



St Joseph's Catholic Infant School, Hazell Avenue, Aylesbury, HP21 7JF

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## September/ October 2022

### **Welcome to our school newsletter.**

***In the newsletter we like to let you know about upcoming events, give you information about the school and to share good news with you.***

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

**If you have not ordered free school meals via your ParentPay online account, you will need to provide your child with a packed lunch. 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.

#### **SETTLING INTO SCHOOL**

The children have settled back well into school and into their new classes.

Please remember that Weekly Learning can be found on the Learning with Us tab on the school website. This helps you know the learning your child is doing in class.

School drop-off in the morning is from 8.50 to 9.00 am. Lessons start at 9 am when classroom doors close.



#### **CAKE SALE - Macmillan Cancer Support** **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Each year we host an event to support this important charity. This year we will be holding a Cake Sale on **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September from 3.00 - 3.30 pm**. Donations of cakes would be gratefully received either on the day or the day before. Additionally, we are looking for help to run the Cake Sale. If you can help, please contact the school office.



#### **Admission Information Meeting** **Reception Class 2023**

Parents of children born between **1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019**, are invited to an important **Admissions Information Meeting** on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** at 9.30 am or 7pm to explain the admissions process for entry into **Reception 2023**. We ask that you do not bring children with you to the meeting, however children are welcome on the school tours. More information and times to follow.

Please note that applications for Reception 2023 must be submitted online via the Buckinghamshire Council website at [www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk) when applications open on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022

#### **SCHOOL & PE UNIFORM** (YR, Y1, Y2)

It is lovely to see the children returning in their smart uniforms. Children may continue to wear summer uniform until half term when we ask that you change to the winter uniform. Please see our website for further details.

Please ensure that you send your child to school with a coat each day as the weather can be unpredictable.

For Health and Safety reasons, jewellery should not be worn to school (including earrings).

**If you are applying on faith grounds, please submit a completed Supplementary Information Form for Bucks Catholic Schools, along with your child's Baptism certificate. These should be submitted via the school to support your application.** 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.

## Harvest 'Share it round.....'

Assembly for Harvest – led by 2S at 9.15

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September

This term we take time to think about the food that we have and those not as fortunate as ourselves. During the next few weeks we will be talking to the children about the work of CAFOD and the Vineyard Centre to help us learn about the importance of helping others and how we can do this.

We will be asking you to help us to help families who are struggling, and to support our local food banks by donating food items of tins and dried foods to be passed on to The Vineyard Centre for distribution to people in need. It is wonderful for us to be able to help local communities and we hope you will be able to support us with this.

Please send any donations into school by Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September.

Thank you.



## SCA (School Community Association)

Our wonderful SCA is once again looking to increase its members. They will be sending out details about their work and Annual General Meeting shortly. Please look out for this and your support would be most welcome.



## 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** can be found 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 are also hoping to restart the **Walking Once a Week (WOW)** initiative this year. When this is in place 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.



## Mass in School

A big thank you to Canon John who joined us to celebrate Mass – it is three years since we last held Mass at the school and it was a special start to the new school year. The children sang beautifully and were a real credit to our school. We were delighted that parents were also able to join us for this occasion.



## Pakistan Floods Disaster Appeal – CAFOD

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

We will be holding a '**wear an item of green**' with your school uniform day on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September in exchange for a donation to the Pakistan Floods Appeal.

There will also be a **sale of old used books** after school on this day to also raise money for CAFOD.

We are suggesting 20p per book or 6 books for a £1. (The Book Sale will be in the front playground weather depending).

## PARENTS EVENINGS (YR,Y1,Y2)

Parents Evenings for KS1 this term will be by a pre-booked telephone call with the class teacher.

Reception Parents meetings will be face to face with the teacher via a booking system.

The purpose of the meeting is to update parents about your child's learning, highlight areas they are doing well in, and discuss areas they may need more support in. These meetings are important to enable us to work in partnership with you.

You will receive a notification via your ParentMail account in a few weeks inviting you to book an online appointment with your child's teacher.

Dates and further information to follow.



## 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'.

## **ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL**

**Please 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.**

If your child is absent for any reason, you must give the reason for the absence when you notify the school. We ask that you provide as much detail as possible about the reasons for absence to enable us to record the absence correctly.

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

Please be aware that school registers are taken twice a day – once in the morning at 9.00 am, and again at the start of the afternoon session.

## **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 school gates. Drivers who are using this part of the road to turn their vehicle around are endangering children and pedestrians and also causing traffic congestion. We ask that you avoid driving into this section of Hazell Avenue. Please do not ask taxi drivers to use this area.

### **DO NOT PARK IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL GATES**

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



**This is a danger to others!**

We are monitoring the traffic and will report dangerous driving to Police 101.

If you witness dangerous behaviour you can also use this number to report incidents. We do urge you to do this as it helps highlight the difficult situation being faced outside of our school.

## **COVID AWARENESS**

Please be aware that cases of COVID are on the rise in the local area. Whilst children do not seem to suffer too much from this it can greatly affect adults and thus staff at the school. No one wants to see a return to classes closed through lack of staffing so please keep encouraging children to wash hands, be hygienic and stay healthy.

If your child is unwell and you suspect COVID or test positive for COVID—please follow guidance and consider keeping children at home for at least 3 days to minimise the risk of spread to others.

## **Volunteers in School**

We would like to have volunteers again in school to support the school and children. We have missed this contact with the community.

We are launching a volunteer program that will give basic information and training regarding working in a school. We will run this once a term for a maximum of 10 volunteers at a time

If you are able to give some time to support learning or help maintain learning environments please email the school office or come in to collect a volunteer application form.

All volunteers must pass safeguarding screening (DBS) and agree to undertake safeguarding training. Parent volunteers/relations are not placed in their own child's class.

## **MEDICATION IN SCHOOL**

Please note we are only able to administer prescribed medication in school for your child, and that parental consent forms must always be completed.

If your child needs prescription medicine which is required to be administered three times a day, this can be managed at home by parents around the school day. Parents should be aware that when children are given prescribed medicine in school, two members of staff are needed to administer it and we cannot guarantee staff availability.

**TERM DATES 2022-23**  
**ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL**  
**Please note School and Pre-School dates may differ slightly**

	<b>Open on morning of:</b>	<b>Close at end of afternoon of</b>
<b>Autumn Term 2022</b>	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October
	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December Pre-School date to be confirmed
<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 Pre-School date to be confirmed
<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 Pre-School date to be confirmed

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

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022**

**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).