



# Newsletter

Saint Joseph's Catholic Primary  
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Issue 1

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## Welcome Back

A very warm welcome back to our children and parents for the start of the 2020—2021 academic year. We hope you all had a lovely summer break.

A special welcome to our new staff who are joining our team this year.

**Miss Macek** Reception Class teacher  
**Mr David Crowley** Y5 Class teacher  
**Mr Flynn** Art teacher  
**Mr Pix** Music teacher  
**Mr Williams** PE Teacher  
**Mrs Howell** Y6 Teaching Assistant  
**Mrs Lounissi** Y2 Teaching Assistant  
**Miss Burnett** Rec & Y1 Support Assistant

## Important messages

### Newsletter

Please read our school newsletter that will have important news, reminders, dates and information. The newsletter will now be twice a half term due to time restraints on producing weekly newsletters. This can be accessed via our school website or if you have registered your email address with the office, you will automatically receive a digital copy on a Friday, twice a half term.

### School Uniform

Please ensure your child has the correct uniform including black shoes. ALL clothing, including PE kits should be **labelled** with your child's name to ensure if they are lost, they are identifiable.

No extreme haircuts or shaved designs.

No coloured hair extensions.

Hair bobbles, bows and clips should be in school colours and not over sized so as not to distract from their learning.

### Contact Information

Please inform the office if you have a change of address / phone numbers /emails, so we have updated records, particularly in case of emergencies. This includes second and third contact phone numbers.

### Lunch Menu

Harrisons, our kitchen catering company, have introduced a new menu. This is available to view and download on the school website.

### Queries / Concerns

If you have a concern or issue you wish addressed, please speak to the staff member on gate duty in the first instance. They can pass on your concern to the class teacher who may contact you via phone. afternoon. Alternatively, you can telephone the school office and someone will either take your call or return your call.

## Catholic Life

### Gospel message

The Gospel messages from the past two weeks have been:

### Falling out

We heard about three children who were friends that had a falling out at school. We listened to *Matthew 18:15-22* about what to do if someone hurts or upsets us.

### Forgive and Forget

This week we heard from Matthew's Gospel reading, 18 21-35.

*"A servant begged for forgiveness from the king as he owed him a debt or money and couldn't repay him. The king forgave him. But then the servant would not forgive another servant who owed him money. So when the king found out he punished him for not forgiving his servant."*  
Stephanie Y5

We said the 'Our Father' prayer together and thought about the power in the words that tell us to ask for forgiveness just as we forgive those who do wrong against us.

### Saint Joseph's School Mass

Unfortunately there will be no school Mass to celebrate the beginning of the school year. We are also not having whole school assemblies or whole school liturgies in the school hall. We are however adapting and are now sharing the Gospel message and weekly prayer in a whole school Virtual assembly.



### PE Kits

Please ensure your child has the correct PE Kit (School PE T-shirt; plain navy or black bottoms —no logos, patterns, stripes etc..) and they are organised to ensure they have the kits on their PE days. If the PE lesson is after lunch, they will go home in their PE kit as learning time is limited.

### Attendance & Punctuality

While we understand that attendance will fluctuate with children remaining off awaiting COVID testing and/or due to self isolation for a variety of reasons, all children should be at school unless they are ill or COVID related. I am extremely pleased to share that overall, the punctuality of children across the school in the first three weeks has been good. Even when public transport may be proving difficult. Please keep this up and leave enough time each morning to ensure your child starts their school day on time ready for learning.

### Golden Book Awards

The children who were awarded their Golden Strip received special recognition for their hard work, effort or attitude in class through the online/virtual whole school assembly.  
Well done to all the children for their achievements!

### Secondary Transfer

We held our secondary transfer information meeting last week. Now is the time to contact prospective schools and look on their website for information on their Open day plans.

Remember the closing date for applications is **Saturday 31st October** at 11:59pm.

Mary is available to support you in the online application form process after you have decided upon your 6 school choices. Please contact the school office in the next few weeks to book in an appointment if required. Unfortunately, these meetings will have to take place over the telephone.

### Thank you

Thank you to the children who have come back to school full of smiles and positivity. I can see a great eagerness to learn and do their best in both their attitude, behaviour and work. Keep it up children!

### Safeguarding

A reminder that only Y5 and Y6 children are allowed mobile phones at school.

All children should be supervised by their parent/carer outside the school grounds until their start time each morning apart from Y5/Y6 if their parents have signed permission for them to come to and from school on their own.

Children in Year 4 and under need to be brought to and collected from school by an adult and not an older brother or sister in Y5 or Y6.

### COVID Safeguarding: IMPORTANT MESSAGE

I am deeply concerned when I see Little Dorrit Court Park at 3:30pm packed with children from our school and neighbouring schools mixing on the swings and slides with little consideration for the expectation to maintain social distancing.

While I understand some are siblings from the same family, it defeats the purpose of school putting multiple measures in place to create bubbles/groups that do not mix, changing our start and end times, break and lunch times and implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule throughout the day.

The knock on effect is that children's learning time is reduced and staffing roles are stretched. We are doing our part to reduce the spread of Covid in this pandemic. For those parents who take their children to the park after school, you need to do your part. If a class bubble goes off for two weeks, it will be more likely that several classes will have to go off with positive cases due to the lack of social distancing outside the school gates.

The Public Health Team have also asked us to encourage parents waiting outside the school gate in the morning and at the end of the day to wear a mask if you are standing within two metres of other parents.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

### Thought of the Week

*"Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending."*

*Carl Bard*



*Year 5 enjoying their break time with traditional playground games.*



*Our new nursery children settling in well as they paint self-portraits.*



*Reception class are hard at work in their first weeks of school with their daily phonics lesson. Here they are forming the letter 'd' on their whiteboards.*

*Best Wishes,*

*Mr O'Kane and*

*the staff of Saint Joseph's.*