St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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September 2022

www.st-josephs.bexley.sch.uk

Dear Parents



We were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. On Friday 9th September, the pupils and staff at St Joseph's gathered for a special assembly to recognise the life and work of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. The children have been encouraged to reflect on their memories of the Queen and how she has inspired them. A memorial has been created for her at the main entrance. We offer the Royal Family our sincere condolences at this difficult time. We thank her for her service and in the words of Paddington Bear, '*Thank you Ma'am for everything'.*

The funeral of Queen Elizabeth will take place on Monday 19th September 2022, which has been declared a bank holiday. **Therefore the school will be closed on this day**.

A statement from Archbishop John Wilson on the Death of HM Queen Elizabeth II:

The announcement of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is a cause of great sadness for her beloved family, for the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth, and all people of goodwill.
We give thanks to Almighty God for Her Majesty's life of unfailing dedication and the outstanding example of Her Majesty's service, faithful unto death.

As a devoted disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, Her Majesty witnessed the Gospel of God's love for all people and worked tirelessly to strengthen harmony, to defend justice and to promote peace. We now pray for the repose of her soul, remembering the promise of Christ, who is the Resurrection and the life: 'I am with you always, even until the end of time.' (Matthew 28:20) May Her Majesty rest in peace and rise in glory.

We pray for our King, for the Queen Consort and for all the Royal Family at this time of bereavement. We offer to them our deepest sympathy and condolence.

Love, Learn, Live

Let us also pray for our United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, grateful to God for Queen Elizabeth II's remarkable life and selfless commitment to the promises she made at her Coronation. Her Majesty has been a part of all our lives and we shall miss her deeply.

We beseech you Almighty God,
that your servant Elizabeth,
who by your mercy received the government of this realm,
and who dedicated her life entirely to the service of her people,
may now rest from her labours in the peace of Christ
which surpasses all understanding.
Through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A formal Proclamation event was held on Sunday 11 September at the Civic Offices, Bexleyheath. They will shortly have a condolence book available in the reception area at the Civic Offices for those who wish to pay their respects to Her Majesty. Full details of this, as well as where floral tributes can be left and details of the flags across the borough, will shortly be available on the Bexley website.

Buckingham Palace has also arranged an online form where anyone can send a message of condolence https://www.royal.uk

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 new members of staff to our school – Miss Smith, Teaching Assistant, and Mr Whitehead, Sports Coach. 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 2022



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 Safeguarding 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



It was lovely seeing you all at the Education Sunday Mass at 10.30 am on Sunday 11th September 2022. Children looked wonderful as they proudly wore their full school uniform. We thank Fr David for his prayers for the forthcoming year.

Harvest



We are pleased to continue our annual collection of non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army Food Bank. Please could donations be sent in from Monday 12th September 2022.

Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday 30th September 2022 – 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! This is a worthwhile cause and 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.

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 is the responsibility of parents to ensure that children are on time.

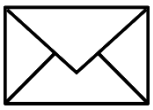
At the end of the day, the gate opens at 3.10 pm and closes at 3.25 pm. Any children that have not been picked up at this time, will be brought to the office. Please be prompt in collecting your child at the end of the day to avoid your child becoming anxious/worried.

Attendance



42 children received certificates for 98% attendance,
32 children received certificates for 99% attendance,
22 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.

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. 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 class work/information. 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 next week and this will be available to pay via Pay 360.

- 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. Please encourage your child to eat healthily (e.g. no sweets or fizzy drinks in packed lunches).



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

School meals are £2.45 per day, £12.25 per week

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. All children should also bring in a refillable, labelled water bottle (no squash).



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/scooter 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 your bike/scooter.

Term Dates – 2022 - 2023
Please find attached our term dates for 2022-2023 for your information. The term dates for 2023-2024 are available on the school website.



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 20th September 2022 – 3.30 – 4.30 pm
- Thursday 22nd September 2022 – 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. Curriculum Overviews are also available on the school website.



Homework
Homework starts week beginning Monday 12th September has. Teachers will 'post' your child's homework on Google Classroom (Tapestry for the Reception class) every Monday morning.



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 mathematical 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 junior children to learn. Mrs Tylee will be sending out a number of different letters to families who have expressed an interest. Mrs Tylee has asked me to remind you that lessons start week commencing Monday 3rd October 2022.

School Clubs



All clubs, will start week beginning Tuesday 20th September 2022.

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.

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 12th October 2022 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!

Last term, a letter was sent out from the PTA regarding Pantomime tickets at the Orchard Theatre (including payment details). Please note that payment for these tickets at The Orchard Theatre need to be sent in via pupil post by the 3rd October 2022 at the latest.

Secondary Transfer 2023-2024 (Year 6 children)



The 'Admission to Secondary Schools in Bexley 2023' 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 Bexley secondary applications is the 31st October 2022 and it is important you don't miss the deadline. To apply online, please visit: 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

Mark Hannon

Mr Mark Hannon
Executive Head Teacher

Mrs Truss

Mrs Truss
Head of School

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

SEPTEMBER 2022	
Monday 5th	INSET Day
Tuesday 6th	Children return to school
Sunday 11th	Education Sunday Mass at St Mary of the Crays
Monday 12th	Homework to start this week Reception children start full time Collection of Harvest donations
Tuesday 13th	Eco-Warriors - Step up to the Plate
Wednesday 21st	Year 5 trip to Royal Observatory
Thursday 22nd	9.15 am Year 3 and Year 4 Class Mass in church – parents invited 3.30 – 4.30 pm – Meet the Teacher and understand the curriculum parent meetings
Monday 26th	PTA Fundraising – Smarties to be given to all children to fill up with coins 7.00 pm - RHSE Meeting for all parents – main hall – information to follow
Tuesday 27th	Harvest Assemblies – led by the Salvation Army (tbc)
Wednesday 28th	Year 3 trip to Natural History Museum
Thursday 29th	9.15 am – Year 6 Class Assembly – parents invited
Friday 30th	9.00 – 10.00 am – Macmillan Coffee Morning – main hall – all parents welcome 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm – Open Afternoon for prospective Reception 2023 parents
OCTOBER 2022	
Monday 3rd	'How to Pray the Rosary' sheets to be given out 7.00 pm – School Journey meeting for Year 6 parents – main hall
Tuesday 4th	Black History month – infant and junior assemblies
Wednesday 5th	8.30 am – Rosary before school – parents and children invited
Thursday 6th	9.15 am – Year 3 Class Assembly – parents invited
Friday 7th	PTA Fundraising – children to bring back Smarties tubes filled with coins
Wednesday 12th	8.30 am – Rosary before school – parents and children invited Year R – Vision, Hearing, Height and Weight – School Nurse Year 6 – Height and Weight – School Nurse 6.30 – 7.30 pm – PTA AGM in school hall – parents invited
Thursday 13th	Fr David visiting Year R – tbc 9.15 am – Year 5 Class Assembly – parents invited
Friday 14th	9.15 – 10.15 am – Open Morning for prospective Reception 2023 parents
Wednesday 19th	8.30 am – Rosary before school – parents and children invited Year 6 – School Journey
Thursday 20th	Year 6 – School Journey 9.15 am – Year 4 Class Assembly – parents invited
Friday 21st	Year 6 – School Journey
HALF TERM MONDAY 24TH – FRIDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2022	
NOVEMBER 2022	
Tuesday 1st	Children return to school 9.15 am – All Saints Feast Day – whole school Mass in church
Wednesday 2nd	School Photographs being taken – all children must wear winter uniform
Friday 4th	Year 5 – Medieval Theme Day
Thursday 10th	9.15 am Year 6 and Year 1 Class Mass in church – parents invited
Monday 14th	5.00 – 6.00 pm – Open Evening for prospective Reception 2023 parents
Thursday 24th	9.15 am Year 5 and Year 2 Class Mass in church – parents invited
Tuesday 29th	3.30 pm – 6.30 pm – Parents' Evening – online appointments will be available early November
Wednesday 30th	Feast of St Andrew – children wear club clothes Year R trip to Crayford Library

DECEMBER 2022	
Thursday 1st	3.30 pm – 6.30 pm – Parents' Evening – online appointments will be available early November
Wednesday 7th	2.15 – 3.15 pm – Infant Nativity – parents invited
Friday 9th	9.15 – 10.15 am – Open Morning for prospective Reception 2023 parents
Wednesday 14th	Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday 15th	1.30 – 2.30 pm – Junior Christmas Carol Service in church – parents invited
Friday 16th	CRIBS Christmas Play – in-school event
Wednesday 21st	INSET Day – school closed
Thursday 22nd	School Holidays

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 Smiley Ark Kids Office on 07947 910282 or e-mail enquiries@smileyark.com
The telephone number for Smiley Ark is 07947 909082

Details of all our regular school clubs are detailed below

Day	Club	Dates and Times
Monday	**Mathletics – Mrs Webber** Invited pupils only Please contact via your child's Contact Book	3.15 – 4.15 pm 26th September – 28th November 2022
	Netball Club – Miss Whitaker Three terms of netball for Years 5 and 6. The cost is £36.00 for the Autumn term (£4 per session). Payment to be made by Pay 360 Please contact via your child's Contact Book.	3.15 – 4.15 pm 26th September – 28th November 2022
Tuesday	**Sports Club – Mr Whitehead – Years 5 and 6** 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. Please contact via your child's Contact Book.	3.15 – 4.15 pm 20th September – 29th November 2022
Wednesday	**Games Skills Club – Mr Whitehead – Year 1** 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. Please contact via your child's Contact Book.	3.15 – 4.15 pm 21st September – 30th November 2022
	Choir – Mrs Tylee – Years 3, 4, 5, 6 Please contact via your child's Contact Book	3.15 – 4.15 pm 21st September – 30th November 2022
	Mandarin Club – Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 Mandarin lessons led by a teacher from Dartford Grammar School This club is free of charge	3.15 – 4.15 pm 21st September – 30th November 2022
Thursday	**Games Skills Club – Mr Whitehead – Year 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. Please contact via your child's Contact Book.	3.15 – 4.15 pm 22nd September – 1st December 2022
	Orchestra – Mrs Tylee – Years 4, 5 and 6 Invited pupils only Please contact via your child's Contact Book.	3.15 – 4.15 pm 22nd September – 1st December 2022
Friday	**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. Please contact via your child's Contact Book.	3.15 – 4.15 pm 23rd September – 2nd December 2022