



4th September 2018

Welcome to the new Academic Year

Dear Parents

I trust you all had a wonderful summer break; rested and relaxed we look forward to working towards great achievements in the academic year ahead.

A special welcome to all our new families. We hope you enjoy being part of the St Joseph's community and that your child settles in well to their new learning environment. We have experienced staff who will be only too willing to help with any concerns or questions you may have.

Work on the playground commenced over the holidays and as you can see is showing a marked improvement with the removal of the old trees and their roots which had made the surface very unsafe. It is a work in progress, but the end result will be well worth waiting for.

Just a few points to take on board for the new term:

Start/finish of the school day:

The doors and gates to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School are open from 8.30am and the school bell is rung at 8.40am. At 8.40am all pupils should be in their line waiting for their teacher to collect them. All doors and gates are closed at 8.50am and all pupils arriving after this time will need to go to the front office to sign in.

The doors and gates are reopened at 3.05pm for the parents to enter and collect their children. The children are brought out of class at 3.15pm and will be lined up at the positions they were dropped off at in the morning.

School dinner price increase (Y3-6):

ISS our school dinner providers, have informed us that there has been a price increase in the cost of school dinners with immediate effect. The cost of a child's school dinner is now £2.34 per day, £11.70 per week. This is an unfortunate increase but ISS have pointed out that there has been no increase in their cost of dinners to parents for some time. We will obviously keep a close eye on the value for money element.

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If your child is in year 3-6 and you would like them to have school dinners, we ask that you pay in advance for the weekly dinners and that your account is kept in credit at all times. The school is required to cover any debts owed to ISS from our own school budget. This means that those parents who do not pay in advance for their children's school meals are affecting every child in the school as these debts must be met from the school's already limited funding. As you can imagine this situation would be unsustainable.

Dinner money for this week, i.e. 3 days, will be £7.02. The normal 5 day weekly charge will be £11.70. If you would like to pay in advance for the half-term, the amount due will be £77.22. ***Please note that our preferred method of payment is online; the school offices do not hold change for cash payments.***

Breakfast Club:

Breakfast Club runs daily from 7.50 am to 8.40 am. You do not have to book in advance and the cost per session is £2.50. As with school dinners, it is important that you pay either on the morning your child attends or online in advance for the days/weeks ahead. Again, the school cannot cover any outstanding debts which occur.

Attendance:

In our effort to improve overall attendance at St Joseph's, I would encourage you to make dental and medical appointments out of school time. If this is not possible, please ensure that your child is present for BOTH registration periods during the day (8.50 to 9.30 am and 1.00 to 2.00 pm) and please do not take siblings out of school at the same time. Failure to be present at registration affects both your child's individual attendance level and attendance levels for the whole school.

Uniform:

In the hope that we have a mild start to the Autumn term, the children can continue to wear their summer uniform, or you may choose to put them straight into their winter uniform. Following my letter in July with regard to new the new Uniform Policy, I would ask you to please visit the school website to review the policy for all uniform requirements.

Stationery:

With effect from the Autumn term children are no longer required to bring in any pencil cases and stationery.

The school will provide pens, pencils, glue and other resources for children in all year groups. Children bringing in their own equipment has led to a distraction from learning in the past – this is something I am keen to avoid.

Mid-morning snacks:

Children in Reception to Year 2 are provided with a piece of fruit and milk for their mid-morning break. Children in Year 3-6 are permitted to bring in a piece of fruit or small snack, i.e. crackers etc. (no chocolate bars or crisps) for their 11.00 am break. You can find healthy snack ideas by visiting the Change4Life website.

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/food-facts/healthier-snacks-for-kids>

Please note there must be **NO NUT** products brought onto the school premises in either a snack or in lunch-boxes. Please check the ingredients of any snack you provide to your child.

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Emergency Contact Forms:

Emergency contact forms will be given out on Wednesday to children in Years 1-6. Please ensure you complete the form and return it to the school office by **Monday, 10th September** at the latest. We must now have **THREE** contact numbers for all children.

I look forward to meeting with all the new families to St Joseph's in due course but in the meantime may I wish all of you a very good start to the Autumn term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Lane', written in a cursive style.

Dr James Lane
Executive Headteacher

Inspired by St Joseph, together with Christ, we learn, we grow, we love.