

Spring Term 2 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As our second half term progresses and seems to move forward so quickly we still manage here at St Joseph's to pack as much in as we can to ensure our children receive quality teaching and learning with lots of interesting and exciting opportunities. Please have a look at our website in the Curriculum section on the front page there is a section called "exceptionality" it is incredible to see what our children are involved in. I was listening to our children play the Violin with Mr. Nyberg just the other day, some of the children have only just joined his group and I was amazed at the skills they have already learned and their music sounded superb. I am sure we can plan an event to showcase some of the talents we are seeing and hearing across our school.

We do always try and enhance our curriculum and offer varied opportunities for our children, we are aware that trips or some activities can come at an additional cost and without contributions the activities or trips would not be possible. We would never exclude a child from any activity and we will always try to subsidise any activity or trip through fund raising monies that we raise across the year. The contributions we receive are voluntary therefore the activity or trip may not go ahead if we do not receive enough parental funding into school.

Internet Safety.

We are always looking at ways to work in order to help 'safeguard' our pupils and help educate them on the dangers that they may face in the wider world.

Pupils are taught about Internet Safety throughout their time in school. We are all aware that the 'digital world' that we live in today can be a positive place with increased communication links and support for people; however, you will also be aware of the many 'hidden dangers' it can create for adults and children alike.

Along with the rising appeal of social media sites such as Snapchat, Tik-Tok, Instagram, WhatsApp, YouTube etc, there unfortunately is also an increase in the dangers that children are being exposed to.

It has come to our attention that in some instance's pupils and / or parents are using the sites whilst at home or elsewhere, outside of school, to spread gossip, rumours and insults about other pupils and in some cases about staff or school which are directly affecting the emotional wellbeing of others. It is causing a great deal of upset in school.

If you are concerned as a parent that your child has been receiving this type of contact through social media, I advise you to print out the content as evidence and stop your child using their account. Can we please ask as parents / carers if you have concerns or queries about any school matter to contact us directly, we strive for excellence for everyone at St Joseph's and achieve this through learning, respect and partnership with our school families.

Attendance:

Attendance Matters!

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child attends school and arrives on time. We pride ourselves on the attendance and punctuality of our pupils and we will continue to make your child's attendance a main priority. Our target is 97% and, while we understand there are genuine reasons for absence, we continue to work together to ensure your child attends school every day.

At St Joseph's, we continue to work closely with Attendance 100 and Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust (BCCET), in order to improve school attendance and punctuality. Please contact the school if we can provide any support in improving your child's attendance. As always, we appreciate your co-operation on this matter. If your child is going to be absent from school please phone the office to avoid an unauthorised absence

Attendance. School Target: 98% Current overall 94.55%	
Nursery N1	100%
Nursery N2	93.9%
Reception	94.7%
Year 1	93.7%
Year 2	88.1%
Year 3	96%
Year 4	92.7%
Year 5	97.9%
Year 6	97.9%

New Opportunities

We are currently researching the possibility of introducing OPAL - (Outdoor Play and Learning) to St Joseph's to enhance our playtimes, we are currently visiting OPAL schools and would then love to have parents involved in this programme and see the potential for its development here in school. Please have a look at the OPAL programme online and get in touch if you would like to be involved.

Lent

During Lent the Mini Vinnies are collecting loose change and each class has a pot to put this in. Any donations will be donated directly to the Cafod organisation.

Easter celebrations

Our children are going to explain the story of Holy week over four liturgies. We would like to invite parent/carers to the Celebration of the Word (in school)

Friday 22nd March - Year 1 and 2 Palm Sunday at 2.45pm

Monday 25th March - Year 3 and 4 The Last Supper at 2.45pm

Tuesday 26th March - Year 5/6 Good Friday at 2.45pm

Thursday 28th March - Year 6/5 Easter Sunday at 9am

First Confessions

This week Year 4 made their First Confession in preparation for their First Holy Communion. Thank you to Miss Forbister for organising and preparing the children.

Easter Holidays

School will close at 1pm on Thursday 28th March 2024.

Lunch will be provided before school closes.

Please note afternoon nursery will finish for the Easter Holidays at 3.20pm on Wednesday 27th March 2024.

School will reopen on Monday 15th April 2024.

World Book Day

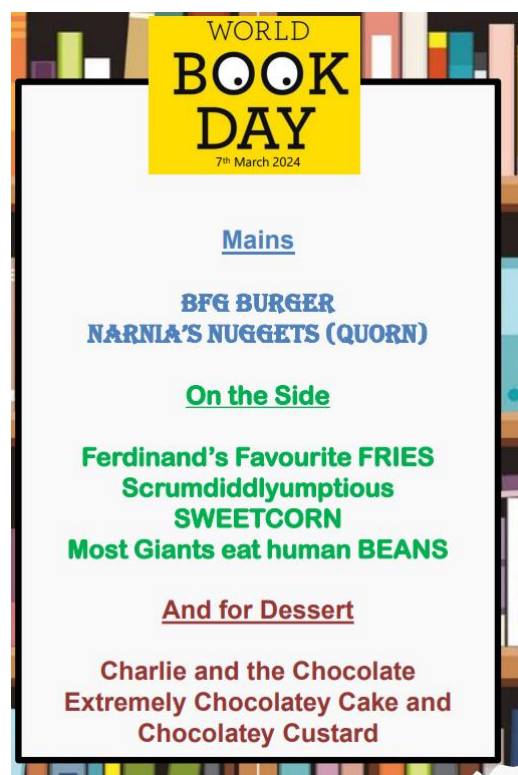
Reminder! Thursday 7th March marks World Book Day at our school. We will be exploring the book 'The Lost Words' by Robert Macfarlane. This book began as a response to the removal of everyday nature words - among them "acorn", "bluebell", "kingfisher" and "wren" - from a widely used children's dictionary, because those words were not being used enough by children to merit inclusion.

On this day the children will be invited to dress in a colour to match a particular season. There will also be a competition on the day which all children are invited to join in with. We are asking the children to create a 'story in a jar' for homework. Children can bring in their story jars on World Book Day to share with the class. There will be a prize for one winner in each class on the day

We also have a special World Book Day Themed lunch. School lunches are £2.20 per day to be paid via ParentPay (excluding children in Reception – Year 2 and children who are entitled to free school meals). As we now have a school lunch band system in place, your child can order on their arrival in school on the themed lunch day. All we ask is that parent's make the payment via Parentpay in advance.

Parents Meetings

Parents meetings will take place for Reception to Year 6 during the week beginning 18th March. These appointments are available to book in the community room. They are a 5-minute catch-up with your child's class teacher.



Red Nose Day – Friday 15th March 2024

Red Nose Day will be a non-uniform day and a collection will be made. More details to follow about the day.

**RED
NOSE
DAY**

School Meal Price Increase



CHADWICK'S KITCHEN



School Meals Prices from 15 April 2024



As you know we are committed to keeping our school meal prices as low as we can, however as food costs continue to rise we have made the difficult decision to make a slight increase to our school meal costs for our pupils and staff.

The increase will allow us to continue to use the **same quality products** and ingredients, offer the **same number of choices** and **keep our portion sizes the same**. It will also bring our meal costs more in line with those of the Local Authorities.

Primary School Meal will be £2.50
Secondary School Meal will be £2.60

This covers the cost of a main meal and a dessert, with water available in all our schools.

Don't forget currently all Key Stage 1 (Reception, Year 1 & Year 2) pupils are entitled to a Free School Meal. Speak to your school office for more information.

