St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Old Road
Crayford
Kent DA1 4DZ

Head of School: Mrs A Truss BA Hons
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September 2021

www.st-josephs.bexley.sch.uk

Dear Parents

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

SEPTEMBER 2021	
Wednesday 1st	INSET Day
Thursday 2nd	INSET Day
Friday 10th	Year 6 Swimming Lessons begin
Sunday 12th	Education Sunday Mass at St Mary of the Crays
Monday 13th	Bexley Selection Tests this week
Wednesday 15th	2.30 pm - Welcome Meeting for new Reception parents in main hall
Thursday 16th	2.40 – 3.10 pm – Meet the Teacher – Year 1
Monday 20th	2.40 – 3.10 pm – Meet the Teacher – Year 6
Tuesday 21st	Year 5 trip to Royal Observatory Year 4 trip to Lullingstone Roman Villa 2.40 – 3.10 pm – Meet the Teacher – Year 3
Wednesday 22nd	2.40 – 3.10 pm – Meet the Teacher – Year 2
Friday 24th	9.00 am – Macmillan Coffee Morning – main hall – all parents welcome
Monday 27th	2.40 – 3.10 pm – Meet the Teacher – Year 5
Tuesday 28th	9.15 am - Harvest Assemblies
Wednesday 29th	Year 3 trip to Natural History Museum 2.40 – 3.10 pm – Meet the Teacher – Year 4
Thursday 30th	9.15 am Year 5 and Year 2 Class Mass in church – parents invited
OCTOBER 2021	
Tuesday 5th	Black History month – infant and junior assemblies
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 – Year 5 Year R – Vision, Hearing, Height and Weight – School Nurse Year 6 – Height and Weight – School Nurse
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 – 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 · 1.30 – 3.00pm Parents meeting · 7.00 - 8.30pm Parents meeting
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)
Thursday 21st	9.15 am – Year 4 Class Assembly – parents invited
Friday 22nd	Year 1 trip to Museum of Kent Life
HALF TERM MONDAY 25TH – FRIDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2021	

Love, Learn, Live

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 – 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 – 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)
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
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 cloths 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

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**	To be confirmed

*Any clubs cancelled due to Covid will be reimbursed.

NEWSLETTER



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 difference school. Our school will be all the more special by your presence!

We also welcome a number of new staff to our school – Mrs Thomas, Miss Smith, Mrs Yems, Mrs Smith and Mr Hannon (Executive Head Teacher). We look forward to working with them and are excited that they have chosen to join our school community.

Keeping Children Safe in Education – September 2021

Child Protection and Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. The school policy is on our website and the contact telephone number for Social Care is displayed on the Parent Boards and website. Any safeguarding concerns should be brought to the attention of Mrs Truss as 'Designated Lead' or Mrs Partridge.



One of the biggest concerns at St Joseph's is the use of technology and social media outside of school. Parents must be very proactive in monitoring what children send and receive.



Education Sunday

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Education Sunday Mass on Sunday 12th September 2021. Children who are attending will need to proudly wear full school uniform. We thank Fr David for his prayers for the forthcoming year.

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 13th September 2021.





Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday 24th 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.

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. We are looking to move to an online system, where you can update your emergency contacts directly. We will inform you once this is up and running.





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.



Start and End of Day Procedures

The gate opens at 8.45 am and closes at 8.55 am and children are officially late once the registers have been taken. For any lateness after 9.15 am, the children will be marked absent for that session. Being late is unsettling for your child and impacts on their learning and self-esteem. It really is the responsibility of parents to ensure that children are on time.

At the end of the day, the gate opens at 3.10 pm and closes at 3.25 pm. Any children that have not been picked up at this time, will be brought to the office. Please be prompt in collecting your child at the end of the day to avoid your child becoming anxious/worried.



Attendance

119 children received 100% attendance certificates 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.

Please be mindful that all reply slips for trips etc, should be put in an envelope correctly labelled and returned via pupil post i.e. in book bags. Please make your child(ren) aware that there is an envelope to hand in to their class teacher.

All payments should be made via the school's online payment system, Pay 360 (Sims Pay). Please put a note in your child's Contact Book if you require a new activation code.

Please note that Google Classroom and Tapestry should only be used to communicate with the class teacher about homework. Correspondence about medical appointments and absences must be communicated to the School Office.



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.

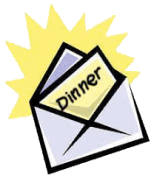
  Thousands of pounds of extra funding is available to schools via this funding stream called Pupil Premium. St Joseph's appears to have less funding than would be expected and therefore the conclusion is that parents are not claiming what they are entitled to, and your child and the school loses out.

  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.

School Lunches

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





Dinner Money Payments
Go online and pay at https://www.pay360educationpayments.com/Home

Autumn 1 - £82.80
Autumn 2 - £80.50
Full Term payment - £163.30 (36 school meals @ £2.30)

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.

Cycle parking appears to be more than adequate so a licence is not required. The good practice governing the use of bikes/scooters is posted on the bike shed. It is advisable to lock the bike/scooter.

Term Dates – 2021 - 2022
Please find attached our term dates for 2021-2022 for your information. Please note the change of the May Bank Holiday and the additional school holiday on Monday 6th June 2021.





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:

Year R – Welcome Meeting – Wednesday 15th September 2021 at 2.30 pm
Year 1 – Thursday 16th September 2021 at 2.40 – 3.10 pm
Year 2 – Wednesday 22nd September 2021 at 2.40 – 3.10 pm
Year 3 – Wednesday 21st September 2021 at 2.40 – 3.10 pm
Year 4 – Wednesday 29th September 2021 at 2.40 – 3.10 pm
Year 5 – Monday 27th September 2021 at 2.40 – 3.10 pm
Year 6 – Monday 20th September 2021 at 2.40 – 3.10 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 to be sent out at a later date via Tapestry and will also be available on the school website.





Homework
Homework has started this week. Teachers will 'post' your child's homework on Google Classroom (Tapestry for the Reception class) every Monday morning.

If your child is self-isolating due to Covid, then the class teacher will upload work for your child to do so they do not fall behind (as long as they are well enough to do it).

Reading Don't forget reading every night. Please comment and sign the Reading Record Book.

Writing For some classes, the English homework is to be completed in 'English Workbooks' focusing on spelling, punctuation and grammar and/or comprehension. This will be clarified on your child's Homework Planner.

Spelling homework will be the National Curriculum spelling list for your child's year group. The practice will be a few spellings over and over again until the spellings are well and truly embedded for the long term.

Mathematics - class teachers set exercises to support class learning on Google Classroom (Tapestry for Reception class).

RE – Read with and encourage your child to complete the 'Wednesday Word'.

Instrument Lessons



A wide variety of instrument lessons are available for students to learn. Mrs Smith has sent out a number of different letters to families who have expressed an interest. Mrs Smith has asked me to remind you that lessons start week commencing Monday 13th September 2021.



School Clubs

All clubs, including Music lessons will start next week, beginning Monday 20th September 2021. Choir will start in October and Orchestra club will start after half term.

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. We hope to begin parent helpers hearing children read after the half term, providing that case numbers start to go down. Ideally, we would require proof of a negative Lateral Flow Test prior to coming in to help.



PTA

The Parents' and Teachers' 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!

You should also receive a letter from the PTA regarding Pantomime tickets at the Orchard Theatre (including payment details). Payment needs to be sent in via pupil post by the 1st October 2021 at the latest.

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 and 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.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Truss

Mrs A Truss
Head of School