

## St Joseph's Catholic Infant School Newsletter – September 2023



### ***Welcome to our School Newsletter***

Our newsletter gives details of upcoming events, information about the school and also shares news. All newsletters, weekly learning guides, termly letters, and term dates are available to view on our website.

We have had a good start to the new term. The children have settled back well into school and into their new classes. They are learning the routines well and making new friends. It is nice to see all the children looking so smart.

Please remember that Weekly Learning Updates are available on the 'Learning with Us' tab and on the 'Pre-School' tab – 'Weekly Learning' on the school website. This helps you know the learning your child has been doing in class and enables you to reinforce ideas and talk to them about what they have been learning.

**Reception, Year 1 and Year 2** - School now starts at 8.45 am. Classroom doors are open from 8.40 for drop off. School closes at 3.15 pm.

**Pre-School** – Pre-School morning sessions now start at 8.50 am and end at 11.50 am. Gates open at 8.45 am for drop off. The afternoon session starts at 12.05 pm and ends at 3.05 pm. There is a supervised break between sessions for lunch for those children staying for both sessions.

### **MEDICINES IN SCHOOL/ALLERGIES**

It is important that the school is aware of any medical conditions or allergies to enable us to keep children safe and well in school. Please bring any prescribed medication your child may regularly require to the school office. You will also need to complete a consent school and a Healthcare Plan as appropriate (available on the school website or from the office).

### **FREE SCHOOL MEALS – REMINDER (YR,Y1,Y2)**

**Please order free school meals via your ParentPay online account. Parents will need to provide a packed lunch for their child if no order for food is placed.**

Please note that Wednesday is the deadline for ordering meals for the following week.

Special dietary concerns can be addressed with the catering company. Please contact the school office for more information if your child requires an allergen menu.

### **REPORTING ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL**

A Reminder that you must notify the school at the start of the day on the first day of any absence, and then continue to keep in regular contact if the absence continues.

Please use the Absence tab on your ParentMail account to send the office a message. Alternatively the school office 24 hour answerphone service is also available for reporting your child's absence.

### **REQUESTING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (YR, Y1,Y2)**

**Any Absence from school impacts on your child's learning and school attendance record.**

Regular and punctual attendance at school is important and a legal requirement. Please remember 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 operates 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](http://www.coolmilk.com)**

### **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 to your child if they lose them.

### **BIRTHDAY TREATS**

For Health & Safety reasons, please do not give children sweets or cake to bring into school for class birthday treats. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Birthdays are celebrated in class in Pre-School and during the weekly Star Awards assembly in school where we have the 'Birthday Bench'.

### **NO TURNING SPACE - HAZELL AVENUE**

We urgently remind parents that there is **NO Turning Space** in the section of the road in front of the main school gates at the school end of Hazell Avenue. Drivers who are using this part of the road to turn their vehicle around are endangering children and pedestrians and frequently causing traffic congestion. We ask that you avoid driving into this section of the road. Please do not ask taxi drivers to use this area. The local police have been asked to visit the area and will be looking for vehicles contravening safety and highway regulations.

**Please think about our children, other road users and local residents.**

**Please also be reminded to be courteous to other parents, and our neighbours and respect them and their properties.**

### **Walking to School and WOW**

The government is actively encouraging all families to **walk, cycle or scoot** some or all of the journey to school. Travelling sustainably also helps to reduce parking congestion outside the school and on local roads.

A copy of the **St Joseph's - 5 & 10 Minute Walking Map** is displayed at the front of the school for everyone to see. Why not 'Park and Stride' ie park your car further away from school and walk or scoot the last part of the journey?

We take part in the **Walking Once a Week (WOW)** initiative. This will shortly be in place for the new school year and we will ask children to record their journeys to school on the interactive class WOW Travel Tracker. At the end of the month, children who have walked, cycled or scooted to school (even for the last 10 minutes) will be awarded a badge. More information to follow.