

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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REMINDER

- 9:00 Friday 21st October— Friends AGM & MacMillan Coffee Morning
- School breaks up for half term Friday 21st at 3:15.
- School reopens Monday 31st October at 8:40am.
- Parent Consultations on Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd November.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY OCTOBER

9:00am Friends AGM & Coffee Morning—Dining Hall	21
3:15pm Break up for half term	
8:40 School reopens after half term	31
9:30 Open Morning for prospective parents	29
Y5 & Y6 Police Talk	29
Y6 Parent Consultations—Miss McManus	30
9:00 Phonics Meeting—Reception & Year 1 Parents	30

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3:30pm Maths Workshop for Y1 & Y2 parents	3
3:30pm Maths Workshop for Y5 & Y6 parents	4
9:00 Nursery Curriculum Mtg 12:30 Nursery Curriculum Mtg	5
Barnet Food Education Event	6
3:30pm Maths Workshop for Y3 & Y4 parents	6
Y5 Cycle Confidence Trg. begins	10

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of the first half term, may I thank you for all your support for the children and the school. We have had a very busy start to the school year, with teachers and children quickly getting to know each other and continuing on with interesting lessons and challenges. We are very pleased to see all the children looking so well turned-out in their school uniform—on a recent school trip we were mistaken for a private school due to the smartness of our uniform and the children's excellent behaviour!

A special welcome to all the pupils and parents who have joined our school for the first time. We hope you will all be very happy in our school community.

Our first assembly was based on the theme of 'New Beginnings' and the children were encouraged to develop a 'can do' attitude, appreciating that nothing is beyond their reach with a bit of effort. I look forward to a year of success for every child in our school, both on a social and academic level.

I am sure you will join me in welcoming our new teaching staff to St. Joseph's:

Mrs. R. Doherty Reception/EYFS leader

Mr. T. Edgar Year 1

Miss C. Rooney Year 3

Miss A. Jolliffe Year 4

Mr. J. Woolman Year 4

Mrs. A. Dearden-Hall Year 5

A warm welcome also to our new Teaching Assistants: Mrs. Pilat, Mrs. Tommy, Mrs. Dias-Gouveia, Mrs. Szabo & Mrs. Amaratunge who will be supporting in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

They have all commented on the very special atmosphere of the school and that their initial days have been happy and busy ones.

Curriculum Meetings

We have been holding a series of meetings for parents to give further information about the curriculum, routines and expectations throughout the year. Year 6 parents have an opportunity for an individual meeting with your child's teacher also and support, if needed, on secondary school applications.

It has been great to see so many of you at the recent meetings which have been held in our lovely new hall.

Summer Works

We have had extensive works completed over the summer—the new outdoor Reception playground installation is finally ready and our downstairs (ex-Y1) classroom has been completely redecorated. We have also installed a security swipe-card system throughout all our buildings, a new telephone system now links all areas of the school and we have also introduced a new digital visitor 'signing in' system, as you may have seen when walking through the main entrance. The dead tree in the playground has been removed, potholes in the playground tarmac filled in and a new floor installed in the 'gazebo' near the playground. New 'smart' screens have been installed in all Reception, Y6 and one Y2 class as well as new projectors where needed for the current interactive screens.

Uniform

Full winter uniform must be worn after half-term. Trainers for PE must be mainly plain black or white—no coloured trainers allowed. Children with incorrect trainers will be asked to wear a pair of plimsolls from the medical room for the day. Hair accessories for girls must be blue or black. Please try to label all uniform so that misplaced items can be returned to their rightful owner. Thank you for your support!



Attendance & Punctuality

Doors open at 8.40am. and pupils should go directly to cloakrooms and classrooms, where the teachers await them. Registers are taken at 8.50am. Doors will close at 8:50am as children should be in their classes by then. Children arriving after 8:50 must come to the main entrance where they need to be signed in using our new digital entry system, which is directly linked to the school office. A reason must be given for the lateness. All latenesses, as well as absences, are recorded on the child's end of year report. You, as parents, are responsible for ensuring your child arrives at school on time. Please make every effort to help your child be punctual in the morning. If you need to speak to the teacher, please make an appointment before school or ask to speak to the teacher at the end of the day. It is vital that your child attends school every day and appointments must be made out of school hours or in the holidays. Our school attendance **target is at least 96.5%**. This is in line with government and Barnet expectations. The classes with the best attendance & punctuality will receive a special cup in assembly and get extra playtime.



Attendance & Punctuality up to 14.10.16

Class	%	No. of lates
1J	95.90	5
1S	98.35	5
1T	96.71	14
2S	98.44	5
2T	<u>99.01</u>	2
3S	97.56	2
3T	90.67	13
4S	98.84	2
4T	97.98	12
5S	98.23	26
5T	97.84	6
6S	97.17	13
6T	95.00	9
6J	92.02	14

Pupil Premium: The school receives valuable additional funding for some families. This funding is used to enhance your child's learning in many different ways e.g. additional support, learning experiences and may help with payments for school trips. This funding is a vital part of the school's budget so please read the criteria below to see if you qualify.

If either parent is on income support, job seekers allowance, is in receipt of child tax credit but not working tax credit and has an income less than £16,190 or is an asylum seeker supported by the NASS or the local council – please use this website to check your eligibility

<https://pps.lgfl.org.uk/>

As a thank you for taking the time to do this, you get free Antivirus software to use at home, regardless of the outcome.



Roald Dahl Day

On Tuesday 13th September we celebrated the great author's birthday by hearing parts of our favourite stories read by different class teachers and displaying our amazing Dahl inspired work. We also dressed up as our favourite characters from the books and had assemblies based on Roald Dahl and his stories. It was a very enjoyable and fun day for all involved. Thank you, parents, for being so creative indeed with the outfits!



Brighten up the Harvest/CAFOD Assembly

On Thursday 6th October a representative from CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) presented special assemblies for children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 on the agency's work with various communities around the world to help them develop self-sufficiency so that they are able to grow their own food. The children had the opportunity to learn more about life in these communities and the challenges that they face. We then held a 'Brighten up the Harvest' Mufti (own clothes) Day on 14th October in order to raise money for CAFOD. Thank you for all your donations—we managed to raise £493.03 which will be sent to CAFOD.

Bikeability

Last week Y5 pupils had an opportunity to complete the Bikeability award course, which is a new standard for cycle training. To get their Bikeability award, children were instructed on how to ride their bikes to the Government approved National Standard for Cycle training, which sets out the training and skills essential for making cycling trips in today's conditions. Children were taught the essential procedures and skills they need to cycle safely. The standard has been developed by over 20 organisations and is maintained by the professional body for cycle training, the Cycle Training Reference Group.





Thank you!

A great big thank you to BRADA the Polish building company owned by two of our parents, Mihael Wilczynski's and Olivia Dominiak's dads. During the summer holidays they made and donated a superb outdoor 'mud' kitchen for the Nursery & the mums helped kit it out. The kitchen is used regularly by the children and has added greatly to their learning environment. We really appreciate all the support and help that parents provide to the school. Many thanks again to BRADA!

Volunteer helpers

If any parent is able to help out for a few hours weekly in school, either by listening to children read, helping with displays or books, doing some gardening with children etc. please let us know. We always need help and we know that our parents have many skills which would be useful. Please drop into the office and pick up a volunteer form.



School Meals Taster Menu



We have had many compliments following the two free taster sessions held last week for all parents and children. Parents were able to sample a selection from the range of healthy food choices prepared daily by our kitchen staff for the children. We are glad you enjoyed it!

Friends AGM/MacMillan Coffee Morning

All parents of the school automatically become Friends of St. Joseph. The Friends support the school by organising various events throughout the school year to bring people together and to raise much needed funds for the school. You are all invited to the Annual General Meeting this Friday, 9:00 in the Dining Hall as well as to the MacMillan Coffee Morning, which raises funds for those suffering from cancer. Please try to come along, have some coffee and cake, and listen to the valuable work which the Friends have carried out in recent years. You may wish to stand as a member of the committee or simply to volunteer to help when needed as a 'helping hand'. We look forward to seeing as many of you on Friday morning as possible.



Parent Consultations

Parents of children in all classes between Reception—Y5 will have parent consultation meetings with the class teacher on Tuesday 1st November and Wednesday 2nd November. Please log in online to book your time, if you have not yet done so. Many thanks. (Year 6 consultations have already taken place due to secondary transfer issues).

With all best wishes for a successful and happy academic year to everybody and a lovely half term break!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. I. Ciapryna