



9th September 2019

Welcome to the new Academic Year

Dear Parents

Welcome back to school! I hope you have all had a wonderful summer break and that the children were excited, if not a little apprehensive, about starting a new term at St Joseph's. We are looking forward to accomplishing great things in the 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. Our experienced staff are always here to help should you have any questions; please do not hesitate to ask.

School improvements

Redecorations and roofing: The improvements to the fabric of the school continue and, after the improvements to the playground last year, we have secured £150,000 to repair our damaged roof and completely redecorate 5 classrooms and some other areas of the school. Consequently, some of the oldest classrooms in the school (Year 2 and 3) now look brand new. We had hoped for all the works to be completed by now, but the scaffolding for the roofing works is still in place and some of the redecoration has had to be delayed until half term. These are essential works so please bear with us.

School dinners: For a while now I have been worried about the quality of the school dinners. So at the end of last year we appointed a new school meals provider – Olive Dining. Already the meals have improved tremendously – some of the children are saying they are the best lunches they have ever had! The new menus are available on the school website. Additionally, over the holidays, the dining hall was given a fresh coat of paint by the company, so not only are the meals better – the whole dining experience for our children has improved.

<https://stjps.org/breakfast-lunch-menus/>

Just a few reminders about school dinners; 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 Olive Dining from our own school budget. This means that those parents who do not pay in advance for their child's school meals are effecting 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 is £2.34 per day or the 5 day weekly charge is £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.**

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Just a few further 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 8.30 am and the school bell is rung at 8.40 am. Parents of children in Year 1-4 need to wait with their child in the playground until their class teacher arrives to line the children up. By 8.40 am all pupils should be in their line waiting for their teacher to lead them into school. All doors and gates are closed at 8.50 am and any pupils arriving after this time will need to come through the St Joseph's Grove entrance and sign in on the screen at the Reception desk.

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

Pupil Collection Forms

The green Pupil Collection form sent out on Thursday needs to be returned to your child's class teacher as soon as possible.

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. Please visit the school website to review the Uniform Policy for all uniform requirements.

<https://stjps.org/school-uniform/>

We were left with an abundance of unnamed lost property at the end of the summer term so we ask that all items of clothing are named clearly – it makes for an easy return to the rightful owner.

Stationery:

Children are not 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 (if your child is over 5 years of age you will need to pay for milk). 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>

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

Colindale Food Bank

We would like to continue to support our local foodbank in Colindale this term. Please drop donations into the box provided in the main entrance hallway. A list of required items is on show above the box. We are hoping for a collection fortnightly – this will depend on the amount of donations.

Welcome Meetings

There will be Welcome Meetings for parents in the course of the next few weeks. Further information will follow.

Miss Flitton, as you will know her, got married during the summer term and she will now be known as Mrs Keating. Congratulations to the happy couple.

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



Dr James Lane
Executive Headteacher

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