

Newsletter No.5

4th November 2016

Dear Parents,

FY Phonics workshop

Thank you to the many who attended yesterday's Phonics workshop- we hope you found it beneficial. Thanks to Mrs Prentice and Mrs Terry.

1st Sunday of the Month Mass – next one is THIS Sunday 6th of November 9.00am

Fr Michael and Deacon Daniel, with the school, are trying to encourage the 1st Sunday of each month to be a Mass for the children, the first Mass last month mass was a lovely occasion. Children from many classes will be leading the mass through Readings, bidding prayers, offertory, handing out Hymn books, welcoming, conducting the collections During the homily Father calls all children onto the Sanctuary to pray and be close.

Please try to bring your children to this 9.00 am mass. (No uniform required)

Y6 Confirmation

Next Friday, Bishop Pargeter will be visiting school and talking to the Year 6 prior to their Confirmation on Sunday 13th November 11.00am Mass at Holy Trinity Church. We wish them good luck and our prayers. If you intend joining with the Sacramental Celebration please note that the Church car park and overflow car park at Bishop Vesey School will both be very congested.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Well done to those children who took part in the various after school clubs being provided last half term:

Hand & Eye Co-ordination Y2, Badminton Y3, Tennis club Y3&4, Fencing Y4, Volleyball Y5, Body Kombat Y6, Netball, Football and Cross Country.

This term we have rotated the provision for the children to have wider experiences, they are:

Monday – Yr3 &4 Tennis club, Y2 Volleyball
Tuesday – Y6 Hand & Eye Co-ordination
Wednesday- Y3 Fencing
Thursday- Y4 Body Kombat
Friday- Y5 Badminton

If you would like your child to join a club please contact the ladies in the office.

Mayor's Challenge

This year, St Joseph's will be participating in the first ever Mayor's Challenge in Sutton Coldfield. The challenge asks all pupils to 'Pick it Up and Pass it On'. This means that the children are encouraged to pick up one piece of litter in and around school each day and put it in the bin, and to pass on an act of kindness or carry out a good deed each day. (We have been through the safety aspects of picking up litter with the children.) Each pupil will receive a Mayor's Challenge 2016 badge which they can wear throughout the year.

Later in the year, our school will be eligible to submit two ideas for improvements within the town of Sutton Coldfield.

Firstly, an idea that will improve the health and happiness of children, for example football goal posts in the local park, or a fruit tree.

Secondly, an idea that will benefit others in the community, for example wheelchair and pushchair friendly access ramps around the local shops.

We look forward to hearing the children's ideas!

These ideas will then be taken to a Junior Council meeting to share with other schools in the hope that the successful idea from each category will be adopted by the Town Council.

School Photographer Sally will be in school on Thursday 24th November to take individual and family group photographs, please put this date in your diary.

DEBT

Thank you to those parents who have settled the overdue amounts on their accounts this week- much appreciated.

Unfortunately, there are still 24 families who owe collectively £1200 to school for dinners taken during the last year. This money



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must be recouped, as soon as is possible, as the school cannot be used to 'prop up' parental nonpayment. Mrs Green has started to send out itemised statements, from parent pay, to those involved. (although, parents couldn't access parent pay last year all dinner monies sent in were charged against accounts by the office staff). Please could I ask that all debts are cleared as soon as is possible. If you need to arrange a payment plan or discuss your statement please contact Mrs Green in the office who will treat all discussions confidentially.

Parent Mail

Thank you to all who have signed up for the new upgraded Parent Mail facility to improve communications between the school and parents. We have 98% compliance (thank you). Through this system we are now able to send letters and receive your permissions for trips and events electronically. We are also able to send out questionnaires very simply and have results collated. The first one of these will be being sent out next week from the 'PTA'.

PTA – thanks to the few who were able to make the AGM meeting this week, the committee were elected again for this year; Vince Tierney (Chair), Anne Marie Sheldon (Treasurer), Louise Purcell (Secretary)
A huge thank you to them and all who have helped run events over the past 12 months.
The latest PTA Newsletter will be sent out next week.

Parent Pay

Thank you to all for signing up to parent pay. ALL payments; trips, PTA events, dinner money payments, visiting theatre clubs, non uniform days etc.. will in future be made via this simple to use system.

Academisation

Over the last few months the Diocesan Education Service has been telling all its schools to become 'academy ready'. The diocese has indicated on its website which schools should join existing MACs and as such the SJPIIMA has invited these schools to early discussions about expanding our multi-academy in the interests of strengthening catholic education and improving pupil outcomes by working together.. We will keep you posted with further developments.

Nativity dates

Due to the expansion and increased numbers of pupils, we now have 180 pupils in KS1, we have decided, in line with all other 2FE size schools to have 2 separate Nativities.

Dates for your diaries are:

FYS and FYJ Nativity will take place on Tues 6th Dec and Wed 7th Dec at 9.25am

Y1 and Y2 Nativity will take place on Mon 12th Dec and Tues 13th Dec at 9.25am

More information will follow nearer the time.

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) are launching a Parish appeal during November, but they're not asking for money. Instead they're asking for parishioners to give a little of their time to help others by joining the parish SVP group at either Holy Trinity or Sacred Heart. Within our area there are many people who are at a point in their lives where they need support – the sick or elderly, people in hospital, those for whom the approach of Christmas means loneliness or not being able to afford the presents and the seasonal foods that many of us take for granted. For parents who think they can offer a little of their time to help those in need it might be the best gift you have ever given. To find out more please come along to an SVP Information Evening in the Parish Hall at Holy Trinity Church, on Monday 28 November at 7.30pm. Or call mob: 07918715549 and leave a message requesting further details.

Congratulations St Josephs

As you can see below, the Minister for State and School Standards, Nick Gibb MP has written to me congratulating St Josephs for being in the TOP 8 Percent of schools in the country for our very high standards in our Phonics teaching.



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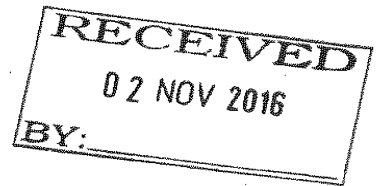
To follow in Jesus' footsteps, caring for each other when we work, play and pray.

Little Sutton Lane, Sutton Coldfield B75 6PB

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Nick Gibb MP

Minister of State for School Standards

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Mr Gerry O'Hara
St Joseph's RC Primary School
Little Sutton Lane
Sutton Coldfield
B75 6PB

24 October 2016

Dear Mr O'Hara,

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils for your school's very high standard of achievement in the 2016 phonics screening check.

We want to ensure that every child develops a firm grasp of phonics which is why I was delighted to see your results. With at least 95 per cent of pupils at St Joseph's RC Primary School reaching or exceeding the pass mark in the check, your school is in the top 8 per cent of all primary schools in the country.

This year's figures show 89 per cent of pupils who achieve the expected standard in the check go on to achieve at least the expected standard in key stage 1 reading, which underlines the value of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

I am pleased to hear that you have ensured your Year One children at St Joseph's RC Primary School have a firm foundation in reading, from which they can develop further and become increasingly fluent readers. This will help them develop a lifelong love of reading.

Thank you for your work in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulations again to you and your staff for all you have achieved.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nick Gibb'.

Nick Gibb MP

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Registered Office: Bishop Walsh Catholic School, Wylde Green Road, Sutton Coldfield B76 1QT
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This Month we remember all the departed, especially past pupils, staff and deceased family members of our current pupils. It is also a time of national remembrance, when we recall those who have died for our country in wars.



They shall not grow old, as we who are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.



Some of the bloodiest fighting of World War One took place in the Flanders and Picardy regions of Belgium and Northern France. The poppy was the only thing which grew in the aftermath of the complete devastation. McCrae, a doctor serving there with the Canadian Armed Forces, deeply inspired and moved by what he saw, wrote these verses:

In Flanders' Fields
John McCrae, 1915

*In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe;*

*To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Fields.*

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, the First World War ended. Civilians wanted to remember the people who had given their lives for peace and freedom. An American War Secretary, Moina Belle Michael, inspired by John McCrae's poem, began selling poppies to friends to raise money for the ex-Service community. And so the tradition began.

Yours sincerely,

G M O'Hara
Principal

Please note the following diary events

Dates for diary – Nov 2016		
Sunday 6 th	9.00am	1 st Sunday of the Month school/family Mass – All welcome
Tues 8 th	9.30am	Open day for prospective FY 2017 parents
Wed 9 th	9.30am	Open day for prospective FY 2017 parents
Wed 9 th	2.00pm	Unicef e-safety workshop for Y5 Pupils and Parents
Fri 11 th	9.00am	Yr 3 Class led Assembly-all welcome
Sunday 13 th Nov	11.00am	Yr 6 Sacrament of Confirmation at Holy Trinity Church with Bishop Pargeter
Tue 15 th	All day	Y1 –artist from the 'Tunnel project'
Wed 16 th	10.00am	Yr3 walk to Mass
Fri 18 th	9.00am	Congratulations Assembly- all welcome
Wed 23 rd	All day	E Safety day workshop. Assembly, all day workshops for each class. 3.30 Parents workshop.
Thurs 24 th	From 8.15am	School Photographer

School Term dates available on the website [Diary and Term Dates | St Joseph's](#)
Previous newsletters and other information can be found on our School website: www.stjosutton.net



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