



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

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T: 0121 354 6270

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Principal: Mr G. O'Hara

Newsletter No.3

Friday 2nd October 2020

Dear Parents,

We have had a busy few weeks back at school and it has been a pleasure to walk around school and see the children working so well. All families should now be able to view the 'termly planner' for your child's class, please log onto the school website and have a look at it in the year group section, you will find it under 'Autumn Termly Planner 2020'.

Mrs Gray has received some very sad news this week, her family has suffered a family bereavement. Please keep Mrs Gray and her family in your prayers.

Congratulations to last week's award winners. The awards were as follows:

Key Stage Two

The Tidiness Award	Y5Ga	Lining Up award	Y6L
Lunchtime Behaviour Award	Y6L	The Attendance Award	Y5Ga with 100%

This week's award winner. The awards are as follows:

Key Stage One

The Tidiness Award	Y2M	Lining Up award	Y2M
Lunchtime Behaviour Award	Y1E	The Attendance Award	FYB and Y1E

International Walk to School Month

We are encouraging you and your child to put on your autumn boots and join thousands of children and adults across the globe celebrating the walk to school! As well as being good exercise, walking can help teach children road safety skills and encourage interaction with family and friends.

Letter from the Chair of Governors

Please see an important message from the Chair of Governors attached to the end of this newsletter.

Confirmation

We are hoping that Y6 will be able to make their Confirmations (in line with COVID restrictions) in small groups at various Masses next half term and during the beginning of the spring term. Once we have agreed dates with Fr Michael, we will let you know the details.

Black History Month

Throughout October we will be celebrating, recognising and valuing inspirational individuals through Black History Month. Throughout October we remember and celebrate important people from the past and also those who contribute to and help our society today. Please encourage your child to tell you what they have been learning about in class.

Coats

Can we ask all parents to make sure their children are coming into school with a coat, every day. The weather is very unpredictable at the moment and we are having lots of short rain showers. The school takes the view that children need to get outside for their health and wellbeing. If it is raining a little bit, children will be expected to go outside. They should have a coat with a hood which will protect them from the weather.

Smart Watches / Fitbits

We have recently seen a high increase in the number of children wearing fitbits, particularly in the infant classes. While we have no problem with children wearing them (if parents think this is appropriate), as a school we take no responsibility for loss or damage to any



St. John Paul II Multi Academy

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Acting Catholic Senior Executive Leader (CSEL): Mr M. Emery

Company House Registered No. 08706247





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of the devices. They are expensive and can cause problems amongst the children, taking up teachers time dealing with these situations. If your child does wear one of these watches please talk to them about the appropriate use of it in school.

Harvest Festival

As part of our Harvest celebrations this year, we will be remembering those within our local community and globally. This fully supports our need to recognise that every child has the right to nutritious food. (Article 24 UNCRC)

Next Thursday 8th we are having our Harvest Mass. Year Five will be taking part in the Mass and the rest of the school will be able to watch it live from their classrooms.

Next Monday or Tuesday, please could you send your child in with any food tins, packets or jars, which we can then donate to a food bank in our local area. This organisation ensures that families have an emergency supply of food for three days. It would be wonderful if every child could donate one item of food as we recognise how fortunate we are to have food on our tables every mealtime. Thank you in advance.

As well as this, in order to support children globally, we are going to *Brighten up this Harvest* by fundraising to support communities in deprived areas of the world. Our money raised will support CAFOD to provide seeds and training for farmers, teaching people how to grow produce that isn't destroyed by the weather. To do this, we are asking the children to wear brightly coloured clothes for our non-uniform day on Friday 9th October. The children are encouraged to wear as many colours as they can on this day and to donate £1 via Parent Mail to help children globally. Thank you for your support with this.

Annual Free Nasal Flu Vaccines

The School Nurse will be coming into School on **Monday 12th October** to give children their nasal flu vaccine. If you have not returned your child's form and want them to have the vaccine, then please return the form as soon as possible. No child will be able to have the vaccine without the form being signed and returned to school. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

A Big Thank You to the PTA

During lockdown the PTA generously funded cash prizes for a number of competitions, which promoted children's cross curricular learning in various ways. This included children recording themselves reading- actively showing a love of learning, painting and creating a range of pictures and models, as well as problem solving and showing critical thinking. We enjoyed looking at every single entry that came in! We would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to the PTA for their incredibly kind contribution. The children were very proud when they received their prizes (£25 Amazon voucher for every winner)- well done again to all the winners.

Bikes and Scooters

Please note we are now allowing bikes and scooters to be stored in the bike racks on the field, however for health and safety no bikes or scooters should be used while on the school site. Once your child gets to the school gates they will have to walk their scooter down the drive, and the same at the end of the day. Thank you for your support.

A Plea from all staff re Behaviour at the end of the school day

Can we please remind parents that once the children have been released back into your care, it is your responsibility to ensure the children wait sensibly at your side for their siblings. During the day all staff go to considerable lengths to ensure that each class is kept in isolation from each other. When children are allowed to mix, by their parents, with others from different classes this is increasing the risk of infection. When a child contracts Covid 19 the whole of their class 'bubble' will have to isolate at home for 14 days. This will undoubtedly cause an issue for working families. Please help the staff limit the risk. Thank you to the majority of parents who are supporting us with this.

Bishop Walsh Virtual Open Evening

For more details on applying to Bishop Walsh Catholic School for a 2021 start, please go to <https://www.bishopwalsh.net/open-evening-2020>



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Parking Concerns

Concerns have been raised with regards to parents parking or stopping on the double yellow lines on both sides of Tamworth Road and Bromwich Drive in both the mornings and afternoons. Please could parents refrain from doing this. The yellow line markings have been provided to keep the area of the carriageway clear of parked vehicles allowing parents and their children to cross the road in a safer environment. When a vehicle parks or drops off at such a location it reduces the effect of the markings and gives the impression to other parents that it is OK for them to park in a similar manner. Thank you to those who have highlighted these issues out of concern. It is imperative our children must be kept safe. The governors have been made aware of these issues and in the past have felt it necessary to write to the residents of Bromwich Drive as follows:

30th January 2020

Dear Resident,

Bromwich Drive – Parents car parking

It has been brought to the attention of the St Joseph's Governing Body that you may have experienced inconsiderate and dangerous parking by some of the parents/guardians of the children at St Joseph's RC Primary School, putting the safety of children and others at risk. The Governing Body would like to sincerely apologise for this inconsiderate parking whether this is

- *Blocking your driveway.*
- *Preventing access down the pavement for prams/wheelchairs.*
- *Making it difficult to turn out of Bromwich Drive onto the Tamworth Road.*
- *Preventing/restricting access for emergency vehicles, for example, fire engine or ambulance.*

The school does not have any legal responsibility or jurisdiction over parking outside the school however, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 empowered Birmingham City Council to make Traffic Regulation Orders to restrict, regulate and control traffic including parking. Having said that the Governing Body would welcome any inconsiderate and dangerous parking to be reported to Birmingham City Council.

We would urge you to report any such parking that you experience to Birmingham City Council at:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20109/parking/1983/report_an_illegally_parked_vehicle

Once again please accept our apologies for the inconvenience and behaviour of a few of the inconsiderate parents/guardians of this school.

Please note that the Parking Enforcement Department has been highlighted to this concern.

Key Dates for your Diary		Dates for your diary October
Date	Time	Event
Friday 8 th October	All day	Brighten Up This Harvest Non Uniform Day – Please wear bright colours!
Monday 12 th October		Nasal Flu Vaccines (School Nurse)

Cultural Capital for October

Musician of the Month – William Grant Still

Artist of the Month - Faith Ringgold

Word of the Month – Integrity

Inspirational Person of the Month - Maya Angelou





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Rosary

As we are in the month of October, the children from all classes have the opportunity to join together to pray a decade of the Rosary in Honour of Mary. Please encourage your children to bring their own rosary beads to school to make it extra special.

October is the Month of the Rosary to honour Mary the Mother of God in a special way. We build altars and shrines in her honour and say prayers to her more so than at other times.

The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful, O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen,



Yours sincerely,

G M O'Hara
Executive Principal

Mrs N Hill
Acting Head of School

Mrs L Chambers
Acting Vice Principal

Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of St Joseph's Local Governing Body, I would like to thank you all for your support and understanding during what I appreciate is an anxious time for you all. I would also like to recognise the responsible manner in which you have responded to the rules and restrictions which have been applied whilst dropping off and collecting your child during this unprecedented time and ask you to continue to cooperate with the school's systems.

The Local Governing Body really do appreciate the support that you are giving, helping to ensure that St Joseph's is a safe environment for our children and staff.

Stay Safe and God Bless,

Maria Stirrop

Chair of Governors

