

Weekly Newsletter

10th September 2021



Welcome Back

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new school year. I hope you all had a very restful time over the summer and managed to spend some lovely family time together.

It was wonderful to see the children returning to school, so full of optimism and ready to learn last Thursday. A particular welcome to all our new children who have joined us this year. A new cohort of children have joined our Reception Class and we have had a number of children join other classes throughout school. It is always my very great pleasure and privilege to welcome new families into our St. Joseph's Community and on behalf of all the staff we look forward to working collaboratively with you in the coming years.

Of course, we have had a lot of excitement this week as our Nursery opened its doors on Monday to our very first group of 3 and 4 year old children. It has always been my great desire to have Nursery provision at St. Joseph's and to see it finally happen was wonderful to see. We welcome Bishop Patrick to school on 8th October to bless our Nursery.

Attendance

Nursery: 96.43%

Reception: 99.28%

Year 1: 99.28%

Year 2: 92.53%

Year 3: 93.71%

Year 4: 95.86%

Year 5: 98.12%

Year 6: 92.21%

Overall: 96.47%

Staffing

We welcome few new members of staff to our team this year. Miss Sophie Turner who undertook her training with us, joins us permanently as our Year 1 Teacher. Miss Tiffany Dean has been appointed as a Teaching Assistant working in Reception Class; Miss Dean will join us on Monday. Mrs Kerry Crew joins our Office Team, working alongside Mrs Fearn. We have also appointed a new role in school, a Sports Apprentice. Mr Oliver Mallatratt will be working supporting the development of Sport across school, supporting the children to become more active, particularly at lunchtime. I am sure you will join with me in extending a very warm welcome to our new staff as they join our team.



Morrison's

Morrison's are currently running a scheme called "Let it Grow." For every £10 you spend, you will be given a voucher for school to use for gardening equipment. We have registered for the scheme, so if you do shop in Morrison's, then please do collect the vouchers.



Year 6

I am aware that Parents of Year 6 children will be beginning the process of applying for secondary school places. Applications should be made through Derbyshire County Council Admissions. As most children transfer to either All Saints' or St. Mary's, you should also complete a supplementary form and return this directly to the school itself. Miss Queenan will be running drop in sessions to support our families with their applications. These will run on Monday 20th and Monday 27th September between 8:45am and 9:30am. Please do drop in to see Miss Queenan. If a late application is made, then this will not be considered until all other applications have been allocated, therefore you may not receive your choice of school.



COVID

A reminder that in line with Government guidance, we have been able to reduce restrictions in school. Please note that if someone in your household tests positive, then children can still come to school if they do not have symptoms.

Traffic

I am sure that most of you will be aware that a Community Support Officer was present outside school this week, monitoring the traffic flow and parking. As a result of this, the police were clearly concerned about the way in which parents are parking and driving around school and added a post to their FaceBook page asking for cooperation from Parents. I have written many times about this and yet there has been no improvement. It concerns me greatly that one day, there will be a tragic accident. So, I would ask again for your cooperation in parking carefully around school, using areas such as the Staff Social Club but also in driving sensibly around the area. Drivers should not pull out of the bus park and do a U Turn, this is a dangerous maneuver. This has now also been shared in the Derbyshire Times, which I'm sure disappoints you as much as it does me.

Reading Books

We are making a slight change to the reading books which children will bring home this year. In addition to the usual books which children will bring home, we also to ensure our children are challenged and also have the opportunity to read a wider range of books. Therefore, children will bring home their reading book and guided reading book which are within the band at which the children are reading. In addition to this, children will also bring home a book which is from a different band which is above their usual band.

We have noticed that we have a number of books missing in school. We will have a book amnesty for the next two weeks. I would be very grateful if you could have a search at home to see if there are any books which have a school stamp inside and send them back into school.

Season of Creation

You are invited to join us on Sunday 19th September at 3pm on the school field of St Philip Neri School Rosemary Street Mansfield (accessed from the Tesco carpark) for a service to celebrate our creation and to commit to caring for our earth. Bring something to sit on as well as a picnic for afterwards on the school field. The children will have written letters in school and are welcome to bring these with them.

Creating a carpet of crocuses

We are hoping to plant a lot of crocus bulbs in the cemetery at St.Joseph's - and so create a carpet of crocuses in the spring. It is also a way of remembering the many people buried here - they are not forgotten though they may not be known to us. If you would like to donate some crocus bulbs, you can leave them outside the Convent door. We hope that some of the children in St.Joseph's will help us to plant them.