



Head-lines

As we bring this half term to a close, it suddenly hits me that this is in fact Spring 2 and our return after Easter is the Summer term! Not that you would think it as I look up at a very grey sky.... I do hope that brief glimpse of the sun last week was not 'it!' There has been a lot going on this last half term, and the Summer term is always a busy one. This edition of the St Joseph's News has quite a few important updates, information and dates so please do take the time to read through. Easter is such a special time in the Church's calendar, so whether outside in the sun, or inside with the heating on, I wish you all a glorious and joyous Easter. Mr Turner

Living with Covid

I start the updates with the latest Covid information and guidance.

From 1st April, the Government has ended the key document for schools - '*DfE Operational Guidance for Schools*', and has replaced it with '*Living with COVID-19*'. This document outlines the measures to be aware of as part of the longer term strategy of living with the virus.

Schools will have Outbreak Emergency plans and will liaise with Public Health if there is a sudden spike in cases, however, the day to day arrangements are to continue to ensure good hygiene, ensure surfaces are cleaned and ensure the building is well ventilated.

Free testing is no longer available and the guidance for when to self-isolate has been amended. Adults and children should stay at home and avoid contact with others if they have symptoms of a respiratory infection and a high temperature, or following a positive test result. For adults this has been updated to 5 days and for children this is now 3 days. Children can return to school after three days, if their temperature has fallen and they feel well. With adults being 5 days, this may continue to impact on staffing. We will always aim to remain operational with the least amount of disruption to the children, but may have to continue to be flexible with staffing and timetables where we have any staffing challenges.

Other illness

We, and lots of other local schools, also continue to find that there are lots of 'general' bugs and illnesses going round, particularly Diarrhoea and Vomiting. Please ensure your child returns to school 48 hours after their last symptoms of D & V. We are also aware that there are cases of Chicken Pox in the local area. If your child does have Chicken Pox, please keep them off school for 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all the lesions have crusted over. Please can we ask that you do inform us as soon as you believe your child may have Chicken Pox - we have some children in school who have compromised immune systems and contracting Chicken Pox could have very serious implications for them. It is therefore important that we are informed as soon as there is a possible case so that we can inform parents who may need to consult with their paediatrician. Many thanks.

Parking



Please can we ask for your support: We are getting increased numbers of reports of complaints from local residents that parking along Fairview Road is often inconsiderate and dangerous. Recent complaints have included cars being parked across driveways, blocking people in, and parking in the side access road. Traffic outside any school at peak time is always busy, but Fairview Road in particular is tight. Residents are contacting Wirral Traffic Enforcement and any illegal or inconsiderate parking may result in fines or penalty notices.

Our more important concern is always the safety of our children - with cars reversing, mounting kerbs and stopping in the road, it just creates more hazards and dangers for the children. PLEASE - just park a bit further up Fairview Road, where there is far more space, and spend an extra minute or two walking. On behalf of residents and the children, thank you.



Hello to Joseph, Ishaan, Annet, Ansa, Issa, Junior, Austin, Finley, Lois and Olive who have all started with us this half term. Really nice meeting and getting to know you all and I hope you have settled in well to life at St Joseph's.

Jubilee Celebrations



We are underway with planning to celebrate the momentous event of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of Queen Elizabeth. We are working with the PTA and staff to plan a party and day of events on Friday 27th May. More to follow on this!

As the Jubilee Bank Holiday itself falls during the school half term, please note that school will be closed on **Friday 17th June.**

Morning System coming in

Just a reminder of the letter we sent out last week - that from the first day back after Easter, we would like to trial a new system for coming into school in the morning. In order to ensure a calm, orderly start, and to encourage good punctuality, we will implement the following:

At 8.45am a whistle will be blown as a signal to say goodbye and line up. At 8.50am teachers will come to the playground and lead their class in. We are introducing this system so that children enter the building in a calm and orderly fashion, and to encourage and improve punctuality - the school day starts at 8.50, children walk in together and will then be ready to start lessons and learning on time. We will trial this for a few weeks and keep it under review.

In the Summer term, schools are asked to once again conduct statutory testing in some year groups. Therefore, please can you ensure that these dates are marked on your calendar, and barring illness, your children are in school

- Year 6 SATs - Week of 9th - 13th May
- Year 4 Multiplication Check - Window of 6th - 23rd June
- Year 1 Phonics Check - Week of 6th - 10th June
- Year 2 will also be testing and submitting Teacher Assessments during May.

E Safety Newsletter for parents

It is a fact of life that in the 21st Century, we are all more frequent users of the internet and technology. As we know, this has great power to allow us to communicate and link on a global scale. However, as well as benefits, it also inevitably brings risk, particularly for our younger children. Our children have never been in a world that doesn't have these technologies, and have grown up with the internet and online devices. As part of our PSHE and SRE curriculum, we teach the children how to use the internet safely; how to protect themselves and others and how to use technology responsibly. We also want to support you as parents, as it can often feel that we are trying to play 'catch up' when it comes to the latest apps, websites and terminology.



We are therefore pleased to announce that we have taken out a subscription to a monthly newsletter, produced via Knowsley City Learning Centres, that we will send out to you each month. Each newsletter provides the latest information, gives explanations of various apps, websites and platforms, guidance on how to manage controls and filters and gives links to other support. We hope you will find the newsletters helpful and would welcome any feedback.

Prayer and Liturgy....

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him."

