



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
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Friday October 9th 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I have enjoyed reading some of the children's written work this week, what a talented bunch we have at St Joseph's. All the classes (Year 2-6) have a word of the day which they try and get into their writing during the day. Ask your child what the word of the day is they might surprise you! Today's was "devious"...

Please take time to have a look at the ten ten resources (life to the full) on the web site- Information/RSE. This is our new Sex and relationships curriculum (RSE) which we will be teaching to the children. This is still open for consultation so please feed any comments back to the school office e mail.

Now we have the children back in school, we will be using our Twitter feed for celebrations and updates from classes. The feed can be found on **News_StJosephs**. If you don't use Twitter, the feed can be seen on the school website homepage.

In the gospel this week we have been thinking about the way Jesus taught us to look after everybody in our society, no matter who they are or how they are living. At this time of year our thoughts turn to harvest and providing food to the hungry. Our definition of who is hungry has changed over the last few years as we now realise there are people living very close to us, who, for whatever reason are going hungry. I have put some information about Portishead food bank below, please support them if you can. We will also be holding our own 'virtual' harvest festival after half term with donations going to the foodbank.

PTFA

Thank you to the PTFA and the Butchers Block in association with 'Heavenly Cakes' for organizing the virtual cake of the week. The winner this week was Alexandra Derbyshire Coles in Year 1. You will be able to see the cake on our web site twitter feed; it's fabulous so please sign up to get your number. I have attached the original flyer so you can see how to do it.



"Together we love, together we hope, together we learn."



Start and end to the school day

The car parking has been much better this week so thank you to everyone for supporting the new regime. We do try to get the Year 5 and 6 children out by 2.55pm to alleviate the queuing but admit that this is not always perfect as the older children do sometimes really get into their work and the time flies away. Please do not drop your Year 3 and 4 children off before the gate is open at 8.20am as this means they are unsupervised in a car park.

Coronavirus news

We are waiting to hear the latest 'lockdown' news from the Government, Educational establishments have not been given any further information with regards an extended half term, as reported in the press. We will let you know as soon as we hear anything new. In the meantime here is the latest up to date information with regards test and trace.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/nhs-test-and-trace-if-youve-been-in-contact-with-a-person-who-has-coronavirus/>

Parent's evenings: Settling in and progress during term 1

Reception, Years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, you should have received appointment times in your child's planner for one of:

Monday 19th/20th/21st and 22nd of October.

Please e mail the school office if you are unable to keep this time.

Reading at home

Thank you to all of those parents and children who read 5x or more at home this week. Well done to Year 3 for coming top again this week, but years 1 and 2 are catching up fast. This is super beneficial for your child's reading development at every age. Please sign your child's school diary if they have read to you for 10 minutes at home.

School Uniform/ Warm layers Reminder:

All the children should now be in Winter uniform, please remember to name any items of clothing your child has on and brings to school. We have so many new jumpers and cardigans already in lost property. **Please** remember that your child needs a coat as the weather is getting cooler, a waterproof coat is essential if it is raining as we still like to get the children outside even if it's drizzling.

We are trying to keep the school as airy as possible to that end it is quite cold in school. Your child could wear some extra layers under their uniform to keep them warm. We are allowing them to wear coats in class so an extra warm coat would be also useful.

Preschool news

As you can see the site next to the infant playground has been cleared and work is starting the week before half term to enable the new preschool building to be sited during half term. This has been a long on-going project and thanks to the hard work by the Governing body we have been able to procure the building from N Somerset council 'almost' free of charge. Now the hard work begins to ready the building for 'pre-schoolers'. Unfortunately due to the COVID



pandemic we will not be able to open as quickly as we first thought as it will require further funds to make it safe and ready. We will let you know when we have an idea of when that date may be.

Portishead Foodbank

The foodbank of Clevedon and Portishead rely on your donations for needy families especially over Christmas. Please see the schedule below for donations.

<https://clevedondistrict.foodbank.org.uk/>

Donation/activity	Most helpful if with us by
Advent calendars: these mean so much more if they're in children's hands at the right time!	Last two weeks in November, please!
Donations of gifts: small gifts can make a big difference. If you or your organisation would like to give these, please contact us at info@clevedondistrict.foodbank.org.uk and we'll suggest a category (e.g. girl, 4-6) to aim for – this helps us make sure we have enough to cover the whole family.	Friday 11 th December, please...
Donations of Christmas food: please check our website and social media for most-wanted items – this will be regularly updated.	First week of December, please! (Please check the sell-by/use by dates are long enough...)

Please tell friends/acquaintances facing redundancy about our 'foodbank redundancy support' scheme –

Contact the North Somerset Citizens Advice at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/helptoclaim or phone 0800 144 8 444 (8am to 6pm, Mon to Fri) to reach expert help with benefits applications; quote 'Foodbank Redundancy Support' to get a Foodbank voucher for food parcels for six weeks while awaiting benefits.

Starting school September 2021

If you have a child born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017, then now is the time to apply for a place at our school for admission from September 2021 onwards. You must complete an application form that is available from the school admissions team of North Somerset Council. www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions

If your child has been baptised and you wish to apply for our school, you must also provide a copy of the baptism certificate to the school. Please ensure you apply by the closing date of 15 January 2021."

The closing date for reception applications is 23:59 on 15 January 2020. There are open afternoons when you can visit the school at 3pm on 24th September, 22nd October and the 19th of November, please contact the school office if you wish to attend. These will be socially



distanced open afternoons and will take place after the children have gone home. We are asking for parents only to attend these afternoons.

Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed or you are a new Reception parent on a low income you may be entitled to free school meals you can apply on line or come into the school office and we can help.

<https://www.gov.uk> > [Childcare and parenting](#) > [Schools and education](#)

Remember although your child may be entitled to free Infant school meals you can also apply if you feel you are eligible as the school also get support for your child to help with support teaching, equipment, subsidy for trips, music lessons, after school clubs and school uniform.

God Bless

Mrs Jackson and Mr Bath

