



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter 1 Friday 8th September 2023

www.stjosephsschooldorking.co.uk

"Learning and Growing Together in the Light of God's Love"

WELCOME BACK!

We hope you all had a good summer break and offer all our families a warm welcome back to a new academic year. It has been lovely welcoming the children back to St. Joseph's and they have done particularly well given the high temperatures this week!

We are looking forward to a happy and successful year ahead.

A particular welcome to our new staff and children:

Mrs Hargrave, who will be teaching in Year R with Mrs Currie, and Mrs Field who will be working as a teaching assistant.

We hope they will find their new roles fulfilling and enjoy being part of our school community.

We also welcome MaryAnna & Leticia (Yr 1), David (Yr 2) and Isaiah (Yr 5) who have joined the school this term.



Finally, the youngest children in our new Year R class started school this week; they have settled well and are already becoming familiar with faces and routines.

They will be joined by the older half of the class next week, who we are looking forward to seeing on Tuesday.

DROP OFF AND COLLECTION

ARRIVAL

We adopt a "soft start" to the day. The infant and junior gates will be open each morning from **8.45 – 8.55am**. Children may be dropped at the gate from 8.45am and should go straight to their classrooms. Years 1, 2 and 6 should enter via the infant gate and Years 3-5 should enter via the Junior gate. **All children should be in school for registration by 8.55am.** Please ensure that you are punctual as arriving late is disruptive for your own child and their class.

COLLECTION

Children in Years 3-6 will leave via the Junior gate at 3.15pm. **KS2 children with KS1 siblings should leave via the infant entrance.** Children in Years R, 1 & 2 should be collected from the infant entrance.

If you have an older child and you wish them to walk home on their own, please advise the school office in writing. If the collection arrangements for your child change, please inform the school office.

Please model good road awareness and safety to the children when collecting or dropping off and stick to the pavements.

MEET THE TEACHER!

Parents are warmly invited to come along and meet their child's new teacher(s) on the evening of **Monday 11th September 2023.**

As well as introducing the teacher, these meetings provide information about routines, expectations and the curriculum in each year group.

The timings for each class are as follows:

Year 1 & Year 2	6.00pm
Year 3 & Year 4	6.30pm
Year 5 & Year 6	7.00pm

Please note, these sessions are aimed at parents; unfortunately we cannot accommodate children.

Pupil's contact detail and data sheets will be available for annual update as necessary, so please ensure you bring along any new information or numbers.

UNIFORM

It is always lovely to see the children looking so smart in their uniform at the beginning of term. A reminder that boys' socks should be grey and that all white polo shirts must have the school logo on, alternatively boys may wear a plain, white button-up shirt **with** a school tie. All jumpers and cardigans should have the school logo please. Please do ensure that **all** items of clothing and equipment are clearly and permanently labelled with your child's name. This makes it much easier to reunite lost items with their owners! Children may wear their Summer uniform up to the October half term holiday, weather permitting! A reminder that children are not allowed to wear Jewellery (including earrings), nail varnish, transfers/ tattoos or hair gel for school. Children whose hair is shoulder length or longer should wear it fully tied back, and long fringes should also be clipped back. Please ensure that hair ties and bands are in school colours and not overly flamboyant!

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals on the grounds of your family income, it is **really important** that you let us know. Free school meal eligibility also brings with it access to additional Pupil Premium funding which can be used to support and benefit your child in a number of ways including learning support or subsidised activities. Even if you qualify for free school meals but prefer to provide a packed lunch for your child, we can still access the additional funding if you let us know. The application process is simple and, if you are unsure whether you qualify, we can check for you really easily. ***An important letter with further information regarding eligibility for free school meals will be sent out on Monday. Please contact Mrs Cook if you have any queries.***

DINNER MONEY

Dinner money is payable either weekly or half termly **in advance**. Payments should preferably be made via the secure on-line payment system, ScoPay. If you do not have access to this facility, please contact Mrs Cook in the school office. Alternatively, parents may send in cheques or cash via their child's book bag, in a labelled envelope or a labelled money bag. Cheques should be made payable to Surrey County Council.

ABSENCE REPORTING

If your child is unable to attend school, please ensure that you inform the school office as early as possible on the first morning that they are away. The office telephone number is 01306 883934 then choose option 1 to report an absence. Absences which have not been explained by 9.30am may be reported to the Education Inclusion Officer.

CONTACTING US

Parents are asked to address queries and send messages to the school office by phone **01306 883934** or e-mail to office@stjosephs-dorking.surrey.sch.uk. This also applies to messages for teachers.

PLEASE NOTE: the scopay e-mail address is for outgoing mail only so please do not send replies to this address. If you do need to return forms or send in payments to the school office please do so **via your child's book bag**.

HOME SCHOOL LIAISON WORKER

Our Home School Liaison Worker, Fiona Darnell, visits school on Wednesday afternoons. The role of the HSLW is to work in partnership with parents/carers, schools and other agencies to support families, aiming to reduce current issues and prevent future difficulties. HSLWs can offer support and signpost help on a wide range of issues which may impact on family life e.g. illness, separation, bereavement, housing, domestic violence. They can also offer support to parents regarding their child's behavioural issues at home, or punctuality and attendance issues. HSLWs can also provide support for children who are withdrawn or anxious or have problems expressing their emotions appropriately. Fiona's contact details are available on flyers in the School Entrance Foyer if you wish to contact her.

darnell.fiona@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk
07900 437858

Please also see attached flyer for "Talking Teens" - a workshop for parents of children in Years 6 & 7, which may be of interest to parents with older children.



*Looking forward to a happy and successful year ahead.
Be kind and look after one another!
With all best wishes,
Carolyn Scrutton [Headteacher]*

