



St. Joseph's Journal

Free! Friday, 13th January 2023

9th Edition

Spring Term - Welcome Back



Welcome back and welcome to what promises to be another fabulous term here at St Joseph's. All the children have settled back into their classes and are focused, pleased to be with their friends again and embracing their learning.

Attendance

You will have seen in my letter yesterday that we are launching our St Joseph's attendance campaign this term. We are aiming for a whole school target of 97%, recognising that children cannot help being ill. We have relaunched our Classopoly initiative and have introduced an Attendance Lottery that all the children are very excited about. Classopoly is based (loosely) on the Monopoly board game. All teachers have their own square. Every month the class with the highest attendance get to roll the Classopoly dice. If it lands on a particular teacher's square, they get a 20-minute treat with that teacher. For example, Nicholson Drive might result in hot chocolate and marshmallows with Mr Nicholson or Manners Mead might mean making your own paper aeroplane and flying them on the school field with Miss Manners. Every week children have the opportunity to be entered into the Attendance Lottery. If a child achieved 97% or above attendance for that week their name will be entered into the draw. The children get the opportunity to receive a lottery ticket every week but only if their attendance hits 97% or above. The more tickets the children win, the

FREE PARKING	Nicholson Drive	Ashworth Boulevard	Watson Way	Rogers Road	IN JAIL VISITING
Dewdney Drive					Monney Mount
Philpott Place					Smith Street
Cooper Close					Bacon Boulevard
Manners Mead					Hooper Lane
97% GO	Wright Way	Harvey Avenue	Noone Street	Silva Carvalho Way	GO TO JAIL

greater chance they will have of winning at the end of the half term. Each half term we will draw the Attendance Lottery giving the children the opportunity to win a book token and breakfast with Mrs Walker. We will still continue with our termly 100% attendance certificates but want to raise the profile of how important your child's attendance is. We know holidays are cheaper in term time and we know many of our families have relatives abroad. However, we have to consider the stark reality that children who have positive attendance habits achieve higher and make greater progress when compared with pupils who have regularly been taken out of class for extended periods of time. There is a clear correlation between children who have poor attendance habits and children's GCSE results - please enter this into a google search at your leisure to read the government statistics. We can only teach those children who attend the lesson. I know we have very supportive parents who fully support their child's education and ensure they are regularly attending school. This is why we want to acknowledge this through targeting 97% attendance and above. Habits and expectation formed in Primary school will have an impact on their secondary education. If the expectation is that we visit relatives either side of the Easter holiday, that is lost learning that will never be recovered. Please read the statistics for yourselves as your child's education is too important to ignore the facts. I am very happy to chat to any parent that would like further details about the research surrounding attendance. Please do get in touch if you are finding getting your child into school a struggle. This is all about working together to allow your child to reach their full potential not about cheap holidays. If you get in touch with us, we chat through any of the difficulties you are having, we do understand and I promise we will help. However, I think we should celebrate the first full week of 2023 by congratulating St Joan class for having the highest attendance 99% - That is quite a few children now entered in the Attendance Lottery - you've got to be in it to win it!

THANK YOU

A HUGE thank you from all the staff at St Joseph's for all the cards, presents and well wishes sent in before the end of last term. We hope you all had an enjoyable festive period and managed to spend quality time with family and friends. With very best wishes for 2023.



Believe · Achieve · Succeed

After School Clubs



A reminder that after school clubs start next week. Please make sure your child has suitable clothing for the club that they are taking part in, particularly clubs held outdoors. These take place whatever the weather, so water proof jackets, layers etc. are highly recommended!

Class Assembly Dates

We are delighted that class assemblies will recommence on Wednesday's, starting at 9am for approx. 20-25minutes in the school hall. Parents of the children in the class whose assembly it is, are warmly invited to attend. Entry via the wooden side gate to the right of the school kitchen.

22nd February 23 - St Helen

1st March 23 - St Xavier

8th March 23 - St Theresa

15th March 23 - St Francis

22nd March 23 - St Elizabeth

26th April 23 - St Margaret

17th May 23 - St Joan

24th May 23 - St David

7th June 23 - St George

14th June 23 - St Genevieve

21st June 23 - St Patrick

28th June 23 - St Andrew & St Bernadette

5th July 23 - St Christopher

Movers & Shakers



We have recently said goodbye to two of our teaching assistants, Mrs Key and Mrs Benstead. Mrs Key has been a frequent flyer with us over the years, but sadly due to health reasons has finally hung up her TA hat. Mrs Benstead has returned to her roots and is going back to her career in flying. Both of them have been huge assets in the classroom working with the children and they will be greatly missed by children and staff alike. We wish them every success for the future.

Reporting Absences

Please can we remind parents that all absence, whether for illness or medical appointments or any other reason, should be reported to the school via Studybugs. Studybugs is a free app and all reported absence goes directly into the register and keeps class teachers informed of the reason for your child's absence. We have a legal duty to ascertain the whereabouts of all children. By reporting all absences, it prevents office staff from having to ring and email parents to find out the reason for them not being at school and avoids unnecessary home visits. Please remember to report absences daily, your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.



Starting School September 2023

A reminder that the closing date for applications for children starting school next September is **this Sunday, 15th January 2023**. Parents are being asked to apply online at www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions. In addition to the online application, parents wishing to send their child to St Joseph's will also need to complete a Supplementary Information Form for 2023/24 available on our website www.stjosephshh.org.uk **Catholic application forms do need to be signed by your Parish Priest and we also need to see a copy of their Baptismal certificate.**

Winter Water Safety

Following on from the tragic events in Solihull prior to Christmas, please find a link from the Royal Life Saving Society around winter water safety:

[Winter Water Safety | Royal Life Saving Society UK \(RLSS UK \)](#)



Spring Term Diary Dates



February

1st Feb - Parent Consultations YR ONLY, booking online

3rd Feb - FOS Social - tickets via ParentPay

8th Feb - Parent Consultations YR ONLY, booking online

10th Feb - Non-Uniform Day

10th Feb - FOS Valentines Cake Sale, St D, St Geo & St P to contribute please

13th-17th Feb - Half Term

20th Feb - Back to School

22nd Feb - Ash Wednesday

22nd Feb - St Helen Class Assembly, 9am

March

1st Mar - St Xavier Class Assembly, 9am

1st-3rd Mar - Hindleap Warren Residential, Year 5

2nd Mar - World Book Day

3rd Mar - Second Hand Uniform Sale

8th Mar - St Theresa Class Assembly, 9am

9th Mar - Year 6 NCT Parent Meeting, 6pm

15th Mar - St Francis Class Assembly, 9am

20th Mar - St Joseph's Day Mass, 1.30pm

22nd Mar - St Elizabeth Class Assembly, 9am

24th Mar - FOS Disco

27th-31st Mar - Spirituality Week

28th Mar - Reports Out Years 1– Year 6

31st Mar - Cake Sale, St H, St M & St T to contribute please

31st Mar - End of Term, normal finish time

**Please note all dates and events are subject to change.
Dates are also available to view on the St Joseph's website calendar.**