



Newsletter – Friday 10th February 2023

“Let all that you do be done in love.” 1 Corinthians 16:14

Dear Parents/Carers,

Here we are again, at the end of another busy term of learning and enrichment at St Joseph's. How fast the time has flown since Christmas!

This term we have enjoyed a performance of the pantomime, Sleeping Beauty, assemblies to celebrate our Stars of the Week and birthdays, our first in-person parents' evenings in a very long time, along with some very chilly, frosty weather!

This week we have taken part in Children's Mental Health week with assemblies, activities in class and our 'dress to express' day where children chose an outfit to wear which expressed something about themselves. Our school was a wonderful array of styles and colours, including superheroes, onesies, children wearing colours to express how they feel and others wearing their favourite outfit. In the words of one of our youngest pupils, *“I decided to just be me.”* A sentiment which sums up the day simply yet beautifully!

Later on in the newsletter, we have news of the new arrangements for the start and end of the day which will be in place when we return to school after half term. Please take a moment to familiarise yourself with these.

Sharing God's love with others

This week we have been thinking about the meaning of the word love and the many ways in which we can share God's love with others. Here are some of the children's thoughts about what love means to them:

“Treat people how you want to be treated”

“Love means peace”

“Share with people”

“Pray for people”

“Say sorry if you upset someone”

“Forgive someone”

“Use kind words”





St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



In this newsletter, read more about

- First Reconciliation / First Communion
- Pirate Day
- World Book Day / Book Corner Competition
- New School PE shirt

Some educational visits have begun, with the teachers busy planning visits and enriching learning experiences in the terms ahead. More information about these will follow after half term.

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

We have a number of pupils preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion which mark important milestones in their Faith journey. These children have had their first joint session with the Parish and will continue to prepare for these events over the coming weeks.

Pirate Day

Wednesday 8th February was "Pirate Day" in Year 2! The children enjoyed a pirate-inspired day of learning including dressing up and performing pirate-inspired dance! They have also produced some beautiful artwork of parrots which will be on display in class.

World Book Day and Book Corner Competition

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 3rd March and you will have received a letter from Mr. Cluett with more information about our exciting plans for the day. There is also a 'buzz' of excitement in school about our competition for each class to plan their own exciting and inviting book corner. The PTA have very kindly given each class a budget to decorate and equip their book corner around a theme of their choice. With the book corners being completed shortly after half term, the judging will take place and there will be a prize of a book-related movie and popcorn afternoon for the winning class. I am not sure who is most excited and competitive about this...the children or the teachers! We will keep you updated about this after half term.

New School PE shirt

The new PE shirt has been "flying off the shelves" with many children excited to be wearing it already. We are fully stocked and you can place your orders through School Gateway. Orders will be collated and distributed weekly on a Tuesday. There is no need to rush to buy a shirt as this will not officially become part of the school uniform until September 2023.

I would like to re-iterate that we understand the current financial climate may make the purchase of a new PE T-shirt difficult. Please do come and talk to us in confidence if you are worried about this as there will be things we can do to help. We want our new PE uniform to be enjoyed by all our children and something that they and we can all feel proud of.





St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Arrangements for the start and end of the school day

Having taken into account feedback from parents about the children's long walk from the school gate to their classroom in the morning, we had a plan in place to address this at the beginning of the school year, but this plan had to be put on hold due to the boiler works which have been taking place. However, we are pleased that at last we can put our plan into action. The arrangements are as follows:

When dropping children off in the morning, parents should now enter the school via the pedestrian gate by the church and walk their child down the path towards the school building. Older pupils can of course walk down by themselves. A member of the Senior Leadership Team will be at the office gate where parents can say their goodbyes and children will be welcomed into school. Children will then make their way to their classrooms as usual. This means that they will have a shorter walk into class which will help them to settle more quickly and make a good start to their day.

There will no longer be a 'drop off' and 'meet and greet' in the carpark in the mornings. Parents should instead park their car as they do at the end of the school day. This is to allow us to 'free-up' staff to be in class supporting children with their learning rather than being on carpark duty. We hope that the congestion in the roads around the school will also be eased a little.

At the end of the school day, the gate by the office will be opened at 15.10 for parents to come onto the playground to collect their children as usual.

Please bear with us if there are some 'hiccups' to begin with, however we are confident that the new arrangements will provide a warmer welcome and a smoother start to the day for our children.

Diary Dates:

Please see below for a 'snapshot' of dates for the first four weeks of term:



Week commencing 13th February 2023	
HALF TERM HOLIDAY	
20.02.23	School re-opens for Term 4
20.02.23	Father David in school for palm burning in preparation for Ash Wednesday
22.02.23	Ash Wednesday – Beginning of the season of Lent Please note there is a change of menu today
Week commencing 27th February 2023	
01.03.23	7 aside football at <u>Tetsworth</u> Village Green for a group of children from Years 5 and 6 – more information to follow
03.03.23	Celebration of World Book day – more information to follow
Week commencing 6th March 2023	
10.03.23	14.30 Open classroom event – all parents welcome
Week commencing 13th March 2023	
16.03.23	16.30 Session for children making First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion – Led by Parish





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Pupil Leaders

We are very proud of how our pupil leadership program is developing in our school. School Council representatives have been elected and have already had their first meeting. After half term our new Prayer and Worship leaders will have their first meeting with me to plan some of our assemblies and liturgies for the term ahead. Our House Captains have led their first house assemblies and have given out house badges to pupils throughout the school. It is lovely to see the children proudly wearing these. Thank you to 'The Friends' for providing the badges.

Staffing News

You may be aware that Mrs. Farrell is now on maternity leave. We know you will join us in sending best wishes to the Farrell family at this very exciting time. We are pleased that Miss Oakley has stepped in a little earlier than planned to teach in Reception class on a Thursday and Friday.

A few little reminders

- For those of you who use our extremely popular After School Club, please can we ask that you collect your child(ren) by 6pm. If, for any reason, you think that you are going to be late, please telephone Sue Heath on the After School Club number to let her know. Thank you.
- We know that concerns can arise from time-to-time and we want you to know that these are always important to us. If you have any concerns, please do approach your child's class teacher in the first instance with anything you would like to discuss, as they know your child and are usually best placed to help.

and finally ...

I hope you have a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing you when we return to school on Monday 20th February.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. R. Gowers
Headteacher

