



September 2016

A warm welcome back to the new school year and what I hope will be busy and engaging for all our children. A special welcome to our new pupils and their families, we look forward to welcoming you to our school community and working with you. I trust you had a restful summer holiday and enjoyed quality family time either at home or away. The wonderful British summer was truly a lovely surprise and I hope you were able to make the most of it.

Welcome to our new staff: Mrs Beverley Dennis (Year 4) and Miss Naomi Bickmore (Year 5) and Miss Maria Kalliora (Year 3)

The term has already picked up pace and would like you to take note of the following forthcoming events.

<u>Year 6 Transition to Secondary School and Curriculum information</u> Thursday 8th September at 6.30pm in the junior hall

This is an important meeting and always held early so that parents are free to visit secondary schools for open days and evenings. Information will be provided on how to manage the process of applications to secondary schools. We will be welcoming Mr David Garrido the newly appointed headteacher of St Joseph's College to speak to parents about the school and secondary transfer. Curriculum information will also be available for parents although Y6 parents will have more opportunities through the year to engage with curriculum expectations.

Website

Please do use the website to update yourselves with news items, events and dates. We will be updating the calendar regularly which should enable parents to be better informed about forthcoming events. Information about parental workshops for the whole year is also available. We very much look forward to working with parents in different ways this year.

Roald Dahl Day

St Joseph's will celebrate Roald Dahl day on Tuesday 13th September 2016.

This is a very special day as it marks 100 years since the birth of Roald Dahl - the world's number one storyteller. To celebrate this occasion our school will enjoy some activities in school:

On Tuesday, children should come to school dressed up as their favourite character from a Roald Dahl story. Be

Children should be prepared to talk about the character they have dressed up as and why they enjoy the book the character is from.

Curriculum meetings

Please ensure that you attend the relevant meeting. It is essential that you as parents are informed of the expectations we have of the children and how you can help us to ensure children are meeting expectations for their age. We are very keen to build on the great academic success we achieved last year in order to do that we need to involve parents from the outset. Working in partnership is essential in order for our children to be successful. Please take note of the following days and times

Monday 19th September: Curriculum information Meetings

Year 1: 3pm - 3:45pm - Infant school hall Year 3: 3:15pm - 4pm - Year 4 classroom

Juniors





Year 2: 6pm - 6:45pm - 2J classroom

Thursday 22nd September: Curriculum Information

Year 4: 3:15pm - 4pm- Year 4 classroom Year 5: 6pm- 6:45pm - Year 5 classroom

Mrs Kelly- Deputy Headteacher

As you know Mrs Kelly's baby is due imminently. We wish her well with the birth of her second child and will keep you updated with any developments. Mrs Kelly shall return to school in April 2017 as the Deputy Headteacher of the Infant and junior schools.

Music Lessons KS2

Children in the junior school can learn to play a musical instrument and we currently have some vacancies for: piano, saxophone and clarinet. Lessons need to be paid for in advance (paid half termly). Any child interested in learning a musical instrument needs to write a short letter to Mrs McMillan stating which instrument they would like to learn and a short reason as to why.

Mobile phones

We do not anticipate children needing to bring a mobile phone to school. However if they need to for a special reason we require a letter from a parent stating the reason why. All phones must be kept in the main office. Children are to bring and collect them from Mrs Johnson in the junior office.

Coffee Morning for McMillan Cancer Support

Friday 30th September: Junior Hall: 9- 11am and 2- 3pm

Once again we will be supporting the McMillan nurses charity. It is a charity very close to many people and we would like to invite you to come and support this event. Any donations of cakes will be gratefully received on the morning of the 30th September in the junior hall. Mrs. De Jesus will be coordinating the event.

Uniform reminders

Please would you ensure that your children have a St Joseph bag. Nursery and Reception children need a book bag; children in year 1 and 2 can have either a book bag or a school rucksack. Children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 should have a **school** rucksack.

The maroon school coat is a <u>compulsory school item</u>. I would urge you to purchase school coats from Hewitts for the winter. The coat is appropriate for cold and wet weather; the children also look very smart in school coats.

Children must wear school shoes and not boot style shoes (i.e. Kicker boots)

Haircuts should be conventional and suitable for school

Once again welcome back to the new term we very much forward to working with you.

Tammy Lawlor and staff

Infants & Nursery