



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

Newsletter No.5

Friday 6th November 2020

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy first week back here at School. We have been very proud of the dedication all the staff have shown and their commitment to providing a high quality education to the children both at home and at school. Very well done to all the children in Y2 and Y5 who have shown how sensible and hardworking they are, completing work at home.

As we continue to develop our Remote Learning we have now decided to use Youtube as a teaching platform for year group bubbles that have to isolate. This will ensure all children have access to clear explanations and guidance about the expectations of the work set, as well as the teacher being able to deliver new teaching concepts to the children. This will help avoid any further 'gaps' in learning for children who are unable to come into school. Our School Youtube channel is unlisted, which means only the people with this link can view it. It must not be shared with anyone else. Thank you to Years 2 and 5 who have been the first to use this new style of teaching, we hope all families are finding it useful.

Congratulations to the Key Stage Two award winners before half term. The awards were as follows:

Key Stage Two

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| The Tidiness Award | Y6H | Lining Up award | Y6H |
| Lunchtime Behaviour Award | Y6H | The Attendance Award | Y4I |

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

Key Stage One

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| The Tidiness Award | Y2G | Lining Up award | FYW |
| Lunchtime Behaviour Award | Y1L | The Attendance Award | Y1L with 100% |

School Photographs

This year we have booked Academy Photography on **Monday 16th November 2020 for individual and in-school sibling photos**. Please note that due to Covid restrictions we will not be permitting any children who do not attend school into the building for photos, as we have in previous years. This is to keep everybody safe. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

Inset Days

Please note the following dates are INSET days to allow for staff training. School will be closed to all pupils on the following dates: Friday 27th November 2020, Monday 22nd February 2021 and Monday 7th June 2021.

Kindness Week

At St Joseph's we are celebrating Kindness week (Anti Bullying week) from 16th – 20th November. Encouraging kind behaviour in school is essential and we promote this through our Catholic Education. Evidence shows that promoting kindness among young people directly reduces bullying and disruptive behaviour and helps to increase social and emotional wellbeing. The whole school will be taking part in Kindness week with various activities and assemblies, while Y6 are going to be participating in a very exciting workshop.

St Vincent de Paul Society

The SVP are currently in discussions with the Gubay Foundation and it is likely that the SVP are going to receive funding from the Foundation as a result of the current climate with Covid. This is for all families within the Birmingham Archdiocese. The funding should be spent on essentials such as food and white goods for families that are struggling to get by on the very basics. SVP would like to be made aware of families, so that when funding is granted they can meet the criteria of spending the money right away for the right families and for the right reasons. If you think your family could benefit from the SVP Grant, please speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will be able to confidentially pass on your details.

Parliament Workshop

On the morning of Wednesday 25th November Y4, Y5 and Y6 will take part in a live online workshop delivered by staff from UK Parliament. This supports our work on British Values, the rule of law and democracy. The children's class teacher will be present throughout the online workshop. The session will cover the following and there will also be a chance for the children to ask questions:

- An introduction to how UK Parliament works



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- What MPs do
- The work of members of the House of Lords
- How laws are made

Covid Guidance

We have once again attached the current Covid Guidance within our MAC and Public Health England to remind all parents what must be done if a child is showing any signs or symptoms. Please take a minute to look at this guidance if you are unsure. Thank you.

Payments

Can we kindly remind parents that we no longer use ParentPay, a number of notices and letters have previously been sent explaining to parents that, as a Multi-Academy, **we have now moved over to all payments being processed via ParentMail.** Thank you for supporting us in this matter.

Sacraments

Sadly, due to the latest Government restrictions, the celebrations of First Holy Communion and Confirmation planned for during this new national Lockdown period will be unable to take place. As a result, we are postponing our First Holy Communion and Confirmation Masses due to take place between now and 2nd December. Obviously, we will continue to prepare the children in school and look to re-schedule these Sacramental Masses when the Government and Diocese advises that it is safe to do so. All planned dates after the 2nd December are also 'on hold' until we receive further clarification. Please also find attached a Statement issued this week by Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Archbishop Malcolm McMahon on behalf of all the Bishops of England and Wales regarding acts of collective worship. We have been asked to share this with our parishioners.

Cultural Capital for November

Musician of the Month – Pyotr Tchaikovsky



Artist of the Month - Andy Warhol



Word of the Month – Surrender



Inspirational Person of the Month - Greta Thunberg

Dates for your diary - November

| Date | Time | Event |
|----------------------------------|---------|--|
| Monday 16 th November | All Day | Academy Photographers in School for individual and in-school sibling pictures. |
| Friday 27 th November | | School Closed – INSET DAY |

During November we remember all the departed, especially family members and friends. 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,**



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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.**



Yours sincerely,

G M O'Hara
Executive Principal

Mrs N Hill
Acting Head of School

Mrs L Chambers
Acting Vice Principal