



Head-lines

Welcome back to the start of another academic year, and the first edition of our half termly newsletters. It's been a great start to the year, catching up with the children as well as welcoming all the new faces. This edition has lots of information and updates, so many thanks in advance for taking the time to read through. Wishing you a lovely half term. Best wishes, Mr Turner

Welcome!

In the final Newsletter of the Summer term, we say a sad goodbye to our Year 6 Leavers. But in the first newsletter of our Autumn term, we have the joy of saying hello and welcome to our new Reception and Nursery classes! Akshayan, Lyndon, Ginny, Henry, Lara, Ivy, Leila, Jaqueline, James, John, Lennie, Fane, Izza, Cassius, Evie, Chloe, Darcie-Mae, Harrison, Parker, Charlie, Oliver, Jay, Rayan, Radley, Frankie, Alexander, Lillie-Mae, Sadie-Rose, Lily, and Florence, Estella, Harry, Vincent, Cassie, Leon, Hallie, Eloise, Neve, Oliver, Teddie, Ava-Mae, and Neveah, I hope you are enjoying life at St Joseph's so far and it has been lovely getting to know you.

We also welcome Daisy, Jewel, Eyan, Daisy and Annria who have started in other year groups. Welcome everyone, and I hope you have settled in and made lots of new friends. We are all looking forward to working with you and getting to know you over the coming years.



Caretaker Appointment

As you know, last Summer we all bid farewell and happy retirement to Mike, who had been our school caretaker for more than 20 years! Mr Parry has been offering support as an interim, but he will now return to working at SJP. A huge thanks to Mr Parry for all your work over Summer and this first half term. I am delighted to let you know that we have now appointed a permanent replacement - Terry Smith. Terry brings lots of experience to the role, and is currently working with Chris, learning where all the

switches and fuses are! You will start to see Terry around school and we look forward to working with him.

Prefects and Play Leaders

After a gruelling process involving applications, references and interviews, I am delighted to say that we have appointed our team of Year 6 Prefects and Play Leaders for 2023-24. I thank all the children for their commitment and for putting themselves forward to be considered and I look forward to working with the appointed team. The next stage is election for Head Boy and Head Girl, along with some exciting ideas for wider pupil representation through a developed student Parliament. Watch this space, with more to come!

A new arrival!

I'm also delighted to let you know that over the Summer holidays, Miss Langley had her baby, Rome. Miss Langley and Rome are both doing really well and Miss Langley hopes to call in at school soon to say hello, so we can't wait to see her and meet him!



Parking

Please can we remind you about parking on **Woodchurch** and **Fairview Road** as unfortunately, we continue to receive complaints from neighbours and residents.

Woodchurch Road has yellow zig zag lines - please can we remind you that by law, **parking on yellow zig zags is prohibited**, and this is monitored by the Council. Parking on yellow zig zag lines could result in a £100 fine and three penalty points! So please can we ask that you do not park in that area.



We also receive frequent complaints from residents on Fairview Road. Fairview is a tight road, with limited parking and has always been an issue, especially at peak times. However, the complaints we are receiving include parents parking in or over driveways! As well as this, we have been alerted that cars are pulling up on the grass verge, resulting in destroying the grass and creating an eyesore. We also note that some parking is actually **dangerous**, as it is blocking views, creating bottlenecks and putting children and pedestrians in potential danger. The higher up Fairview you go, the road widens and there is much more room to park. Please can we encourage you to park a little further away - it will only add a minute or two to your walk, but could potentially keep your children safe. Thank you.

Parent Pay

A few years ago, we brought in Parent Pay so that we could become a cashless school, as well as enabling you to pre order your child's meal, thereby reducing waste and ensuring your child always gets their first choice of meal. We have never quite had a 100% engagement rate, but thank you to everyone who does make use of the system. We also recently switched our Management Information System (MIS) to Arbor in order to take registers, track attendance and add information to pupil files, such as contact details. After Christmas we will then start to also use Arbor to take payments and order meals, cancelling our contract with Parent Pay. We will write to you again with more information about how to make the switch.

Attendance and Punctuality

As you will be aware, over the last few years, we have had a big push on attendance and punctuality as our figures were heading in the wrong direction and giving us cause for concern. Our overall attendance was dropping, and the number of children who are defined as 'Persistently Absent' (below 90%) was increasing. We have done lots of work with the children about the importance of school, as well as regular communication with yourselves as parents and carers, including arranging meetings where there have been concerns. Thanks to the team effort, our attendance picture at the end of last academic year was looking much better and we were starting to see the impact. We weren't absolutely at our target, but we were moving close towards it, so thank you for recognising and acting on the detrimental impact missing big chunks of school has on your child's outcomes - not only academically, but socially, friendships, opportunities etc. We can't let this hard work slip, so we are asking that you continue to work with us, ensure your child has good attendance and we remind you that we cannot authorise any absence during term time unless they are extreme circumstances. Holidays do not count as extreme circumstances, even though we understand the cost implications. Thank you for working with us.

Dates and events

A reminder that we are closed to pupils from Friday 20th October, so children finish for Half Term Thursday 19th. We re open Monday 30th. As we return to Autumn 2 and the build up to Christmas, there are lots of events and dates to be aware of. An overview of the term dates and some key events can be found on our home page www.stjosephscatholicprimarybirkenhead.co.uk and please visit the PTA Facebook page for a list of all of the fantastic things they have planned for the year.

Prayer for the term



