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Head Teacher's Newsletter April 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

On behalf of myself and all the staff of St Joseph's School, I would like to welcome you to our latest Newsletter which I hope you will find useful and informative.

We are looking forward to a busy and exciting final term and I am attaching a diary to show some of the particular events which will be happening between now and the summer holidays. Other events may well be taking place so please check your child's bag regularly to make sure that you do not miss anything. Our website is being updated at the moment so may not be up-to-date, but our Facebook page, Twitter feed and 'Schoop' text service also advertise our events so please make sure you are registered and that we have up-to-date contact details for you.

Twitter, Schoop and Facebook

As mentioned above, you can follow us on Twitter using @StjosephsNG1 or leave a comment on our Facebook page. The Schoop app can also be downloaded to your computer, tablet and smart phone in the usual way. Log in details for Schoop are in Reception and additional information is available on the school website at: www.st-josephs.nottingham.sch.uk



Staff News

Mrs Priest, Teaching Assistant at the school since September is beginning her maternity leave at the end of April. The search has therefore been on to find a replacement and to this end 3 potential candidates were selected from a large field of applications. Following rigorous interviews, Mr Jack Haigh, who holds a degree in Sports Studies, was appointed.

Mr Haigh seemed very natural at interview and full of energy and I therefore look forward to welcoming him on board once his police checks have cleared. In addition to working in school, he will also be supporting our after school provision alongside Kiran, the ASC leader.

In the meantime, please join me in wishing Mrs Priest all the very best. And I will keep you updated accordingly.

It is with great regret and sadness that I must inform you of Mrs Flesher's decision to retire from teaching at the end of the academic year. A wonderful teacher, musician and genuine individual, she will be sorely missed by the whole school community and despite only being here for a little over two years, her presence and influence will be around for a lot longer I am sure. Saddened as we are to lose such a talent, as ever, we thank her for all her hard work and commitment and wish her well; hoping that our paths will continue to cross for many years to come. No decision has yet been made with regard to a

replacement for Mrs Flesher although I will, of course inform you when it has.

Trustee Appointment

I am pleased to welcome Mr Martin Whitaker to the Board of Trustees. Mr Whitaker has two children at the school and part of his role is to act a liaison between parents, staff and the board for the benefit of the pupils.

Friends of St Joseph's

Thank you to the 'Friends' for organising and running the last film night. Great fun was had by all and the money raised has gone to subsidising the cost of several trips as well as new books for the library. A summer fair is being planned for late June and hopefully, there will be a number of other events next term. Volunteers are a little thin on the ground at the moment, so if you would like to become involved yourself with the PTA, then please get in touch.

Reports out

On Friday 7th July your child will receive their end of year report.

Please will you ensure the reply slip is signed and returned to their class teacher before the end of term. Please discuss the comments made with your child to help them build on their achievements next year.



Uniform

School uniform is very important to us as it looks smart and gives the children a sense of togetherness and belonging. May I please therefore remind you that our uniform is not optional and is being strictly applied. This means that school shoes, not trainers, must be worn during the day and these should be sensible and fit for purpose. Equally, our uniform policy extends to coats, bags and our indoor and outdoor PE kit.

Further guidance on our uniform policy can be found in our prospectus and on line. Please note: At this time of year, children should be in our summer uniform.

Earrings and Hairstyles

May I remind you that jewellery is generally not permitted. Those with pierced ears should remove them for school but if this is not possible, only small studs should be worn that are unobtrusive.

Equally extreme haircuts and tramlines are not permitted and may result in children being sent home.

Mobile Phones

Please may I remind parents of the need to follow our rules on the use of mobile phones in school which are clearly displayed on the window in Reception. After all, it is for the safety of all our children.

After School Club

We would like to remind you that for the nursery children and the children who stay in After School Club the afternoon meal provided is not a substitute for a proper evening meal. It is purely a 'light snack' to provide a little sustenance at the end of their busy day.

Assemblies

Achievement assembly takes place on Friday morning at 9.10am.

We would love to see you there and the children really do enjoy having an audience when they proudly show off their work - so do come along if you can!

Sports Week

Similar to last summer, we are holding an Olympic week in school during week commencing 12th June and you will receive further information on this and sports day in due course.

House Credits

Last terms averaged House Credit Scores were as follows:

St Peters (yellow) 125, St Patrick (green) 131, Our Lady (blue) 127 and St George (red) 116

Our Lady won the lunchtime behaviour award achieving 58 'chips' in the collection box. St George were awarded 40, St Peter 39 and St Patrick 22. A suitable treat is therefore being prepared whilst all the scores are reset for the current term's battle.

Stations of the Cross

Well done to all those children who performed the Stations of the Cross at the Cathedral during the run up to Easter. They were a credit to the school and many positive comments were received from members of the public in attendance.

Extra-Curricular Sporting Achievements

Throughout the spring we have been competing against other schools in various sporting activities including football, cross country and tag rugby. Coming up we have 2 fixtures for cricket, more football and netball. In addition, I am hoping to run some inter-house competitions in readiness of Prize Night.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Yasmin Chambers from Rattle and Roll continues to come into school to teach dance on a Friday as well as offering private ballet lessons for those who may be interested. Equally there are many other clubs on offer across the school including football, board games, and a nurture group. Archery and Chess also continue as does Running Club. A new Recorder Club has just started up and private piano lessons are available through Ed, our peripatetic Music Teacher.

Shakespeare Week

As part of World Book day, many of the children dressed as characters from the works of William Shakespeare. This was to complement work in class and to highlight his appeal to all ages and backgrounds.

Children in Need

This year's Children in Need appeal raised £114.51. Thank you to all who donated to this worthwhile cause.

Assessments

As an Independent School, we have declined to take part in National Testing (SATs) this year. However, we do intend to informally test some of our Year 6 pupils to act as a benchmark and aide professional development. This will help ensure teaching and learning remains competitive and of the highest quality.

Beyond St Joseph's

We were very proud to learn that all our Year 6 leavers obtained places at the schools to which they applied. Four children are going to the High School, one to the Becket in West Bridgford, two to Hollygirt and one to Ratcliffe College.

Well done and we wish them well.

Other News

Our IT suite has now been upgraded with 12 new towers all running Windows 10 Pro, which will enhance the children's online experience and subsequent learning.

A residential visit for the junior school to PGL at Grantham, or Robin Wood in West Yorkshire in October is being proposed depending on interest. Further details to follow.

Mr Purdy is in the process of setting up a gardening club for the children and any donations of plants would be greatly appreciated.

Prize Night

Rehearsals are in full swing for our Prize Night Production '**Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits**'. Further information regarding the evening will be sent to you in due course and I hope that you will all attend to see your children receive their awards and perform on stage.

And finally.....

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that it remains an honour and a privilege to be the Head Teacher here at St Joseph's

School and Nursery. We have a very strong team of dedicated staff, wonderful children and supportive Trustees. I therefore look forward to seeing the school go from strength to strength, supported as ever by yourselves.

I wish you all the very best for the term ahead and if I can help you at any time just give me a call.

Kind Regards

Mr A E Crawshaw

Head Teacher

Diary Dates - Summer Term 2017

- Monday 15th May - Class and Group Photographs
- Friday 26th May - Inset Day
- Monday 29th May - Bank Holiday - School and Nursery Closed
- Tuesday 13th June - Whole school trip to Belvoir Castle
- Thursday 15th June - Sports Day at Lenton Park 12.30 till 4.00pm
- Thursday 22nd June - Nursery Big Toddle in Aid of Barnardo's
- Thursday 6th July - Prize Night Production at Clarendon College
- Tuesday 11th July - Nursery and Reception Class trip to Sundown Adventureland
- Wednesday 12th July - End of Term Mass at St. Barnabas Cathedral
- Wednesday 6th Sept - Autumn Term begins**