



# Back to School!



Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year at St Joseph's. I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer with your families and I am sure there will be many stories to share with the children when they come into class on Wednesday morning.

**Thank You!**



Firstly, on behalf of the staff and myself, I would like to thank parents and children for their kind comments, cards and gifts at the end of the year.

All of our staff do their best for the children in our school and not for reward or gratitude but I do know that they appreciate the thoughts and treats they were given. Thank you.

## Update

### **RAAC - Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete**

As mentioned in an earlier email, the school is open as normal and **unaffected** by the concerns highlights in the press and TV news during the recent few days.

Our school was built after the period of time when RAAC was in use and surveys by the diocese and Department for Education have not identified any safety issues.

## Changes for September

### Beginning of the Day

## SCHOOL DROP OFF



The gates will be open at 8.00am as usual for early drop off. Please do not leave your child at the gate until a member of staff is on duty. We do our best to open on time but sometimes can be delayed on route.

The school bell will be rung at **8.20am to start the day** and children will no longer be required to line up – they can just walk to their classrooms. We think that this may be easier for those children who find the morning routine a challenge and is a gentler start to the day.

Please note that the gates will close after the bell and children marked as late in the school office.

## **School Meal Menu – Autumn Term**

The menu produced at the end of the summer term did not appear to include jacket potatoes. Each day there is a meat option, vegetarian option, pasta or jacket potato (cheese/tuna/beans). An updated menu will be sent out this week.

## **PE Days - Uniform**

Children will have two PE days each week (except Reception who have other outdoor play) and can wear PE kit on these days.

To clarify, the school dress code stipulates PE kit as follows:

On days when PE kit is required it should consist of:

- Gold Polo Shirt with school logo
- Plain navy shorts/skort/leggings/joggers
- Grey/Navy/White Socks
- School jumper/School hoodie

Children should not be wearing any leggings or joggers which are not navy and only St Joseph's tops with a logo can be worn.

The School Togs shop will be supplying a school hoodie by advanced order and then in stock if there is enough demand.

## **PE Days**

The class teachers have completed their timetables for PE as follows:

Reception – Tuesday

Year 1 – Monday and Tuesday

Year 2 – Tuesday and Friday

Year 3 – Monday and Tuesday

Year 4 – Monday and Tuesday

Year 5 – Tuesday and Thursday

Year 6 – Tuesday and Thursday

## **Attendance**

There is wide agreement among health professionals and educational professionals that school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people. Being in school improves health, wellbeing and socialisation throughout the life course. The greatest benefits come from children and young people attending school regularly.

Fixed penalty fines are now back in place after the return from lockdowns – if you are planning a holiday, please consider the amount of learning time lost and try to book holidays during the school breaks. If you have an emergency or exceptional reason for your child not being in school, please complete the form on the school website.

It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. You might find it helpful to read the [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) with parents and carers in your schools and communities which has further information.

## **Uniform**

I have been asked by some parents to clarify the introduction of hoodies; hoodies can only be worn on PE days (including the Year 6 leavers). On days when normal school uniform is worn, the V-neck school jumper is required.

Year 6 children will be able to wear their hoodies full-time after SATs.

## Outdoor Shoes



Last year we had a continued having spare shoes in school for days when the field was wet and muddy.

We have decided to continue that again for the Autumn Terms. If your child would like to be able to play on the field, they will need to have a pair of wellington boots or old shoes/trainers in school. Please make sure they are named and in a named bag that will hang on a coat-peg. For the younger children, wellies are probably the easiest!

## Fruit Snacks – EYFS and KS1

The government supply fruit to the school for free for Preschool, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 but the choice can sometimes be a bit seasonal and restrictive. The supply at the beginning of the term can also be a little erratic. Please send a fruit or vegetable snack into school this week. This should be either fresh or dried fruit or vegetable only please.

## Homework

We are in the process of updating Google classroom – moving classes and adding new pupils. Your child will have a sticker in their journal with login details for their google account and other online activities. Homework and spellings will be online by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September and will be updated each Friday.

Please remember that we provide spellings and maths work to allow you to help your child.

- Spelling – Spelling Shed games for a weekly spelling list or pattern
- Maths – You will be signposted to previous learning for the next week's topic. For

example, when Y4 are preparing for a fractions week, the children will be given prior learning from Y3 to revise. This will help them to remember and access new learning.

Please check in with your child and their google classroom – it is also a safe space for children to communicate with their teacher and their friends in the online stream. There may also be updates from class teachers from time to time.

## Parking – Important – Albion Pub

The Albion is operating a new system with ANPR cameras. If you park there, you will risk a parking charge unless you are a customer and register your car in the pub.

## Parking – Neighbourly thinking



Please remember to park carefully and be mindful of our neighbours to make sure you don't block a driveway.

Can I also add that the small drive into Sheep Field Gardens (on the one-way system opposite the pub) is private property. The houses in the development own the driveway right up to the pavement and **parents should not be using this area for parking** at any time.

## Y5 & Y6 Walking Home

If your child is going to walk home from school at any point during the year, you must provide written permission in their planner for the teachers.

## Weather Forecast



With the welcome sunny week forecast, please remember to send your child in with a hat, sun-cream and water bottle.

Your child should have a clean, filled and named water bottle in school every day.

### Art & DT Donation

Many schools ask parents to help with specific areas of the curriculum – we have decided to ask parents to help with the costs of textile, technology and cooking expenses. Teachers often spend their own money for these items and we would be grateful if you could make a voluntary donation towards the costs of consumables which end up being part of a child's culinary or design creation.

The payment item has been added to ParentPay.

### Parents and Carers – Picking up from School

As a school, we are only allowed to dismiss children to a person with parental responsibility unless we have specific permission. If your child is having a play-date or going home with another parent, **you must write this in the planner.** When this does not happen, teachers and admin staff are required to phone you for permission for your child to go home with another adult.

### School Dinners

We have tried to keep the cost down and avoid price rises over the last year. The charge for a paid school meal (KS2) is now £2.45 – this is

the same charge as the other Portishead primary schools.

## Reminders

### Payment Reminders

Thank you to parents who have paid the instalments or in full for our Y5 and Y6 camps in October.

The payment is due in full now for these trips.

If you are having difficulty making payments, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

### Data Sheets

These will be sent out this week. Please return the yellow data sheets as soon as possible (by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September). Mrs Wall is now updating our information system and it is really important to have correct telephone numbers for contacts.

### Reading and Library Books

Please bring any library books or reading scheme books into school this week if you have not done so already. We hope to issue new reading books in KS1 as soon as possible.

## Safeguarding

### Keeping Children Safe in Education

At this time each year, new statutory guidance is issued by the government.

Keeping Children Safe in Education is the key document used by all schools. You can find this document on the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

## Church News

The latest church newsletter can be found here [https://www.josephfrancis.org/files/ugd/f6caaf\\_01ae1953c4d1419fb641c7785e61684b.pdf](https://www.josephfrancis.org/files/ugd/f6caaf_01ae1953c4d1419fb641c7785e61684b.pdf)

## And Finally...

We pray for all of our school community – children, parents, families, friends, staff, parishioners and governors – as we embark on a new school year.

*"Bless our teachers, pupils, and staff with knowledge, patience, and strength. Guide us in our learning journey and protect us along the way. May this year be filled with achievements, friendships, and positive experiences. In your loving name, we pray. Amen"*



Kind Regards,

Mr Bath – Headteacher