



Newsletter – Friday 22nd September 2023

This term pupils at St. Joseph's are growing to be:

Grateful and Generous



*Grateful for our own gifts, for the gift of other people and for the blessings of each day, developing them to the full so we can be **generous** in the service of others.*

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2023 / 24. The term has got off to a flying start with the children settling well into their new classes and getting back into routines.

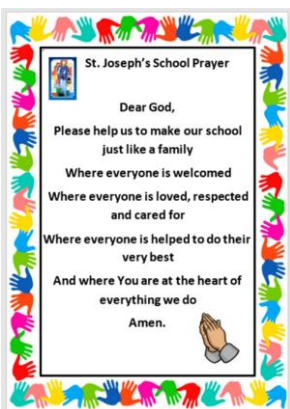
We are very much looking forward to having lots of opportunities to welcome you into school throughout the year.

Fond farewell to Father David

As I am sure you are aware, Father David moved on to pastures new during the summer holidays. We would like to thank Father David for his support of our school, where he served not only as chaplain, but also as governor on our governing board. We wish Father David God's blessings as he settles into his new parish and we send him our love and prayers for the future.

Very soon Father Michael Puljic will be with us as parish priest and chaplain to our school. Father Michael and I have been in touch with each other and we are very much looking forward to working together to continue to develop the special relationship which the parish and school share. Father Michael and I will be meeting soon after his arrival after which I will confirm dates of Masses and other events with you.

Our school prayer



At the start of a new school year we re-dedicate ourselves to our school community in the words of our school prayer and we think about how we can bring these words to life in our daily actions.

School refurbishment plans

The entrance to our school and the main corridor to the hall are now looking fresh and inviting following the re-decoration and re-carpeting which took place during the summer holidays. Comments from staff and visitors alike are that it looks like a new school, which indeed it does!

The refurbishment plans will now move to other areas of the school including classrooms and our school library (more about the school library below). There is a great deal of work going on reorganising classrooms in preparation for a re-decoration which will take place during the next few weeks. We are very excited about this as our school has been in need of some tender loving care for some time now!

I will keep you updated about these developments and look forward to welcoming you to see them for yourself in due course.

New library!

Work is underway to provide our children with a new and improved library!



The library is moving into the room which we have been using for wraparound care. This is a larger, more suitable space at the very heart of our school and will provide an inviting, exciting space where our children can grow their love of reading and where each class will spend dedicated, timetabled time each week.

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So far the book shelves have been moved and our Year 5 children have been helping with transferring the books into the new room. They are very excited to be part of this project and have a real sense of ownership over it. These are just some of the comments from the children:

"I can't wait to see the new library when it's all finished!" Winnie

"I feel it will be better because it will be less cramped and more comfortable for us to enjoy spending time in." Luke

"It's going to feel better because it will be really nice to sit down at the tables and to have much more space." Stephen

"When I found out about getting a bigger library I felt really excited because I love reading and this means we can get more books." Abigail

As well as offering a range of high quality books in our library, we would love to have some interesting artefacts on display to inspire our children's love of learning. If you have something you could donate or loan us we would be very grateful. Or if you have any books which are in good condition and which your child no longer reads, please do send them in to school to help bolster our supplies!

Fond farewell to Mrs. Niedzielski

After almost 20 years of dedicated service to our school, Mrs. Niedzielski, or 'Mrs. N' as she is affectionately known will be retiring on 6th October.

I know you will want to join me in thanking Mrs. Niedzielski for all she has done for our children and our school. We wish her a very happy retirement!

Diary dates Terms 1 and 2

These are attached for your information. Further dates for parent information meetings, assemblies and Masses will be added to these in due course.

Teachers are currently planning educational visits for the year and dates and arrangements for these will be finalised and communicated to you during term 2.

Star pupils!



Last year our current Year 6 children entered a writing competition where they wrote a piece entitled, "the incredible diary of..."

I am delighted to announce that there were many winners who will go on to have their writing published.

We are very proud of all children who took part so a very big well done to the whole class!

Class information meetings

As you will see from our diary dates, these will take place during week commencing 9th and 16th October. This will be an opportunity for you to visit your child's classroom and to hear from the teacher about plans for the year ahead.

and finally...

With my best wishes for a lovely weekend.

Ms. R. Gowers
Headteacher

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