



# Newsletter



Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year. I know everyone enjoys a break, it is great to see the children back in school.

As well as the new reception, we also have welcomed 14 new children in classes throughout the school. We are really pleased to have new members of our school family. If you know from your child that there is a new member of their class, please can you make an extra effort to make sure the new parents feel welcome and include them in your facebook or WhatsApp groups.

## School News & Updates

### Hidden Earth

For those who spotted caravans on the car park this weekend, please be reassured that we have not been invaded!

We were approached by "Hidden Earth", an annual caving conference, which is taking place at Gordano School. Due to sports and other events, Gordano were not able to offer a camping space so the organisation contacted our school to see if we could help.

We do not anticipate any problems on Monday morning as they are clearing the site today (Sunday).

If you want so see more visit [www.hidden.earth](http://www.hidden.earth) for more information.

## Open Days

**St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (3-11)**

Pupils enjoy coming to this school which is described as a 'happy family'.  
The Leaders and staff have created a positive environment where everybody feels valued and want the best for pupils.  
*Ofsted Dec 2021*  
There is a strong sense of community and inclusivity within the school amongst parents, staff and pupils.  
*Catholic Schools Inspectorate June 2023*

**Looking for a school place for your child?  
You are warmly welcome to visit St Josephs!**  
Single form entry (210 Children)  
A small, welcoming, inclusive, family-friendly primary school serving the families and communities of Portishead & Pill for over 100 years.  
For Catholic and non-Catholic families.  
**Confirmed as a "Good School" by Ofsted (Dec 2021) and "Good" by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate (June 2023)**

**Open Days**  
Please call the school office to book a place for an open day visit:  
**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023 – 10am to 12noon**  
**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1.30pm and Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October – 9.30am**

**Or any Wednesday morning for a personal visit.**  
Please call to arrange a convenient time to have a tour of the school with the Headteacher.

Please telephone the school office on 01275 848367 or email us at [office@st-josephs.org.uk](mailto:office@st-josephs.org.uk) to book a visit.

If you have any friends or neighbours who have preschool or school aged children, please recommend our school. Word of mouth is so important when choosing a school for your child.

Thank you.

## Cleaning and Lunchtime Jobs

We may be looking for an additional lunchtime supervisor (11.30am to 1.15pm) and a cleaner (3.30pm to 5.30pm).

If you are interested in either post please contact the school office. The hours after school might suit a sixth-former at Gordano who would like to earn some extra pocket money!

### **Mobile Phones**

Can I please ask parents to restrict their child's use of mobile phones on the school site. The only children who should have a mobile phone with them each day are those who are walking home from school. If you are picking up your child, they should not have a mobile phone in school. I will be asking the Y5 and Y6 teachers to check with their classes. Children in Y4 and below should not have mobile phones in school.

### **Water Bottles in School**

Please make sure your child has a **named** water bottle in school. They should be a *sports* type bottle with a spout or valve on the lid to reduce spillage.

Please do not send your child's water in a branded used drink bottle such as a *Prime* or *Coca Cola*.

Also, encourage your child to have water in their bottles. Not only is it healthier, it is also not sticky when spills occur!

### **ParentPay**

Please take a look at your ParentPay accounts and ensure that they are up to date.

Balances for Kile Court Y5 and Mill on the Brue Y6 Camps were due by 31st August 2023.

### **Music Lessons for Existing Pupils**

Requests for lessons should now have been allocated – North Somerset reported a problem with the website which has been rectified.

Any parents with blocked passwords can email [music@wema.org.uk](mailto:music@wema.org.uk) and they will send a link to reset the password.

For any new registrations please use this link:

[www.wema.org.uk/register](http://www.wema.org.uk/register)

You can use the link above to find out about availability for lessons for this academic year.

We normally suggest new pupils start in Year 3 but please check with me if you have a younger child who might be interested in starting instrumental lessons.

For existing parents they can use

<https://uksouthglos.speedadmin.dk>

### **Reading Scheme Books**

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 should all have new reading books. Please don't be concerned if they have a book they have seen before. Assessments at the end of last year and the beginning of this term may find gaps in phonic knowledge and teachers may choose books to reinforce previous learning.

### **Winter Uniform**

It looks like the heatwave is over so please can your child come to school in our winter uniform.

### **Meet the Teacher**

A chance to meet your child's teacher after school each day at 3.15pm:

Monday 18th - Year 6

Tuesday 19th - Year 2

Mr Donovan's session last week was rather short notice so he has offered to be available again this week:

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Year 3

## **School Reminders**



### **Parking**

I have been asked by a number of parents to remind everyone about being safe when driving on the school site.

- Please respect the speed limit in the car park. There are some parents who are coming off the roundabout at 30mph!
- Do not park in disabled or staff bays unless directed by a member of staff. We have had issues with parents of disabled children not being able to find a parking place and staff coming to school in the morning and end of the day having the same problem.
- Please do not leave your engine running while waiting in the car park.
- Only park in marked bays – do not double park or park on double yellow lines.
- Dropping off – please use the drop off zone by the Keystage 2 gate and not stop in a random position in the middle of the car park. We have seen some near misses already this term with children crossing the flow of traffic and the view of pedestrians and driver obscured by stopped cars.

### Uniform Reminders

Thank you to all parents who support the school by providing the correct uniform for their children.

- **Socks** – Should be blue if your child is wearing a blue skirt or pinafore and grey when wearing trousers or shorts. White socks are not part of the school winter uniform.
- **Ties** – Please make sure your child has a tie each day and, in the case of elastic ones, fits properly. It is possible to knot or add new elastic to a loose tie.
- **Named Uniform** – We are still finding lots of unnamed clothes. If you don't have labels, please use a permanent marker to add name or initials and year group to the labels in jumpers, cardigans and PE hoodies.
- **Hair** – Please make sure hair is tied back if longer than shoulder length. Hair accessories should be navy or gold especially if they are large bows, ribbons or scrunchies.

### PTFA News

#### PTFA Newsletter

A newsletter is attached to this school one. Thank you to the PTFA for their continued support to the school.

### Church News

Here is the link for this weekend's church newsletter:

<https://www.josephfrancis.org/files/ugd/f6caaf0a5e6da093684d78b58619d22b87200b.pdf>

### First Holy Communion Dresses

Here is a message from Nicola Petit at St Joseph's Church

*Hi everyone,*

*Hope you are all keeping safe and well and your children have enjoyed their first week back at school. I just wanted to send a request to any 'ex' First Holy Communion Mums/parents.*

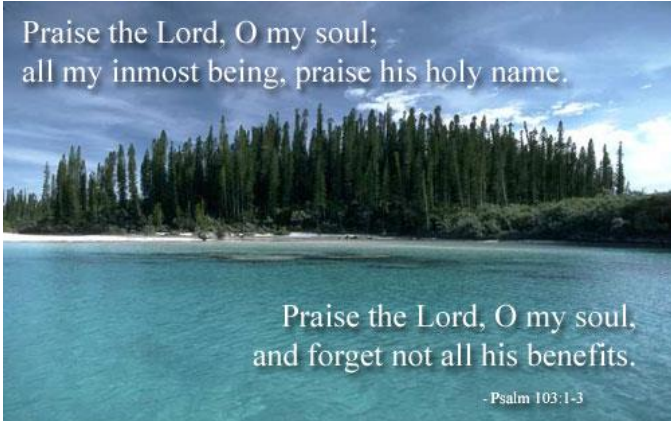
*I'm planning to get together a collection of First Holy Communion dresses and I was wondering if anyone would be willing to donate their daughter's dress if they still have them? They will be kept in St Joseph's Church and the idea is to rent them out for a nominal fee to any future FHC families. Any money raised will be put towards the admin costs of the FHC to save families having to donate. If families want to buy their own dresses that's fine, but I wouldn't like anyone to feel their child can't take part because it would be expensive. Additionally, it's good for the environment to reuse 😊*

*I appreciate some of you may not have the dresses or would prefer to keep hold of them for sentimental reasons so please don't feel obliged. I would be grateful if you could pass the word on if you know anyone who may consider donating.*

*Nicola*

## And Finally...

Praise the Lord, O my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.



Praise the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.

- Psalm 103:1-3

Mr Bath

Headteacher