



Welcome Back

Welcome back from what I hope was a restful half term holiday. We are very happy to welcome back the children and realise that this is still a difficult time for many children and families. As always, we will be supporting our children to be happy, safe and have fun whilst learning in school and will continue to provide them with as much 'normality' as possible.

Chair of Governors

After many years of dedication to the Governing Body of St. Joseph's, we are sad to inform you that Paul Frances has decided that it is time to step down from his role as a governor. Paul has been a fantastic member of the school over many years and as Chair of Governors has been a loyal and proactive support to all at St. Joseph's. On behalf of all of the staff, children and Governors, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Paul for all of his work and wish him the very best for the future.

Lisa Tulett, a long standing member of our governing body, is our new Chair of Governors at St. Joseph's.

Remembrance Day

Throughout the coming weeks, leading up to Remembrance Day, the children will be learning all about what 'remembrance' really means. They will look closely at the history of Remembrance Day and listen to some music and create art work linked to this. They will share stories and poems around this theme. It is a brilliant opportunity to explore and celebrate our British Culture and heritage with the children.

Poppies on sale

Poppies are on sale every day in school for a small donation. We ask that when the children buy the poppies they keep them to wear at home to ensure the safety of everyone.

Remembrance Tree

We also remember and pray for, more than ever this year, our own loved ones during the month of November. Last year, we sent home stars for children and families to complete to remember family members that have died, these were then brought into school and hung on our remembrance tree. This year, with the restrictions that we have in place, we will still be having our Remembrance Tree in school but each class will be designing stars linked to a class theme for the tree.



All of your loved ones who have died will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers throughout November and will be remembered in a special way on our Remembrance Tree this year.



Children In Need

We are organising a non-uniform day for Children in Need on **Friday 13th November 2020**. Children are invited to wear their own clothes, or spots if they wish. If you would like to make a small donation please feel free to, however, this is optional as school will be making a donation from school fund. If you would like to donate, please see a payment item on ParentPay.



Parents' Evening

This year Parent Consultations will be taking place via telephone. You will be contacted shortly by your child's class teacher in order to inform you of the date and time slot of your consultation.



Sacramental Preparation

We know that Sacramental Preparation is a very important part of our children's spiritual learning journey in school. At the moment we are unsure of how this preparation will work. As soon as we have more information we will let you know.

Sponsored Fun Run

Our sponsored Fun Run took place today—well done to all of the children for taking part and with such big smiles! All sponsorship money raised can be paid via ParentPay at any time, with all proceeds raised going towards playtime resources for the children. Photographs of the event will be added to our school website soon and we will let you know the total raised as soon as possible!

Winter Weather/ Health and Safety

As we move towards the colder months, and potentially inclement weather, we would like to remind you that if school is forced to close due to the weather, you will be informed of the closure via text message and information on our school website.

During periods of snow/ice, where school is still open, please note that in line with our site risk assessments, certain pathways and areas of the school will be gritted and marked out for you to use. For your safety, please ensure that during these times you **only use the gritted and safely identified pathways** in order to stay safe on the school grounds.

Anti-Bullying week

Anti bullying Week 2020 is being held between Monday 16th and Friday 20th November and is organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. This year the theme is 'United against Bullying'. Children will be taking part in lots of activities linked to Anti-Bullying over the week, which forms part of the PSHE teaching in all schools. If you would like to find out any more information about Anti-Bullying week this year you could visit the website <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week>

Social Distancing

Polite reminder: Please ensure that all times whilst on school site you keep to the strict social distancing rule of 2m from other people. This is a very important factor in keeping all members of our school community safe and we appreciate your cooperation. If you would like to speak to your child's class teacher, please email or ring school as they will be unable to have face to face conversations for safety reasons.

Christmas Activities in School



Whilst Christmas will look very different in school this year, we still intend on making it as special and memorable as possible for the children.

We are also currently working on ideas to ensure that the children can still take part in some fun celebrations, safely, within their bubbles. More information will follow.

Important Dates

Please note that school will **close for Christmas on Friday 18th December 2020** and will **re-open on Tuesday 5th January**.