St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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September 2023

www.st-josephs.bexley.sch.uk

Dear Parents

Please click on the links below to access calendar events and after school clubs:

School Calendar: https://www.st-josephs.bexley.sch.uk/Diary/
Term Dates 2023/24: https://www.st-josephs.bexley.sch.uk/2023-2024_Calendar.pdf
After School Clubs: https://www.st-josephs.bexley.sch.uk/Clubs_-_Autumn_2023.pdf



Welcome to New Staff and Pupils
A warm welcome to all new pupils starting at St Joseph's this year, whether you are in the Reception Class or have joined us from a different school. Our school will be all the more special by your presence!

We also welcome a number of new staff to our school – Miss Read, Mrs Meeking, Ms Bracken, Mrs Atumuto, Mrs Newbold, Mrs Mutimer, Mrs Fulling, Mr Bannister and Mr Kibble. We look forward to working with them and are excited that they have chosen to join our school community.

We also wish Mrs Bradford, Mrs Rosen, Mrs Jones and Mrs Lauricourt speedy recoveries and look forward to their return to St Joseph's.

School Gateway – our new Online Payment System
Thank you to all the parents who have signed up for our new Online Payment System. If you have not done so already, please download the School Gateway app, a parent engagement app that will allow you to pay for school trips, after school sports clubs etc anytime from anywhere. It will also give you useful links to our website and you will be able to view the school calendar from this app too.

Apple iPhone users, download the app here: schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload
Android phone users, download the app here: schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload

Harvest
As usual we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army Food Bank. Please could donations be sent in from Monday 11th September 2023.

Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday 29th September – 9.00 am in the School Hall
Come and join other parents and staff for coffee and cake, as part of Macmillan's 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning'. All donations of cake appreciated, fake or bake! All money raised will go to Macmillan to support someone affected by cancer.

Love, Learn, Live

Emergency Contacts - updates



It is essential that we hold up to date and accurate information, including email addresses. The school is required to have three emergency contact details. Please ensure we know of any changes and we have your current email address.

End of School Collection – updated list of authorised persons



If for an extraordinary reason someone else, other than the authorised person(s) are to pick up your child(ren), please let the teacher know via the 'Contact Book' or in an emergency, the School Office (before 3.00 pm). Without permission, teachers will not let your child(ren) leave and we will need to contact you. Again, please keep us up to date of any changes.

Absences/Lates



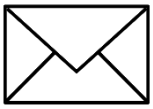
Please ring the office (leave a message – Option 1 on the answerphone before 8.30 am) to give details of why your child is not in school. If the school does not hear from you, we will consider this a safeguarding matter and ring you. Please write a note in your child's Contact Book once your child has returned to school confirming details of absence.

Attendance



44 children received certificates for 98% attendance,
34 children received certificates for 99% attendance,
11 children received certificates for 100% attendance for not missing a single day off school last year. Congratulations! ☺

Pupil Post



The vast majority of communication between school and home takes place via email. Sometimes paper correspondence will be sent home via 'pupil post' - parents need to be proactive in checking book bags and emails on a daily basis.

School Fund and School Funding in General



As many of you are aware from the news, school funding is extremely tight but St Joseph's is determined to ensure that your children have the 'best' not the 'cheapest' offer.

Parents can help by:

- Contributing the **£20** per family for school fund, much less than many schools. A separate letter will be sent home and this will be available to pay via School Gateway

School Lunches



Menus are available on the school website. Parents who choose packed lunches are reminded that the school operates a <u>no nut</u> policy to safeguard children with allergies.

Further to our letter at the end of last term, the Mayor of London is ensuring all primary school children who attend state schools in London will receive free school meals for the next full academic year. **This means that all children in our school will be entitled to free school dinner from September 2023 to July 2024.** If you would like your child to have a school meal, please put a note in your Child's Contact Book, indicating which days.

Fruit Break



A healthy mid-morning fruit snack is a great way to re-energise. Infant classes are provided with free fruit and are encouraged to eat this. Junior aged pupils are encouraged to bring in fruit from home or eat from the 'fruit box', available at first play.

Scooter/Bike Park



Children are encouraged to cycle/scooter to school as this exercise is a healthy way to start the day. Children however, should dismount and walk up the drive.

It is advisable to lock your bike/scooter in the bike shed.

Meet the Teacher



Come along and meet your child's class teacher(s). They will share information about what topics your child will be learning about this year as well as other useful information. Meet the Teacher meetings will be held on the following days:

- Tuesday 26th September 2023 – 3.30 – 4.30 pm
- Thursday 28th September 2023 – 3.30 – 4.30 pm

Curriculum Overviews - Attached



Do take the time to talk to your children about their projects as it reinforces the work they have done in school time. Reception, Autumn 2 will be sent out at a later date via Tapestry and will also be available on the school website.

Parent Helpers



The school would greatly appreciate parent help, especially with hearing children read. If you have a few hours a week spare, please consider volunteering your time. **Please write**, care of the school office, expressing your interest. Parents do not usually support their own child's class. Parent support is also needed for occasional class trips, please write and let us know if you are able to volunteer. All regular parent helpers need a DBS check which requires proof of identity and a police check. The school will pay for this check to be carried out.

Message from Crayford Police



A Crayford resident received a rather nasty email last week but thankfully took a moment to check and saw it was a scam.

If you receive an email that you believe to be a scam please forward it to:

report@phishing.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Mark Hannon

Mrs Truss

Mr Mark Hannon
Executive Head Teacher

Mrs Truss
Head of School