



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

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Little Sutton Lane, Sutton Coldfield B75 6PB

E: enquiry@stjosutton.net

T: 0121 354 6270

W: www.stjosutton.net

Principal: Mr G. O'Hara

1st March 2019

Newsletter No.13

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the Second Term of Spring. We hope the half term break was enjoyable.

As you will be aware, the Multi Academy, this week, have officially commenced intensive support and outreach to Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Aston. Whilst I am at Sacred Heart, I leave you in the very capable hands of Mrs Hill, Mrs Chambers, and Miss Crowley (Vice Principal at Holy Cross) who will also be assisting for 2 days each week, I am sure you will make her feel very welcome.

As always, we have an open door policy at St Joseph's; should you have a concern regarding your child's education please make an appointment with a member of staff via the main office.

Class Awards

Well done to this week's award winners:

Y4L - Tidiness Award

Y4L - Lining Up Award

Y5L- Lunchtime Behaviour Award

Y2E- Attendance Award with 98%

World Book Day

In recognition of World Book Day next week, we will be hosting a Book Week. As part of the fun and learning, on Thursday 7th March everyone is also invited to dress up as a character from **any** book. Last year, we had characters ranging from Harry Potter and Dr Who to Gangster Granny, The Cat in the Hat, Oompa Loompas and Where's Wally, plus many more. We are looking forward to an activity packed week of fun 'book related' activities.

Lent

Ash Wednesday, next week, marks the start of Lent- please support the children during Lent with their fundraising, fasting and of course through the encouragement spiritually with extra prayer as we all try to bring ourselves even closer to the Lord. Each class will be completing a fundraising activity to raise money. More information will be sent out about these in due course.

The Charities that we are supporting this year are:

- Father Hudson's Society- requested by Archbishop Bernard
- Cafod

Ask the children about these Charities, and how we have helped them previously.

To start off our fundraising, Year Six will be leading a cake sale on Tuesday 5th March. Please could we ask parents to send in donations of cakes that we can sell. The children will then have the opportunity to purchase cakes during break time. If children would like to buy a cake, we are asking them to bring in a donation of 50p. Thank you in advance for your support with our Lenten fundraisers.

Applications for School Clothing Grant

The office have copies of application forms for school uniform / clothing grants from the Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust. The form outlines the criteria needed to meet the threshold in order to receive the grant. Please see the school office if you would like a copy of the application form.

An Important Plea to all parents

We have found it extremely difficult to recruit Lunchtime Supervisors (12pm-1.10pm) each day, so much so that we have



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got to point where I have had to direct Teaching Assistants into this role for half an hour a day. However, it has now reached the point, Teaching Assistants will be carrying out a whole hour's duty at lunchtime followed by their own statutory 30 mins lunch break. This will mean 1 hour lost from support to the children. The impact of this means that classroom support to the children, assisting with lesson preparation, art work, changing reading books, working with intervention groups etc... will be severely affected.

If you, or you know of anyone who would be interested in filling this role, please ask them to contact the office. Please don't let the children suffer.

Attendance below 90%

Many letters have been sent out to parents recently where a child's attendance has fallen below 95%. Could I thank all who have responded and met with the various Phase Leader Staff; Mrs Hill, Mrs Chambers, Mr Lynch and Miss Harris. These have been useful meetings to enable us to understand fully how home and school can work closely together for your child. If you haven't managed to arrange a meeting please contact school. Thank you

School attendance advice for parents (taken from BCC website)

In order to do well in school, children must attend regularly and should be punctual. A score of 90% in a test would be a good result but 90% attendance means that a child will have missed around 100 lessons over a school year. 5 minutes late every day means around 3 ½ days of education are missed.

Term Time Leave

From 1st September 2013, amendments to the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 made clear that Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 apply to all maintained schools, academies, studio schools, free schools and Independent schools.

When parents request permission to take their children out of school during term time where there are exceptional circumstances, an application form should be completed and submitted to the school at least two weeks before they are due to leave. Parents must contact the school and allow the school to consider their application before booking flights or leaving the country, even when unforeseen events occur (e.g. family bereavement)

Family emergencies need careful consideration. It is not always in the best interests of the pupil nor appropriate for them to miss school for family emergencies that are being dealt with by adult family members. School and school relationships can provide pupils with stability and care during difficult times. If leave is granted, the Head Teacher is the person who determines the number of school days a child can be away from school.

Attendance during one school year	equals this number of days absent	which is approximately this many weeks absent	which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons



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Important update – Online safety for children

We are aware that a lot of our children are accessing and using social media (including games) to communicate with friends and family. There is currently something called the **Momo challenge** that is circulating across the internet at the moment. Your child may or may not have come across this at some point. Please follow the link below which will tell you more about it:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/three-minute-briefing-momo-challenge>

The important message here is that this is not real and children should not take part in it.

Children must talk to a trusted adult if they come across this.

As a result of this information, we are reminding the children this week about how they can keep themselves safe online and to:

- Always report any concerns or worries about anything they see on-line
- Always be polite, kind and considerate in any comments they make on social media
- Always be mindful of others' feelings. (If you know that it would be wrong to say something in front of others on the school playground, then it is wrong to say it online).
- Avoid sites or games which allow communication with people we do not know. Never assume that other players are children and never engage in online conversations with them.

Parents can support us in keeping children safe online by:

- Monitoring closely what their children are doing on-line
- Talking to them about their use of the internet
- Reporting any concerns directly to the school as soon as they arise, ensuring that any image or message causing a concern is saved and shown to us.
- Ensuring that children do not share personal information or anything that could easily identify themselves to others
- Ensuring that children do not share unpleasant comments with others.

Thank you for supporting us to keep our children safe and happy.



LENT

Lord, help me in my desire to enter this holy season with a new resolve to find time to pray, to give myself to fasting and to give generously to others in need

Amen

Yours sincerely,

G M O'Hara
Executive Principal

Mrs N Hill
Head of School

Previous newsletters and other information can be found on our School website: www.stjosutton.net

Please note the following important dates next term:

Fri 22nd March Sacrament of Reconciliation for Y3 1.15pm -2.45pm

Dates for your diary –March





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Sun 3rd March	9.00am	Family Mass for all children at Holy Trinity Church
Mon 4th	morning	Year 4L trip to the Synagogue
Wed 6th	9.00am	Ash Wednesday Mass- all welcome
Thurs 7th	all day	World Book Day - Dress up as a Book Character
Friday 8th	9.00am	Year 3B Class lead Assembly
Sunday 10th		First Sunday of Lent
Wed 13th	10.00am	Year 4L and Year 2E walk to Holy Trinity for Mass
Fri 15th	9.00am	Congratulations Assembly
Saturday 16th	4pm-8pm	Sutton Schools Swimming Gala

Final Decision from the Board Of Directors regarding the admission Criteria for 2020/21

(copy of the letter is on our website in the Admission section)

The Board of Directors decided at its meeting on 12/2/2019 to adopt the following admissions criteria for 2020/21 in the schools in Sutton Coldfield. The proposed criteria for admissions have been in the public domain for consultation from mid-November 2018 to February 1st 2019. The following report gives details about the process of consultation and the issues that were raised and considered at the Board of Directors at its' meeting on 12th February and the response. Please find the final admissions criteria for each Sutton Coldfield Catholic School attached in separate documents.

Summary

The consultation has had 9 responses.

These include.

1 from St. Nicholas Local Governing Body.

2 from Fr. Allen, one in his position as Parish Priest at St. Nicholas and governor at St. Nicholas and one in his capacity as a governor at Bishop Walsh. Fr. Allen is priest chaplain at both schools.

5 from parents/grandparents. We were also sent the outcome of the Birmingham City Council Schools Admissions Service consultation which we had paid then to conduct – see email from Joe Tees, School Admissions Officer, School Admissions Service. There was only 1 response here.

The main points raised by the above in the consultation include:

1. Whether we should have evidence of worship as an oversubscription capacity. This can only be done by using the CES Catholic Certificate of Practice. Most responses, apart from one which supports, object to its use stating that there would be no consistency in applying this by priests and that the criteria does not reflect the national/diocesan definition of what oversubscription actually is. Other points include that it does not reflect an inclusive approach to the evangelisation of Christianity and some point to how the pressures of modern life make it difficult sometimes to attend church on a Sunday. **(BoFD response – the Board considered carefully the views expressed and has decided to keep the evidence of worship criteria included in the proposed criteria. The local Dean will be contacted by Mr. Farrell requesting that at the next Deanery meeting of local priests an agreement is reached at how to interpret consistently the national Certificate of Practice.)**

2. That in response to the proposed criteria for Bishop Walsh only, that catholic children who live in one of the Sutton Coldfield parishes



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and who have submitted evidence of worship but who may have been unable to attend the Sutton Coldfield feeder schools are not given less priority ranking as this will put these children after pupils who have got already got into the feeder schools who do not practice.

(BofD response – the Board will change the criteria to reflect that Bishop Walsh was built by the four parishes on Sutton Coldfield and that regardless of which primary school they currently attend will have a higher priority for Bishop Walsh than those in the designated feeder school who might not reside in one of the Sutton Coldfield parishes.)

3. There seems to be an impression in some responses that if someone attends any school in the St. John Paul II Multi-Academy such a pupil would gain priority to Bishop Walsh above a pupil who lived in one of the Sutton Coldfield Parishes. I did reply to these responses assuring them that this would not be the case. **(BofD response – This will be made explicit in the Bishop Walsh criteria)**

John Farrell
Catholic Senior Executive Leader
St. John Paul II Multi Academy
February 25th 2019.



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