

# St Joseph's



# News

Half termly Spring 2 edition

March 2024

## Head-lines

This does seem to have been a remarkably short half term - from returning on the 26th February, to now finishing on Thursday 28th March, the five weeks seem to have flown by! It is very special this year though, as the dates have fallen in such a way to mean that we are in school during Holy Week. This special week marks the end of our journey through Lent, and allows us to follow in the final journey that Jesus took on Earth - from his entry to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to the Passion story on Good Friday. In the build up, we have been taking classes down to St Joseph's church to 'walk' the Stations of the Cross - a huge thank you to the parent helpers who joined us. Then during this special week, each day we are gathering together as a whole school for prayer and liturgy, led each day by a different year group on one of the themes of Holy Week. Holy Week is a very reflective and somewhat sombre period - but this soon makes way for the joy and glory of the resurrection on Easter Sunday. From all of us, may I wish you a happy and joyous Easter. Best wishes, Mr Turner

## St Joseph's Nursery 2024

I wanted to share with you some exciting news about the developments of our Nursery provision. St Joseph's has always had a Nursery, which up until recently operated as two sessions - morning and afternoon. While this met the needs of parents and children at the time, the world has changed and increasingly parents were looking for 'all day' provision. This coincided with the Government bringing in 30 hours for eligible parents. We embraced this, and started to offer this full day provision, including allowing parents who weren't eligible for the 30 hour code to buy additional sessions. This has proved popular and allowed more parents to choose St Joseph's over other private providers. Ideally we always wanted to extend the provision to include 2 year olds, as this was another recognised local need. However, providing provision for the younger children brings with it different legislation, staffing requirements etc. So unfortunately was not something we could move forward with.

Having presented to Governors, we are now able and excited to share with you that from September 2024, our Nursery provision is being 'outsourced' to a provider called 'Em's Stars'. Em's Stars are a local provider with a proven track record of excellent provision. They will run our Nursery, extending the age range from 2-4. Emily Kendrick, Managing Director, writes:

*Em's Stars Pre-School at St Joseph's will open in September 2024, with children aged 2-4 years old able to attend. We are very lucky to have strong links with St Joseph's Primary School and work side by side to ensure that care standards are consistently high and the very highest standards of education are offered to all. We are also registered with Wirral Council so children are able to access free funded hours.*

*Em's Stars is ran by Emily Kendrick and Emily Mellor. We are Directors of Em's Stars Wrap Around Care, St Joseph's Pre-School, and Our Lady of Pity Pre-School CIC. We were neighbours growing up in Greasby and have known each other for 28 years.*

*We have worked together since 2018 and have many years experience of delivering quality care for early years and primary age children. We pride ourselves in our professional approach, operating pre-schools and out of school childcare clubs.*

*Our Lady of Pity Pre-School CIC has recently been graded Outstanding in all areas by OFSTED we are very proud of this. If you are interested in a space for your child in September 2024, please email [stjosephspreschool@emsstars.co.uk](mailto:stjosephspreschool@emsstars.co.uk) or visit our website [www.emsstars.co.uk](http://www.emsstars.co.uk).*

*We are very excited to be able to offer high quality education and childcare for children aged 2-4 years old in St Joseph's Primary School from September 2024.*


We are excited about the plan and think it will take our Nursery provision to an exciting new place. Our Nursery has always been 'separate' from the admissions procedures to our F2 (Reception) class and this will not change. Attending our Nursery does not guarantee an F2 place - these need to be applied for via Wirral LA as part of the school admissions window. If you or someone you know is looking for a place for their 2-4 year old, please do make enquiries as detailed above.

# Welcome!

A very warm welcome to Ryan who has joined the St Joseph's family. We also welcome Mrs Doyle who has started some work in Year 1. I hope you are enjoying being part of our school.



## Year 3 Sacraments



A huge congratulations to our children who continued their journey in faith by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation last week. At times, we all stray from God's path and make the wrong choices, but God loves us and will always forgive us when we say we are sorry. The children learnt about God's never ending love and made their First Forgiveness. Thank you to Fr Niall and all the clergy who came to school to help the children with this special Sacrament. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the final step before the children receive Communion for the first time at their First Holy Communion on Saturday 11th May. Please keep all of the children of Year 3 in your prayers as they continue their journey in faith.

## Payments

Please can we politely ask that all outstanding payments are made via Parent Pay by the end of the Easter Holiday. We currently have a substantial amount of money owing - including a large amount of unpaid lunch debt. Last year we had to make some of the payments ourselves as ultimately, the costs need to be met. We have a finite budget, so essentially this means less money can be spent on updates and events in school. While we do understand and appreciate that the cost of living has increased for everyone, this includes us as a school. We simply do not have the funds to be able to absorb these unpaid debts. Please can we ask that you do try to clear any debt you have - Natalie writes and calls parents regularly to highlight what is owed. If you are struggling financially, please do speak to Natalie as we can arrange a payment plan, where you can pay in instalments etc. We would rather get something towards your debt, rather than nothing at all, so if you are struggling, please do reach out and we can make arrangements. Thank you for your understanding.

## Attendance

Attendance for the year to date is 94.2% which is below our target of 96%. We do appreciate that there have been some nasty bugs going around, but we are still finding a lot of unauthorised absence and holidays. Please work with us to improve attendance.

The other alarming figure is that our rates of Persistent Absence has crept up again and currently stands at 15%. Persistent Absence is driven by children who have less than 90% attendance. This figure of 15% shows that we have 42 children who have less than 90% attendance. Poor school attendance does have a detrimental impact - not only academically but all of the social events, friendships, opportunities that are being denied. Please do ensure your child is in school regularly. If there is something in particular that is driving the low attendance, please let us know so that we can work with the child and you to make things better and improve their desire to be in school. Thank you.

Many thanks to Janine and all the PTA for another fabulous half term of exciting events, including a fantastic Easter Bingo!

## *Prayer for the term*

*“We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our existence.”*  
*Pope Francis*

