

# St Joseph's



# News

Half termly Autumn 1 edition

October 2022

## Head-lines

As I write to you in the first half-termly newsletter of the year, I hope it finds you well and that the new school year has got off to a good start for you and your children. I always enjoy this term as it is a new start, full of opportunity and promise (and the countdown to Christmas!). It always reminds me of how lucky we are to work in a school, welcoming new children and seeing the progress they make as the year unfolds. I hope they have settled in well and are enjoying being in school, with friends, learning lots and making progress. I look forward to working with them all as the year progresses. But for now, I wish you all a lovely half term.  
Mr Turner

## Welcome....

The Summer newsletter is tinged with sadness as we say goodbye to our Year 6 Leavers, but the Autumn newsletter brings the joy of welcoming our new generation of the St Joseph's family! Some are

brand new to our school, whilst others have taken the leap from Nursery to 'big school!' Charlotte, Jackson, Harley, Noah, Shea, Norah, Finlay, Lucian, Ivy, Neave, Jayden, Casey, Otto, Isla, Aaliyah-Ronnie, Allarna-Rose, Maddox, Charlie, Petra, Isaac, Oscar, Poppy, Isla, Nina, Akshayan,

Chloe, Lyndon, Darcie-Mae, Leila, Jay, Jaqueline, Rayan, James, Radley, Fane, Izza, Sadie-Rose, Evelyn, Cassius, Evie and Daniel, I hope you are enjoying Early Years, making lots of friends and I look forward to working with you all as you start your journey at St Joseph's.

## ..... Congratulations!

Some of our Year 6 pupils were put through their paces earlier this term with a rigorous recruitment process for the posts of Prefects and Play Leaders. Letters of application, references and a formal interview later, I am delighted to say that Isabelle, Roseanna, Olivia, Julia, Naya and Erin have been appointed as Play Leaders and Ethan, Jennifer, Jorgie, Harry, Imogen, James, Lilah, Paige, Olivia, Emily, Thomas, Alfie, Darcie, Ellie, Isabella, Ella, Grace, Freya, Junior, Heidi and Finley are our appointed Prefects. I would like to thank them all in advance for their dedication, commitment, time and work. In their interviews, several of them talked about how they have been inspired by previous Prefects and Play Leaders who helped them when they were younger; I have no doubt that this current generation will inspire the younger children ready for their recruitment in future years.

### Lunch selection - Parent Pay

If you have not already done so, please can we urge you to register and use Parent Pay in order to pre select your child's lunch choice. Using Parent Pay is a quick and easy way to make payments, sign up for clubs, and pre order lunch for the day. By doing this, it makes sure that the kitchen prepare the correct quantities of food, eliminate waste and make sure your child can always have their first choice of meal options. At the moment, we are finding that a lot of children have not had their meals ordered, which means the staff are having to do it first thing in the morning. This impacts on lessons and learning as it then takes time to go through the children. Please can we ask you to use the site to pre order meals for the day/week (before 8.00am). If you need any support using the site, please call in to the office and Angie will be glad to help you. Thank you.

# Teaching for Creativity

Last year we embarked on a three year journey as part of a collaborative group of schools looking at Teaching Creative Learning habits. The project is underpinned by the work of Professor Bill Lucas and his research into the dispositions or behaviours that employers are most actively seeking. This research has led to the development of the Learning Behaviours wheel, with the key habits being identified as: Inquisitive, Imaginative, Collaborative, Disciplined, Persistent. The staff at St Joseph's are undertaking further reading and research to learn about how to incorporate these behaviours into day to day lessons. It is exciting work and will take our curriculum to the next level! We are starting with a focus on the key learning habit of 'Collaborative' so please do talk to your children about this over the coming months and see their understanding and articulation of why this is a vital 21st Century skill develop! More to come so watch this space!



## Attendance and Punctuality

As you will be aware, we have been raising awareness of attendance and punctuality constantly over the last two years as our figures have been heading in the wrong direction. Our whole school attendance figures have been declining, and the number of children classed as 'Persistently Absent' (attendance of below 90%) has been rising. Last year the Government released further documentation - 'Working together to improve school attendance' (Dfe 2022), giving further direction and guidance regarding school attendance. We really do want to work with parents to understand the barriers to good attendance, and support where we can. However, the message is clear- **that school attendance is important, and the impact of frequently missing school is detrimental to future life chances.** We will continue to monitor, analyse, report, support and challenge where attendance is a concern, and will be working closely with our Educational Welfare Officer to improve our figures. The term got off to a good start, but has been declining over the weeks, with the whole school figure being 95% (below our target of at least 96%) and Persistent Absence being 18% (which is far too high). We are also noticing an increase in the number of children arriving late, missing their line and entering through the office. **We would like to remind you that the morning whistle goes at 8.45am and the children need to be lined up and walking in with their class at 8.50am.**



## Dates for the diary....

We would like to share a fantastic opportunity for you to join us for a few sessions delivered by former Local Authority SEN Advisor, and now private consultant, Sue Calveley.

On Friday 18th November 2.00 - 3.00pm she is running **'Supporting your child with reading and spelling'**. A practical session with strategies, apps and websites to help you work with your young person.

On Friday 3rd February 2.00 - 3.00pm **"Supporting your child with processing difficulties and working memory"**. Recognising processing difficulties and understanding the impact on your child's learning and strategies to support your child.

Both sessions will take place at school with refreshments provided! We will send out a further letter for you to sign up, with both sessions being really practical and informative, so we do hope we get a good uptake.

Also a reminder we are closed to pupils on Friday 21st October. It is then half term week and we open to pupils Monday 31st October.

## Cost of living.

We are mindful of the difficulties facing families over the coming period, and will do all we can to help. This includes giving as much notice as possible for any trips, trying to keep costs down and setting up a coat and uniform/clothing exchange programme (More to follow on this).

## Prayer for the term...

October is one of the months dedicated to Mary. We pray in thanksgiving for her love and protection. "Hail Mary, full of grace".

