



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



September Newsletter 2023

'Walk in the Light of Christ'

Dear parents and carers,

The first month of the school year is coming to an end and staff report that it has been a very good start to the new academic year.

My leg is on the mend so, hopefully, I will be back in school in person soon. We thank Mrs Moodie for the great job she is doing in deputising in my absence.

We will continue to share our newsletters monthly, please read them as the information is important. Also, we will be sending out our monthly Online Safety Newsletters which contains essential updates for keeping your children safe online at home.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting the office.

Yours thankfully,

Mrs R Whyte
Headteacher

Website

In the coming weeks all the Trust websites are changing to a new provider 'Schudio'. This is exciting and uses the most up to date technology. All new websites should be live by half term. In the meantime, if you are having any problems accessing the website it will be because of the transfer. Once the new website is live, all the school information, including newsletters etc. will continue to be on the website so please access it regularly.

Homework

As a staff we have had a review of homework and the impact it has on the standards of the pupils alongside their enjoyment of learning. We absolutely do not want to send out homework for the sake of it and add any pressure at home. This year there is a focus on spelling, as identified as an area of development across the school, and to support this we have purchased a new resource called 'Spelling Shed'/'edshed'. This has some great interactive resources for the children to complete which will impact on the spellings they are learning in school that week. Reading continues to have a huge focus and the pupils will have access to 'Reading for Pleasure' books which they will bring home. The younger children will also have access to their Read, Write Inc books on a 3 day cycle and it is important that they read them at home. Children may also be directed to Lexia or Reading Plus activities, depending on where they are in their reading. For maths, to impact on their speedy recall of number facts, we continue to use Numbots and TTRockstars. In addition to this, Year 6 will be provided with some revision-based homework in the Spring Term. Finally, we will be sending out termly 'project' based tasks with a choice of activities for you to complete as a family. We will send more information in the coming weeks.

Attendance

The attendance percentages across school improved last year, which is great, but it is very important that we strive to maintain, or even better, further improve this. Attached to the email with this newsletter is a poster which highlight the impact absence at school has on pupils learning. It is very easy for a pupil to drop to 90% which is then classed as persistent absence. If your child is absent, school must be **contacted by 9.30 am for every day of absence.**

Diary Dates

There are some other sports events where pupils will be informed separately if they are involved.

Thursday 5 th October	Year 4 and 5 Coldstream Guards Trip to the Globe Theatre
Monday 10 th October	Year 6 Tag Rugby Festival and Competition-Pupils to wear school PE Kits
Monday 9 th October-Thursday 19 th October	Collections for the Food Bank-Any donations gratefully received in school
Monday 9 th October-Friday 13 th October	Parent's Evening signing sheets available in main entrance-parent/carer sign for one meeting
Monday 16 th October Tuesday 17 th October Wednesday 19 th October	Rec and Year 2 Parent's Evening All Classes Parent's Evening Year 1,3,4,5 and 6 Parent's Evening
Thursday 19 th October	Wear it Pink Day and Gold Day-all pupils contribute £2 (or more) to wear something pink/gold or both to raise awareness of cancer support particularly children's cancer
Friday 20 th October	P.D. Day School closed for pupils
Mon 23 rd -Fri 27 th October	Half Term School Closed
Tuesday 7 th November	Year 6 Sports Hall Athletics-Pupils to wear school PE Kit
Mon 13 th -Fri 17 th November	Anti-Bullying Week 'Make a Noise'-Information to follow
Thursday 16 th November	Photographer-Individual and Family-Information to follow
Friday 24 th November	Non-Uniform Day-Tombola Prizes for Christmas Fair
Mon 27 th Nov-Fri 8 th December	Year 4 Swimming Fortnight (Some Y5 pupils may also have places) other-Information to follow
Thursday 24 th November	Non-Uniform Day-Pupils bring Tombola Prize for Christmas Fair
Wednesday 6 th December	Christmas Fair-Information to follow
Parents are welcome to these events-Information to follow	Tues 12 th Dec Rec/KS1 Nativity 9.30 am and 2.00 pm Wed 13 th Dec 10.30 Nursery Nativity Wed 13 th Dec 6.00 pm KS2 Carol Service
Thursday 14 th December	Year 4 & 5 Snappy Christmas Thornaby Pavilion-Information to follow
Week Beg 18 th December	Christmas Parties-Information to follow
Tuesday 19 th December	9.15 End of Term Achievement Assembly-Parents Welcome
Thursday 21 st December	School Closes For Christmas-Reopens Mon 8 th January