



St. Joseph's Journal

Free! Friday, 20th October 2023

4th Edition

Open Afternoon

What a wonderful half term we have all had. I can't believe we are at the October half term already. We have welcomed lots of new children to the St Joseph's family and our year 6 leaders and prefects have grown into their roles extremely well. This week we hosted our first open afternoon for prospective new reception pupils for September 2024. Our prefects were excellent ambassadors for the school and conducted several tours throughout the afternoon. One visitor commented on the children's confidence and how articulate they were saying "confident and independent children are an excellent advert for the school." Another visiting parent noticed our calm, purposeful learning atmosphere saying "it is such a joy to see the children thriving and so engaged in their lessons." Our Head Girl, Margo, Head Boy Luis and their deputies Charlie and Minuki were a credit to themselves delivering engaging speeches at the start of the afternoon. These speeches were written by the children and were so good we are going to share these on our social media platform shortly. It was standing room only in the school hall and was one of the busiest open afternoons that I can remember. The office team ensure the publicity and marketing of our wonderful school is of the highest quality. A huge thank you to the entire staff team for shining a light on the brilliant opportunities we provide here at St Joseph's. An outstanding team!

Harvest Festival Celebration

Last Friday we came together as a school community to share a beautiful liturgy to give thanks for the Harvest. A tradition that marks how grateful we are for all the crops and food harvested during the autumn. It is a day on which many churches show solidarity to those without food and distribute the harvest donations they have collected among charitable organisations. The harvest festival is one of the oldest holidays still celebrated today. A big thank you for your generosity, as always, you have gone above and beyond, donating a huge selection of food and toiletries. It will make such a difference to the lives of others struggling during this difficult time. We have again donated to our local Foodbank. The children read beautifully. The singing was a wonderful, spiritual and an uplifting experience for all who attended the liturgy last Friday afternoon. Thank you to Fr Rags who led our liturgy alongside the organisation of the RE leadership team, Mr Wright, Mrs Dewdney and Mrs Howes. These have been donated to Haywards Heath Foodbank who were incredibly grateful as they continue to support those in need in our local community, particularly in these tough times.



Open Morning - Starting School September 2024

We have an Open Morning on Friday, 17th November from 9.45—11am for prospective parents of children due to start primary school in September 2023. There will be a presentation on the 17th November at 10am, followed by a tour of the school by our school prefects. No appointment is necessary.

Fortnightly Attendance

St A	96%	St B	92%
St C	95%	St D	96%
St E	96%	St F	97%
St Gen	98%	St Geo	98%
St H	99%	St J	98%
St M	98%	St P	96%
St T	99%	St X	97%

Secondary School Applications—Year 6

Please remember the deadline for secondary school applications is **Tuesday 31st October**. You must apply online at www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions. If you are applying for a place at St Paul's Catholic College you will also need to complete one of their Supplementary Information Forms, available from their website in addition to the on-line application with the Local Authority. **Catholic application forms do need to be signed by your Parish Priest**



Believe · Achieve · Succeed



DT DAY!

Thank you as always for all your support providing various foods and other paraphernalia for our DT day - the children had a wonderful time and were extremely creative!



Starting School - September 2024

Online applications are now open, go to: westsussex.gov.uk/admissions

Free internet access to apply online is available at all West Sussex libraries, the closing date is **Monday 15 January 2024** and you must submit your completed application by this date. We require a Supplementary Information Form (SIF), to be completed. Catholic applicants application forms must be signed by your parish priest. Details of dates that Fr Raglan will be signing have yet to be announced, details will be in the church bulletin.

Medication in School

If we hold medication in school for your child, please remember that it is your responsibility to check expiry dates with the school office. **Particularly Epipens**

and asthma inhalers. If your child requires antibiotics or any other medication, we can only administer if your child requires it 4 times or more in a school day. All medication MUST come to the school office in its box with the information leaflet enclosed.



NUTS & SESAME



Please remember we have a NO nut or Sesame policy in school. This includes sandwich fillings such as Nutella / Peanut Butter, dips such as hummus and chicken satay. We have several children with severe nut and sesame allergies who are at risk of anaphylactic shock.

Foodbank

We are very aware that many families are currently under considerable financial pressure and it isn't always easy to ask for help. We have a very good relationship with the local Foodbank team. If there are any families within the school community who would benefit from a Foodbank delivery, please speak to a member of the school office team in the strictest confidence and we can arrange this for you. They now have a Baby/Children's Bank and have an assortment of items to share, including Moses baskets, prams, cots, travel cots, high chairs, baby baths, bedside cots - **Please do get in touch.**



Reporting Absences & Appointments

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.



Dogs On School Premises

Please could we remind dog owners that as lovely as your furry friends maybe, they are NOT allowed on school premises - this includes the foyer outside the school office! There are both adults and children who find dogs scary - thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

St Francis - Parent Consultations

Please note that Parent Consultations for St Francis will be on Wednesday, 8th November and **Thursday, 16th November** (not 15th, November as previously advertised).

Winter Uniform

Please remember that when we return to school after half term on Tuesday, 31st October all children should be in winter uniform - details are available on our website under the parents tab.

Individual Photos

The school photographers will be coming into school on the 3rd November, starting at 8.30 am. **All children** will be photographed individually. **In order to have your child photographed individually, you do NOT need to return the slip.** If you wish your children to be photographed as a family group, please complete the slip sent out yesterday and return it to the school by Wednesday, 1st November. If you wish your children attending St. Joseph's to be photographed with their siblings who do not attend St Joseph's, please arrive from 8.30 am and we will arrange for them to be photographed first.

Please ensure your slip is returned by the above date as siblings will not automatically be photographed together.

Autumn Term Diary Dates

DATES TO REMEMBER

October

23rd-27th Oct - Half Term

30th Oct - INSET DAY— School Closed

31st Oct - Back to School

November

1st Nov - All Saints Day, Mass 11am

3rd Nov - Individual Photos

7th Nov - Year 4 to attend Parish Mass , 9.30am - parents are welcome to attend

8th Nov - Behaviour Workshop, 9am in the small hall - no booking required

8th Nov - Parent Consultations, 3.30-6pm - all years

14th Nov - Year 5 to attend Parish Mass, 9.30am - parents are welcome to attend

15th Nov - Parent Consultations, 3.30-6pm - all years (NOT St Francis Class)

16th Nov - Parent Consultations, 3.30-6pm - St Francis Class ONLY

17th Nov - Open Morning, 9.45-11am

17th Nov - FOS School Disco

21st Nov - Year 6 to attend Parish Mass, 9.30am - parents are welcome to attend

24th Nov - School Closed

27th Nov - INSET DAY - School Closed

28th Nov - Year 3 to attend Parish Mass, 9.30am - parents are welcome to attend

December

2nd Dec FOS Christmas Fair

4th Dec - EYFS Nativity, pm

5th Dec - EYFS Nativity, am

5th Dec - KS1 Nativity, pm

6th Dec - KS1 Nativity, am

7th Dec - Flu Vaccinations

7th Dec - KS1 Nativity, evening performance

8th Dec - Carol Service, 2pm years 3-4 / 6pm years 5-6

12th Dec - Elf on Twelfth

13th Dec - Christmas Lunch

14th Dec - Party Day

15th Dec - End of Term, **1pm finish**

Please note all dates and events are subject to change.

Dates are also available to view on the St Joseph's website calendar.