



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 8th January 2021



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Welcome back!

I would like to wish all our families at St. Joseph's a very happy New Year! I hope you were able to celebrate Christmas as best you could, considering the situation we find ourselves in. On behalf of all the staff, I would also like to thank you for your warm wishes and most generous gifts leading up to Christmas.



A voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Mark 1:11

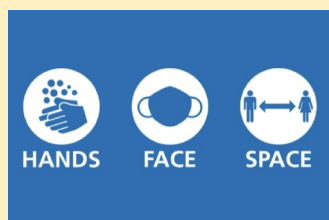


Sunday 10th January 2021

The Baptism of The Lord

Gospel Mark 1 : 7 - 11

As Jesus receives baptism a voice says, "You are my Son" and the Spirit rests on him John the Baptist proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



School open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children

The government has provided school places for particular groups of children. I sent out the definitions last week and we have had over 100 children in school this week. I get emails asking for places but I can only offer them according to the criteria I sent out. Please embrace the system, and do not abuse the privilege.

Remote learning

I strongly feel that our offer during the first lockdown was good and many hits to our website were from teachers from other schools dipping in to use our resources. However, we all accept that we can't rest on our laurels and the staff has worked very hard to develop the learning for the children. From this Tuesday, you will begin to find a mix of 'live', recorded and web lessons available for your child from Nursery age children to Year 6 children. The teachers will signpost lessons and timings. The 'live' teacher inputs will also be recorded so that if you are not able to access the 'live' session due to resource sharing, the recording will be available for your child to view at a later time.



In a few weeks, I will send out a survey for you to evaluate our remote learning offer.

Remote learning also available through the BBC from Monday.

Love Learn Believe

Increasing data allowances on mobile devices to support disadvantaged children

This scheme temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks. If you do not have fixed broadband or access to Wi-Fi at home, you may be able to take advantage of this offer. Please read accompanying letter.



Mass

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany carried over from Wednesday. It is a lovely opportunity for us to come together through the use of technology to praise and thank the Lord for the birth of Jesus. For the children learning from home, the Mass has been recorded and the link will be emailed to parents for their children to celebrate at home. Thank you to Father Cristiano for celebrating our Mass and to the readers for reading so well; Mrs Ingham for the preparation.



Spare equipment

If you have any spare laptops/tablets at home that are surplus to your requirements and are willing to donate them to the school, then please let the office know. We have families who could do with extra equipment. Your generosity will be much appreciated. The hardware must work, have a charger and be wiped clean.



Teams login details

All of the children should have received their Microsoft Teams login details. If you have not, please let the office know. Some classes printed out the details but when the printouts were enlarged, they lost a bit of the address. The second half of the email should be :
@sjcphanwell.onmicrosoft.com .

Free School Meals – Food parcels

Harrison Catering have created food parcels for parents to pick up if their child is entitled to benefits related FSM. These are weekly parcels and need to be picked up from 11am on Tuesdays. There is talk of vouchers being brought back and I will let families know if that happens.



'Laudato Si' project – Caring for our common home

The New Year is here and with it comes New Year's Resolutions. One of the few silver linings of 2020 was seeing how putting the world on stand still benefitted planet Earth by improving air quality from reduced travel. As individuals, the realities of lockdown have made us look more closely at our shopping habits. Many of us have begun to shop locally and have minimised our trips – shopping more conscientiously with less waste. These are the lessons of 2020 that we must take with us into 2021. Here is a list of sustainable new year's resolutions ideas to try out in 2020:

- Shop locally.
- Shop seasonally.
- Commit to a few meat free days per week. Give 'Veganuary' (eating a vegetable based diet in January) a go!
- Give away, swap, sell unwanted items. Buy second hand.
- Whenever possible walk, don't drive.
- Make do and mend.
- Ditch single use plastics. Use refillable water bottles and Bags-for-life.
- Wear a washable face mask. Disposable face masks are already making their way into our oceans.



Challenge: Sit down as a family and discuss which of these resolutions you will commit to in 2021. Can your child be tasked with choosing a meat free menu, and helping to cook it? Mark your 'walk to school' days on the calendar so that you commit to them. Put a reusable bag in your handbag/ the boot of the car so that you are prepared.

Why not take a photo of your family's efforts and send it in with your child to their class teacher to encourage others to play their part too?

Let's make a difference – together!

In the event...

In the event that somebody in your household wakes up with a fever ($>37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$), or a new, continuous cough or a loss of the sense of smell or taste do not send your child to school. Immediately inform the school via email or phone and then book a test for the person. The whole household must then self-isolate. If the test returns negative and nobody has any on-going symptoms, the child can return to school and the household no longer needs to self-isolate. If a positive result is returned, the household must self-isolate for 10 days and resume normal activity after 10 days as long as they have been symptom free for 48 hours.

If your child has a sniffle, runny nose or is sneezing, they are not coronavirus symptoms and your child should come to school if well enough.

Using X Box or Play Station to access Microsoft TEAMS

Here is a good excuse for your children to be on Xbox or PlayStation consoles. Microsoft Teams can be accessed through these devices. I attach a page at the back with instructions.



Cancellation of 2021 National Curriculum assessments

The government has recognised that due to educational disruption, Key Stage 1 (KS1) and Key Stage 2 (KS2) National Curriculum assessments cannot continue as intended.

The following assessments, scheduled between April and July 2021, have been cancelled:

- KS1 teacher assessments
- KS2 tests and teacher assessments
- phonics screening check
- all statutory trialling

We will however, continue to use assessment to inform our teaching.

Recent COVID19 case in school

The recent closure of a Year 1 bubble was extremely unfortunate and could have been avoided. However, the circumstances under which the situation arose was not of the family's making and the advice they were given was incorrect by the Track and Trace operative. In times of trouble, our community needs to support each other and not turn to social media channels.



Communication from Harrison Catering

Uptake of school meals during the pandemic has been around 70% for most schools, we would like to gauge from the children/parents if we could improve upon our menu or current service to increase meal uptake back to pre-COVID19 level.

Please see link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ealingschoolssurve2020y>

Harrison Catering would appreciate it if you could fill in the survey by 31st of January.

COVID19 Music lessons

Here at St. Joseph's we have **pulled some strings** to hear music being played. Ealing Music Service are providing online tutorials for children who are learning how to play instruments. Here we have a budding violinist!



Using XBox or PlayStation to access Microsoft TEAMS



Below you will find instructions for accessing remote learning through XBox and PlayStation. You may not be able to join with video or microphone, depending upon your equipment, but you can view the live lessons.

XBox:

1. Go into 'my games and apps'.
2. Find 'Microsoft Edge' and select.
3. Type in Microsoft TEAMS and then log in as normal.
4. To move around use the XBox controller or plug a mouse in.
5. You can also plug in a keyboard if you have one and use a microphone to participate if you have one.

PlayStation:

1. Identify the Play Station internet browser icon (it is WWW with dots around it).
2. Press the PS4 logo on the controller.
3. Go to the library and find the options for games and applications.
4. Go into applications and you will find the internet browser.
5. Type Microsoft TEAMS in and log in as you would with your details.

Good luck!