St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Old Road
Crayford
Kent DA1 4DZ

Head of School: Mrs A Truss BA Hons
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October 2021

www.st-josephs.bexley.sch.uk

Dear Parents

The calendar is updated every month so please update your home/family calendar.

OCTOBER 2021	
Tuesday 5th	Black History Month – infant and junior assemblies (led by Mrs Royston)
Wednesday 6th	8.30 am – Rosary before school – parents and children invited
Thursday 7th	9.15 am Year 6 and Year 1 Class Mass in church – parents invited
Friday 8th	Hello Yellow Day – Whole School Year R – Vision, Hearing, Height and Weight – School Nurse Year 6 – Height and Weight – School Nurse
Tuesday 12th	Black History Month – CARJ presentation videos
Wednesday 13th	8.30 am – Rosary before school – parents and children invited Year 2 trip to the Tower of London 6.30 pm – PTA AGM in school hall – parents invited
Thursday 14th	9.15 am – Year 3 Class Assembly - only junior children watching – parents invited
Friday 15th	Cross Country – whole school
Monday 18th	Music demonstration from Bexley Music to Junior children
Tuesday 19th	E-safety day – led by Tim Wilson – whole school
Wednesday 20th	8.30 am – Rosary before school – parents and children invited Open Morning for prospective parents to look around the school (9.15 am presentation followed by a guided tour – let friends know) E-safety Presentation to Parents – led by Tim Wilson · 2.00 - 3.00pm Parents meeting · 7.00 - 8.00pm Parents meeting
Thursday 21st	9.15 am – Year 4 Class Assembly - only junior children watching – parents invited
Friday 22nd	Year 1 trip to Museum of Kent Life
HALF TERM MONDAY 25TH – FRIDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2021	
NOVEMBER 2021	
Monday 1st	Children return to school 9.15 am – All Saints Feast Day – whole school Mass in church
Wednesday 3rd	School Photographs being taken – all children must wear winter uniform
Thursday 4th	Year 6 – Mexican Theme Day – Mexico topic 9.15 am – Year 5 Class Assembly - only junior children watching – parents invited
Friday 5th	Year 4 - Harley Davidson visitors – USA topic Year 5 – Class Cultural Theme Day
Wednesday 10th	Year 3 – Let's Get Physical – PE Theme Day
Thursday 11th	9.15 am – Year 6 Class Assembly - only junior children watching – parents invited 11.15 am – 12.15 pm – Year 2 walk into Crayford – Alcock and Brown topic
Friday 12th	Open Morning for prospective parents to look around the school (9.15 am presentation followed by a guided tour – let friends know)

Love, Learn, Live

Monday 15th	Anti-bullying week – One Kind Word Odd Socks Day the first day of Anti-Bullying Week, to celebrate what makes us all unique
Friday 19th	PTA Discos - Infants – 4.30 – 5.30 pm - Juniors – 6.00 – 7.30 pm – more information to follow
Wednesday 24th	Nasal Flu Vaccinations – whole school – details to follow shortly
Friday 26th	Open Morning for prospective parents to look around the school (9.15 am presentation followed by a guided tour – let friends know)
Tuesday 30th	Feast of St Andrew – children wear club clothes 3.30 pm – 6.30 pm – Parents' Evening – online appointments will be available early November
DECEMBER 2021	
Thursday 2nd	9.15 am Year 4 and Year 3 Class Mass in church – parents invited 3.30 pm – 6.30 pm – Parents' Evening – online appointments will be available early November
Friday 3rd	Last swimming session for Year 6
Monday 6th	2.30 pm – Infant Nativity – parents invited - ticket only event
Friday 10th	9.00 am – Reception class trip to the Library
Monday 13th	1.30 pm - Junior Carol Service in church – parents and parishioners welcome
Tuesday 14th	CRIBS Christmas Performance – in-school event only
Wednesday 15th	Christmas Party Day – children to wear own clothes, school Christmas dinner 1.15 pm - Christmas Discos (tbc)
Christmas Holidays **Monday 20th December 2021 – Wednesday 5th January 2022** **(children return on Thursday 6th January 2022)**	

Smiley Ark Breakfast Club – 7.30 am – 8.45 am – Monday - Friday
After School Club – 3.15 pm – 6.00 pm – Monday - Friday

For further details please contact Susan Ikpefuran on 07956 263531 or e-mail kids@smileyark.com

The telephone number for Smiley Ark is 07549 244180

Details of all our regular school clubs are detailed below

Day	Club	Dates and Times
Mondays	**Mathletics – Mrs Webber** Invited pupils only Please contact via your child's Contact Book	3.15 – 4.15 pm 4th October – 6th December 2021
	Orchestra – Mrs Smith Invited pupils only Please contact via your child's Contact Book.	3.15 – 4.15 pm 1st November – 6th December 2021
Tuesday	**Sports Club – Mr Willis – Years 3 and 4** Autumn Term – Football Spring Term – Hockey Summer Term - Cricket The cost is £40 for the term (£4 per session). Payment to be made by Pay 360 (SIMS Pay). Please contact via your child's Contact Book.	3.15 – 4.15 pm 21st September – 30th November 2021
Wednesday	**Football/Sports Club – Mr Brady** Two terms football/one term cricket for Years 5 and 6. The cost is £40 for the term (£4 per session). Payment to be made by Pay 360 (SIMS Pay). Please contact via your child's Contact Book. There is no charge for this club for Year 6	3.15 – 4.15 pm 22nd September – 1st December 2021
Thursdays	**Sports Club – Mr Brady – Years 1 and 2** Autumn Term – Game Skills Spring Term – Football Summer Term - Cricket The cost is £40 for the term (£4 per session). Payment to be made by Pay 360 (SIMS Pay). Please contact via your child's Contact Book.	3.15 – 4.15 pm 23rd September – 2nd December 2021
	Netball Club – Miss Whitaker Three terms of netball for years 5 and 6. The cost is £25.00 for the first term (£2.50 per session). Payment to be made by Pay 360 (SIMS Pay) Please contact via your child's Contact Book.	3.15 – 4.15 pm 30th September – 9th December 2021
	Choir – Mrs Smith Please contact via your child's Contact Book	12.45 pm – 1.15 pm 7th October – 9th December 2021
Fridays	**Mandarin Club**	3.15 pm – 4.15 pm 24th September – 3rd December 2021

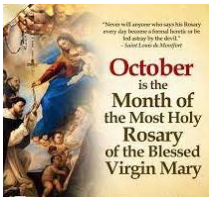
*Any clubs cancelled due to Covid will be reimbursed.

NEWSLETTER

Relief Midday Supervisor Posts



We have vacancies for Relief Midday Supervisors. Are you available to work from 12.15 pm – 1.15 pm, or do you know someone who might be suitable? The position involves supervision of children on the playground and in the dining hall. Please contact the school office for further details.



October the Month of the Holy Rosary

Parents and children are invited to join one of our Governors in saying a decade of the rosary before school. The prayer group will meet on Wednesdays: 6th, 13th and 20th October at 8.30 am in the school prayer room.

Harvest Donations



Thank you for the marvellous response to our harvest collection. The harvest display reminded the children to give thanks for the wonderful bounty God gives us. The food that you have generously donated will be collected by the Salvation Army for their food bank.



Macmillan Coffee Morning – Thank You!

£92.80 was raised at the Macmillan 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' last week by staff and parents. Cakes and refreshments were enjoyed by all. Particular thanks to parents who contributed cakes for this event. All money raised will go to Macmillan to support someone affected by cancer.

Attendance and Punctuality



For our children to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly and be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable.

Repeated poor punctuality is not acceptable. If a child misses the start of the day, they can miss work and time with their class teacher getting vital information and news for the day. When a pupil arrives late, it disrupts the lesson and can be embarrassing for the child themselves. Arriving on time will provide a smooth start to the day.



Pick Up/Drop Offs and the Church Car Park

We have been asked to remind parents that the car park next to the school does not belong to the school and parents who drop off or pick up from the car park are inconveniencing (and are sometimes rude) to the parishioners. This is not a good example to your own children. Also we have had a number of complaints from our neighbours of parents parking in their driveways. This is unacceptable. Please leave 10 minutes extra for the school run.

The no drop off/pick up rule from the car park includes parents of Smiley Ark.

Emergency Contacts - updates



It is essential that the school holds up to date contact information for your child. If you have changed your address, email and/or telephone number, please contact the school office with your updated information via your child's Contact Book.



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.

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 Pay 360 (SIMs Pay).
- Making sure that if you are entitled to Free School Meals, you register this, even if your child has a packed lunch or is in an infant class and gets a free school meal anyway.
- Thousands of pounds of extra funding is available to schools via this funding stream called Pupil Premium. St Joseph's appears to have less funding than would be expected and therefore the conclusion is that parents are not claiming what they are entitled to, and your child and the school loses out.
- Pupil Premium supported students not only benefit the school's funding in general but there are also individual advantages in terms of subsidised trips, free music lessons and priority 1:1 tuition, whatever ability your child is. I have attached a Free School Meal application form for further information and for completion if you meet the criteria.

Thank you to those parents who have already paid the school fund. If you still need to pay, please send your £20 school fund contribution as soon as possible. Please log on to your Pay 360 (formerly SIMS Pay) to pay. We rely on parents to send this amount in at the beginning of the Autumn Term. The money collected is for the extra expenses the school has to incur during the year, this includes end of term treats, discos, subsidy for outings, in-school guest speakers and theatre productions.



Winter Uniform

Please be advised that after half term, winter uniform must be worn. Please remember to label all uniform. A reminder of the school uniform is on the parents' noticeboard and school website. The children look very smart in their uniform and the wearing of school coloured hair bands completes the overall look. Please take note of the information about boys haircuts are at the bottom of the poster.

All children should now be coming into school in proper school shoes (not trainers) and girls are reminded to remove their earrings and nail varnish before they come to school. Your co-operation is appreciated.

School Lunches



The lunch menu will change to the Winter Menus after half term. The new menus are currently being updated and will be available on the school website from Monday 18th October 2021. Please be advised that the school office and kitchen staff need a notice period of one week for any changes to dinner arrangements.



Flu Vaccination Offer – Years R, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 at School

This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and can cause serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing the spread of flu. With COVID-19 still in circulation it is important to reduce the number of those becoming ill with flu this winter to help protect them, the NHS and social care. Research also shows that if you get both flu and COVID-19 at the same time you may be more seriously ill. The nasal flu vaccination will take place in school on Wednesday 24th November 2021

Please follow the link to complete an online consent form (one for each child) to ensure your child receives their vaccination. https://sav.hrch.nhs.uk/flu/2021/bexley

The vaccination is free and is a quick, simple and painless spray up the nose. Even if your child had the vaccine last year, the type of flu can vary each winter, so it is recommended to have it again this year or they won't be protected.

The healthcare team and school will follow guidelines to ensure children are safe when being offered the vaccine.

Since the programme was introduced, most children offered the vaccine in schools have had the immunisation.

Hello Yellow Day

The wellbeing and mental health of our children is incredibly important. On Friday 8th October 2021, we are asking the children to come to school wearing an additional yellow coloured item (still wearing full uniform) to brighten up the school for the day. Each class will take part in activities in their classes to reflect on the different ways that we can look after ourselves better #HelloYellow.





E-Safety Presentation for Parents

As part of our work on Safeguarding, the school has organised its annual e-safety presentations for children (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6), staff and all parents. The sessions will be led by Tim Wilson a UK Lead (ISC) Safe and Secure Online speaker.

The presentations are aimed at making children and parents aware of some potential dangers associated with mobile phone and internet use. A separate letter with more information about the presentations will be sent out shortly.

Black History Month Project

Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson and Dr Christine Darden are four hidden figures in History. Your job for October is to become a History detective and uncover their story. Choose one of these amazing women to research, then present your findings in a spectacular way to bring their story to life. Your class teacher will choose the top three projects to receive a certificate and Mrs Royston will choose one project to receive the History award.



Primary Reception Places – September 2022



The Bexley online site has now opened – www.bexley.gov.uk/admissions (for Bexley residents) and https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places and closes on 15th January 2022).

The school is holding a number of Open Mornings between 9.15 am and 10.15 am on the following dates:

- Wednesday 20th October 2021
- Friday 12th November 2021
- Friday 26th November 2021
- Tuesday 11th January 2022

A 9.15 am presentation by the Head of School will be followed by a guided tour of the school. Please remind friends and neighbours to put this date in their diary. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2022. The school welcomes applications from Catholics and non-Catholic families (who are sympathetic to values and practice).

Please note, if you are Catholic, Fr David, will be available to sign Supplementary Forms by appointment only (after school or evening). However, if you are not religious, you must still complete Part 1 of the Supplementary Form and return it to the school office.



Secondary Transfer 2022-2023 (Year 6 children)

The 'Admission to Secondary Schools in Bexley 2022' has been emailed to Year 6 detailing admission criteria and dates/times of open school sessions. If you wish to visit a secondary school during the school day, please put a note in your child's Contact Book to let the school office know.

Parents are reminded that the closing date for secondary applications is the 31st October 2021 and it is important you don't miss the deadline. To apply online, go to https://www.bexley.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/secondary-schools/starting-secondary-school and follow the links. If you do not live in Bexley you must apply to your own Local Authority.

PTA



The Parent Teacher Association are a fund raising and social event organising group. The PTA is holding its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 13th October 2021 at 6.30 pm in the school hall. This meeting will review the work over the last year and ask for people to step forward and support the association in various roles. It will also start to plan the year ahead. They would really welcome new members, say a couple of representatives from each year group. Please come along, as many hands make light work!

For further information, please contact Ms Hadley c/o school office.

- Check the PTA page on the school website
- The PTA also has its own Facebook page at 'Sjs Pta Crayford'. Please take a look to keep up to date with the latest news on fundraising events.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Truss

Mrs A Truss
Head of School