3rd July. This is to enable a thorough stock take to take place and to carry out repairs and ordering.

Parental Questionnaires

At this time of year, we ask parents to complete various questionnaires asking for your views of the school. We very much welcome your feedback and your views, as they are very important to us. We will soon be sending out questionnaires and we hope that we will be able to do some of these electronically as many parents have indicated that this is an easier way to complete them. Please look out for further information via your ParentMail account.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS...

Healthy Week

What a wonderful week!

So many wonderful activities and some very excited and happy children! The activities included Skipping, Archery, Dodgeball sessions, and the Bollywood Dance workshops on Friday. Staff had as much fun as the children!

We were all disappointed that Sports Day was cancelled – who could believe with all the sunny days we have been having it would pour with rain on the day! The children had lots of fun however with more Sports Activities.

New Sports Equipment

We are delighted with the purchase of an activity arena for the KS1 playground. This will help with playtime activities and it is great that we were able to purchase this through the National Sports Grant.

Staffing News

Time to say farewell, au revoir...

Mrs Pearce who has taught at St Joseph's for over 22 years, travelling many 100's of miles in that time to get to and from work is retiring from teaching and will be spending more time with her grandchildren. We thank her for all her work for the school and our pupils and wish her all the best with the next step in her journey.

Mrs Adamo-Ibbotson our Chair of Governors will be standing down after 13 years of service to the school. Sonia has been a strength to the school and Catholic education. We wish her well as she takes up new ventures and thank her for her dedication to the school.

At the end of June we say farewell to Mrs Ambrosio. Gemma has been a Midday Supervisor with us for 13 years. She has helped the children with many meals in all those years! A true superstar – well done and thank you.

At the end of the year, we also say farewell to Mrs Fernandez, Mrs Favero-Puntel and Mrs Hart. We thank them for their work and we wish them well. We hope they will take the spirit of St Joseph's with them in their heart as they move onto new ventures.

Time to say welcome...

We are delighted to welcome Miss Barnett and Mrs Mander to our teaching staff in September.

REMINDERS...

PE Uniform (Reception, Y1, Y2)

- A reminder that your child must wear the correct PE uniform on class PE days:
- Dark Blue shorts or Dark Blue/Black tracksuit bottoms or leggings
- White T-shirt
- Sports footwear
- PE Uniform should be worn with the school jumper or school cardigan.
- (Hoodies and multi-coloured sports kit/t-shirts should not be worn on PE days).

Reminder – A Change to School Uniform (Reception, Year 1, Year 2)

A reminder that from September 2023 there will be a slight change to the school uniform.

Please note the changes being brought in will start from the new September 2023 intake. There is no requirement to change to the new styles as the new uniform will be phased in over the next three years.

The changes will be as follows:

- The current jumper will be replaced with a crew necked sweatshirt
- The current cardigan will be replaced by a sweatshirt style cardigan
- A tie will no longer be a part of the uniform
- The white button shirt/blouse will be replaced with a white polo shirt with optional logo for all year groups.

This is in response to the growing costs of the existing jumpers/cardigans. The sweatshirt styles are a cheaper alternative.

Reminder - Change to Times of the School Day from September 2023

In line with Department for Education Guidance that schools provide 32.5 hours school time, the official school day here at St Joseph's Catholic Infant school will increase from September 2023.

Please see below for more details of the school times from 5th September 2023:

	Time	
All	8.35 am	School Gates Open
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Main School (YR, Y1, Y2)	8.40 am	Class Doors Open
	8.45 am – 3.15 pm	School Day
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Pre-School (Sunshine, Rainbow)	8.45 am	Class Doors Open
	8.50 – 11.50 am	Morning Session
	12.05 – 3.05 pm	Afternoon Session
	There will be a supervised break between Pre-School sessions for lunch	

Named Property

Please ensure that all of your child's items and any new items you buy for use in school are 'named' immediately. This helps us to return items promptly should they become lost.

Requesting Leave of Absence (YR, Y1,Y2)

Any Absence from school will impact on your child's learning and their school attendance record.

Regular and punctual attendance at school is important and a legal requirement. May we remind parents that the school cannot authorise absence during term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances. An 'Application for Exceptional Leave of Absence' form should be completed. This is available on the school website or a paper copy may be obtained from the school office.

The Department for Education advises that parents should not normally take pupils out of school or away on holiday during term time.

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 a 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 for your child to receive school milk please visit our milk provider's website www.coolmilk.com

FINALLY...

End of Term Collection of Medication in School

Please collect any medication your child may have in school on the last day of term. It is important that it is checked at home and then returned to the school office on the first day back – Tuesday 5th September 2023.

Term Dates

Summer Term 2023

School closes on Thursday 20th July 2023 (at 3.00 pm for Pre-School; at 3.10 pm for Year Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)

Autumn Term 2024

School opens on Tuesday 5th September 2023

Term Dates for 2023 – 2024 are available to view on the school website ([Key Information, Term Dates](#))

Happy Holidays

The staff at St Joseph's would like to wish all our families a safe and happy summer break.