



Head-lines

We end this half term with a celebration to mark this extraordinary, once in a lifetime occasion of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. I am sure it will be a super day, with lots of activities, games and celebrations of a life dedicated to our country. I want to say a special thank you to Janine and all the PTA for helping with plans, events and resources. I hope you all have a lovely half term, and enjoy the long Bank Holiday weekend. Reminder that we open to pupils Tuesday 7th June. Mr Turner

Reading - our approach

Over the course of this year, we have had a big focus on reading at St Joseph's. This has included implementing a new scheme for the teaching of phonics (Read, Write, Inc), a new scheme for Reading lessons and comprehension in Years 2-6 (Pathways to Read), and a big push on promoting reading for pleasure. On top of that, Mrs Burley has been working hard with reading ambassadors, organising class libraries, and launching our 'Reading Rocks' pupil magazine. We are also extremely grateful to the PTA for making a very generous donation to allow us to purchase additional books for class libraries, and to all the parents who kindly donated books to us. What a busy year it has been! However, it is paying dividends and we are most definitely a 'reading school'.

Our school website has a section all about our approach to the reading curriculum, and I just wanted to highlight a few points in this newsletter. For the full information page, please visit

<http://www.stjosephscatholicprimarybirkenhead.co.uk/reading>

- **At St Joseph's we believe that reading is a gateway to the world! We promote a positive attitude towards reading, a love of literature and hope to instil a lifelong passion for reading in your children. The use of carefully selected class texts for each year group will provide the stimulus for the majority of lessons as well as giving the children the opportunity for Reading for Pleasure. Our aim is to establish each child as a lifetime reader.**
 - **At St Joseph's we prioritise reading to allow all pupils to access our curriculum. Our wider curriculum stems from core texts read with the children each half term, and each subject is linked where possible to the themes encountered within that text. As a result, we approach the teaching of reading from all angles, so as to miss no opportunity to spark a child's interest. Our rigorous and sequential approach to our reading curriculum develops pupils' fluency, confidence and enjoyment in reading. Choral reading plays a major part in all learning - maximising the amount of purposeful reading experienced by every child, every day. Our approach is, 'Read wherever possible.'**
- Story has always been the ultimate teaching vehicle. Whether it be in the form of a parable to explore right and wrong, a story problem to launch a maths lesson or the exploration of a deep theme through a powerful text, we use story to make learning, and life, meaningful.**

We hope you agree with our philosophy of the importance of reading, and we hope that over this year, the children have talked to you at home about the books they are reading, the texts they have studied and the themes they have explored. Our internal assessments have shown us the impact our new approach to phonics delivery has had, and we hope you can see this in your own child when they read with you at home. Thank you for continuing to support us in our mission to make every child a reader. To help us succeed, please do read with your child at home - encourage them to read often, and expose them to a wide variety of texts. Please can we ask that books bags are returned to school each day, so that we can continue lessons, swap texts and monitor all the fantastic things they are reading with you at home. Thank you.

Curriculum Information

On the same note as curriculum, I would just like to draw your attention to the curriculum section of our website. A recent parent survey for Religious Education and Catholic Life highlighted that some parents don't feel well informed about the programme of study for RE, and previous surveys have mentioned similar in other subjects. On our school website <http://www.stjosephscatholicprimarybirkenhead.co.uk> we have a dedicated section with our curriculum design, full curriculum overview, and further information about particular subjects and areas. If viewing on a mobile phone, and unable to see the menu display at the top of the page, tilt to landscape and the menu sections should appear. In the tab for Curriculum, there is a drop down menu with different areas to explore - visit <http://www.stjosephscatholicprimarybirkenhead.co.uk/our-curriculum> to view our Curriculum design intentions and please do let us know if there is anything else you would like to see published.

IMPORTANT - SUN CREAM ALLERGY INFORMATION

Fingers crossed, the sun will be shining for Summer 2! When the weather is particularly sunny, you may wish to send your child in with a sun hat, ensure they have a water bottle, and you may want to apply sun cream in the morning. We CANNOT apply suncream to children. It has also been brought to our attention that some brands of suncream (Nivea for example) contain traces of nut products, and as you are aware, we have several children with serious nut allergies. Therefore we request that suncream is not brought into school, and if you do apply suncream to your child, choose a product with a long lasting SPF. Thank you.



Welcome to Noah who started with us during this half term. Hope you have settled in and are enjoying life at St Joseph's!

Congratulations.....

To our Year 3 children who received Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion this half term. I hope you all had a wonderful and special day. You all looked so grown up and smart in your beautiful dresses and suits, but most importantly, you all were so spiritual and reflective on what was a very special day on your journey in faith. Mrs Summers, Mrs Burley, Miss Rynkiewicz and I were extremely proud of you and felt honoured to be part of your special day.

Also, a big well done to our school choir who sang at the Secret Gardens of Oxton. They sang beautifully and we received lots of praise and thanks from members of the public who were amazed by your beautiful voices, harmonies and fantastic performance. Well done children and thank you to Mrs Lester and Miss Barrie for leading the choir.

Attendance and Punctuality

This term, we implemented our new morning system for entering school in the morning. Responses from parents, staff and children have been very positive, and the day now starts in a calm and orderly manner, with the same expectations as at other times of the day.

We have noticed a dramatic improvement in levels of punctuality, but there is still room for improvement with several children each day arriving late. This is being monitored and logged and parents will be notified. The start of the school day is very important, in terms of lessons covered, which are often vital core skills such as arithmetic, times table work, spelling and grammar etc, but also from a social and emotional aspect. We as adults don't like walking into a meeting late and can feel quite exposed; it is the same with children. So please, ensure that all children enter at 8.50 with their friends, rather than have to walk in by themselves once lessons have started.

We also continue to work on attendance. Our whole school figure for the year to date is 92.7%, which is below our target of at least 96%, and we still have far too many children with below 90% attendance. We will continue to tackle this in the coming half term.

Coming Up...

Summer 2 is always a busy half term and tends to disappear in the blink of an eye! I just wanted to give you a couple of dates to mark:

- **End of year reports are due to go out 8th July**
- **We are working on staffing arrangements for September and hope to inform you of your child's next teacher by 6th July**
- **Year 6 Leaver's Mass and assembly 21st July**
- **We are also aiming to run sports day, with spectators. Weather permitting, these would take place for KS1 Thursday 30th June (am) - and KS2 - Friday 1st July (am)**
- **Reminder we are closed on Friday 17th June for a Jubilee Day**

Thought for the term

On Thursday we celebrate Ascension Day. This marks the moment that Jesus left his friends on earth to return to his

*Father in Heaven. By doing this, **he is with us, always***