

St Joseph's School Newsletter – March 2017

As we are in the Season of Lent a time when Christians prepare for the death and resurrection of Jesus, the children have made Lenten promises. During Lent, we try to



become closer to God and Jesus. For 40 nights and 40 days, we think of God and Jesus more. Lent began on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday. Christians may fast, during this time. When you fast, you give up some of your favourite things. Some examples include, you could give up chocolate, crisps or even McDonalds! As well as fasting, Christians try to be closer to God by praying to him. So, during Lent try and fast and pray. Be determined and don't give up!

Parents Evening

Thank you for the excellent turn out. 89% of parents attended but if you were unable to attend then please contact the office to arrange an appointment

Questionnaires

Thank you very much for completing the school questionnaires which were extremely positive. 94% or more parents / carers strongly agreed or agreed to the statements in the questionnaire. We take your comments very seriously and are always looking to improve the provision we provide.

Some quotes from parents– “I am very pleased with my child's progress”; “staff and children are always welcoming”; “all concerns raised have been dealt with promptly”; “I always praise the school especially in collaboration with parents”; “always a happy place”.

There were questions raised about extra curricular activities and the choice available to certain groups. Year 1 was specifically mentioned. Currently Y1 can go to dance on a Monday but from your feedback we are currently organising a multi skills after school club for Reception, Y1 and Y2 so we widen the choice available. We do have a good range of extra curricular clubs and the current terms are advertised in the playground display boards and on the school website.

Parents also mentioned information they received during parents evening and in the Autumn term, before the next parents evening you will receive an overview of what information you can expect to hear from your child's class teacher.

Headlice

Please can you check your children's hair weekly as we have had cases of headlice in school. You can find lots of useful information on Headlice.org

Diary Dates

Easter Story Liturgies 9am

9 am 3rd April - Palm Sunday Reception, Y1 and Y2

9 am 4th April - Last Supper Y3/4

9 am 5th April - Garden of Gethsemane and The Crucifixion

9.15 am 6th April - KS2 Reconciliation (**parents welcome**)

9.15 am 7th April - Rainbow Awards

7th April Easter Egg Raffle & Cake sale

School finishes for Easter

3.15pm on 7th April.

School reopens

Monday 8.40am 24th April 2017

World Book Day

A huge thank you is due to everyone who dressed up their potato as a book character for World Book Day – there were some amazing potatoes and the judging proved very difficult. Our Chair (Dave Tindall) and Vice Chair (Rachel Parker) of the Governing Body had the difficult task of deciding the winners.

Visitors to school this term

NSPCC

Skipping School

Active Citizenship Programme

Healthy Heart Workshop

Yoga Bugs

Fund Raising

CAFOD (Catholic Aid for Overseas Development)

We are fundraising for CAFOD during lent by collecting any loose change and also holding a cake sale on Friday 7th April at 2pm. Donations greatly accepted on the morning of the sale.

CAFOD cake sale on Friday 7 April and small change jars in class - Zambia Easter egg raffle -50p a strip

Donations of Easter Egg (large or small) or bars of chocolate will be greatly received.

Dancing Classes

Stokes Collins School of Irish Dancing are holding classes every Thursday 4pm – 5pm starting on 2nd March at St Teresa's RC Primary. **This is for children in Y4 and above only.** Classes will be free initially.

Information

Regular School attendance is really important The Government regard 96% as the minimum satisfactory attendance for a primary school pupil.

Attendance Facts

90% attendance sounds good but take a look at these facts:

90% attendance over 1 week = ½ day missed every week

90% attendance over 1 year = 4 missed weeks

90% attendance over 5 years = ½ a school year missed.

A 2 week holiday each year in primary school means a total of **14 weeks** teaching time missed - this could have a real impact on their basic literacy and numeracy skills. Research suggests that 17 missed school days a year = a GCSE grade DROP in achievement (DfE). If you achieve 90% in an exam you would be pleased with yourself. However, the pupil who sits down for GCSE exams with 99% attendance next to someone with 90% attendance has actually been at school for a whole year longer!

The greater the attendance, the greater the achievement!

Our Whole School Attendance from September 2016 is 94.5%

Spring Term so far is:

Rec 95%	Y1 97%	Y2 96%
Y3/4 95%	Y4/5 95%	Y5/6 94%

Eligibility check for free school meals

Are you in receipt of any of the following:

Income support,

Income based JSA

Income based ESA

Support under part VI of the immigration and Asylum Act 1999

The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16190)

Working Tax Credit run on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit Universal Credit

Has your child:

Been looked after by the Local Authority for at least one day

Been adopted from care

Been fostered

Left care through special guardianship or been subject to a child arrangement order

Been awarded DLA (Disability Living Allowance)

You could be entitled to free school meal funding. Please contact the Benefits Office on 284188 for an eligibility check.

It is also important that you claim this entitlement even if your child is receiving free school meals as part of EY and KS1 as school receives additional funding for each of these children.