

St Joseph's Catholic Infant School

Newsletter – October 2023



Welcome to our School Newsletter

In our newsletter we let you know about upcoming events; give you information about the school and share news with you. All newsletters, weekly learning guides, termly letters, and term dates are also placed on our website for you to view.

Harvest Celebration

Well done to 2S for leading our first class assembly of the year, an important job and the children had really thought about how we can help others. A really well done also to our group of Pre-School children who joined us for the first time - they sat really well and even joined in some of the singing. A big, big thank you to all our families for their generous donations of goods to send to the local foodbank. Despite tough times, it is good that we can still help those in need.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

A huge thank you for the many donations of cakes for the coffee morning and to those who helped and attended the morning or bought cakes after school. We managed to raise a whopping £469.00. This is double what we have raised in previous years. Fantastic!!!

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL ADMISSIONS

STARTING SCHOOL – RECEPTION CLASS - SEPTEMBER 2024

Parents of children born between 01/09/2019 - 31/08/2020 must apply online for a school application for their child/ren from **1st November 2023**.

The closing date for online applications for school places in Reception for September 2024 via the Buckinghamshire Council primary portal is on **15th January 2024**.

If you are supporting your application 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.

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 or contact the school office.

Starting School – Reception 2024 - Admissions Information Meetings

Tuesday 7th November at 9.15 am and 7.00 pm

We will be opening the school for prospective parents applying for a Reception 2024 school place to come and look around the school and learn more about the admissions process. This will be an opportunity to meet staff and governors, who will be available to answer questions and share information.

To book a place please contact the school office by email

office@stjosephsrcinfant.bucks.sch.uk or phone the school on 01296 484618

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL ADMISSIONS
APPLYING FOR JUNIOR SCHOOL - YEAR 3 - SEPTEMBER 2024

Parents of children in Year 2 must apply online for a junior school place for their child/ren from **1st November 2023**. The closing date for online applications for school places for September 2024 via the Buckinghamshire Council primary portal is on **15th January 2024**.

The junior school you are applying to will be able to advise what supplementary forms and additional faith evidence they will require.

Birthday Treats

Edible treats should not be brought in to school – please do not be offended if we refuse them or return them to you. This is to keep all our children safe.

Walking to School and WOW – Great News

International Walk to School Month is a month long awareness campaign held in October every year which celebrates the benefits of walking (and cycling/scooting) to school.

The benefits that walking, cycling and scooting bring are more important than ever. They are the most accessible ways to reduce traffic congestion and pollution, while also improving the mental and physical wellbeing of pupils. That is why we are encouraging everyone who can to ‘Get Active’ on their journeys to and from school.

We understand that it might not be possible for everyone to walk the whole way to school, but why not ‘**Park and Stride**’ – that is, park the car further away from the school and walk the last bit of the journey. Why not use the 5/10 minute Walking Zone map which can be viewed on the display board at the front of the school to park a little further away from school and walk the last 5 minutes of the journey?

This week we received a letter from our local MP congratulating the school on its work on travel planning. A big well done to Mrs Robson (from the office) who coordinates the school travel planning – encouraging everyone to think about safe sustainable travel.

Monthly ‘Family Friday’ Drop-in

During the recent coffee morning a chat with one of the mums led to an interesting conversation about opportunities to get together informally. The idea of a coffee and chat morning once a month was suggested and we think this is a great idea.

Initially, we will open the Cabin as a coffee hut from 8.50am to 9.30am and perhaps this may become not just a chance for families to meet each other, but also an opportunity to share information and support each other.

We were delighted to hear that we already have a group of parents who would be happy to take turns to run this. We are working on the logistics for this and will send out further information after half-term.

Used Uniform & Used Book Event (Friday 20th October)

We have a number of pre-used uniform items that are taking space up in the school store and we would like to see them being used. The items will be on tables outside the school on Friday and you can buy any item for 50 pence.

We will also have a number of books that are no longer suitable for school and these can be purchased for 20p each.

We will place an honesty box on the table for purchases. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept cards or give change.

Dogs on Site

We have noticed a number of people bringing dogs onto the school site. We appreciate pets are valued family members but dogs are not permitted to be walked within the school grounds (excluding therapy and guide dogs) for reasons of hygiene and safety.

Snacks in School

We ask that you do not send nuts into school for your child's snack or lunch. This helps us to protect all our children. Snacks should be fruit or vegetable based and stored in a child friendly container that can be accessed at snacktime or lunchtime.

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS

(All Classes)

On Thursday 9th November, JS Photography will be visiting our school to take individual photographs of children in Pre-School, and Years R, 1 and 2 only. Photographs will be available to order online - more details to follow.

There will be an option for siblings at St Joseph's to be photographed together.

WEAR RED FOR POPPY DAY

We will be supporting The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal again this year and will be selling poppies in school for a donation in the week after half term.

(2J will be leading a Remembrance Poppy Assembly on Wednesday 8th October at 9.00 am – all are welcome to attend)

We are also asking children and staff to wear red on Wednesday 8th November and invite your donations to support this year's poppy appeal.

The children will also take part in a poppy seed scattering prayer session during this day with a one minute silence and prayers.

Volunteers

With growing costs and pressures on schools we are looking to create a team of volunteers who would help once in a while to garden, decorate or help in simple DIY projects.

If you are interested in finding out more, please complete the questionnaire that will be sent out shortly via ParentMail.

Access Road

The roadway at the front of the school, leading to the staff car park, should not be used when accessing the Club out of school hours. (before 8.40 am and after 3.15pm) Many vehicles are arriving and leaving at these times. A path is provided for your safety and I request that you do use the path, especially as it will soon be darker at these times.

The road may be used with caution at school drop-off and collection to help ease congestion on the path.

Children must be supervised closely, at all times when accessing the school site.

Please note that the bungalow and the grass at the side of the bungalow are private property and do not belong to the school. Please do not allow children to play in this area.

October and the Month of the Rosary

We have been very lucky to have representatives from the Legion of Mary working with us in School this October. Mrs Phillpott and Mrs Jones led an assembly for the children – telling them about Mary the Mother of Jesus and how the Rosary is used to help us to pray.

This week Year 1 and Year 2 had an opportunity to hear more about the Rosary and to pray together when Mrs Phillpott visited their classes. All the children listened with interest and many had some deep and spiritual questions and prayers that they shared in the group.

Children's Liturgy and Reflection & Our Prayer Garden

Each week on a Wednesday from 12.45-12.15pm, Mrs Jones (our RE Governor) opens up the Cabin at lunchtime to provide a space for children in School who wish to find time to be quiet, sing, talk to Jesus, pray or hear stories from the Bible. Children are free to choose this and they can stay for the whole time or pop in for a few moments.

Our prayer garden is located in the Year 1 outdoor area. It is open at lunchtime and playtime so that children may visit this area if they wish to be in a quiet space.

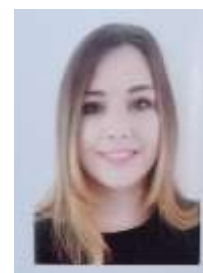
Children will be expected to be calm and use quiet voices in these spaces.

Nurture Area

We have a number of children who sometimes find the business of a school playground distracting and sometimes even distressing. We have created an area in KS1 where children may be brought in from the playground to read, play quiet games or reflect on behaviour. Sometimes children are requesting this space when they realise for themselves they need some quiet space and we are helping them to develop their self-regulation. The area is monitored by a member of staff and they will feed back to class teachers about any children who access this space on a regular basis.

Family Support Service

Hello, my name is Laura Clawson and I am a family worker with Buckinghamshire Councils Family Support Service. I am also the link worker for St Joseph's Infant School, making sure we work together to best support you and your children!



The Family Support Service offers free support to children and young people aged 0 to 19 or up to 25 years with a special educational need or disability (SEND) and their families. This support can be focused on a wide range of concerns.

If you would like to know more about my role and the service, or you feel you need support please speak to your headteacher or for more information, please visit our website:

<https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/familysupport/get-help/>