

St. Joseph's RC Primary School

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AUTUMN 2018

September 2018

Headteacher's News

I would like to extend a warm welcome back to school to all – especially our new starters. It is lovely to see all the children after their holidays; they certainly look ready for the start of a new and exciting year.

Many of you within our community may be aware that one of our parents sadly passed away unexpectedly, during the holidays. Please keep Sarah Hann's family in your thoughts and prayers at this sad time, especially her son Kyle. Funeral arrangements will be shared next week for those parents who may wish to pay their respects.

We have a few new additions to the staff team and would like to extend a warm St Joseph's welcome to Mrs Murfet, Y4 Class Teacher and Miss Zajackowska, who will be completing her teacher training year with us. I'm sure you will get to meet them at various events throughout the year.

As you are aware, I will not be in school during the Autumn term and Mr Norman will be taking on the role of Acting Headteacher at St Joseph's and St Thomas More. Likewise, Miss Haggart will be Act-

ing Deputy Head across both schools. This is an exciting opportunity for them both and I know you will afford them the same level of support you gave me when I became Headteacher last year.

UNIFORM

It's nice to see that most children have returned (or started) school looking smart in the correct school uniform. Please be aware that if you are struggling to get uniform, you can contact us at school and we may be able to help. Please ensure your child wears the correct PE kit, which is school t-shirt (team colour for KS1), navy blue shorts and trainers. We enter many sports competitions and this makes it easy to identify our school teams. It is important that your child's uniform is clearly labelled—and that if you choose to use marker pens to do this, you check them regularly, as this does fade.

WHAT'S ON

You will receive a 'What's On' notice outlining events throughout the term. These are sent home with pupils and are also available on our school websites. Please be aware that dates are subject to change and we will notify parents if and when this happens. I'd like to point out that there is an opportunity to meet your child's new teacher next Wednesday from 3:30-4:30pm for Reception to Year 5. This is an informal visit – and it's always nice to put a face to a name! Please pop in if you can. Parent/pupil consultations will take place later in the term and we will let you know when the on-line booking system opens.

ATTENDANCE

I'd like to remind all parents that children should be in school by 8:55am when school starts. We are revising our attendance policy and this will be shared with you all in the very near future. Additionally – any medical appointments should be kept outside school time wherever possible. Please

note that our Breakfast Club runs each day from 8:00am and the cost for this is £1.50 per child per day, but is *FREE* for children eligible for Pupil Premium from 10th September. If you are unsure if this applies to you – please check with the school office. Children who do attend Breakfast Club should be dropped off at school no later than 8:25am to give them enough time to eat their food!

No children should be left at school before 8am as there is no supervision for them before this time. Pupils not attending Breakfast Club may access the school yard from 8:40am as there is supervision from this time.

STATIONERY

There has been much in the news recently about the cost of stationery and the added burden this places on families. Our pupils are provided with everything they require in school and should not have pencil cases etc with them. This equipment, if you have purchased it should be kept at home! Additionally – children should not bring personal toys etc with them to school either, as these can often get lost or broken.



DINNER MONEY

Increase in price to £2.05 a day. Please can we politely request that all monies are sent into school sealed in a named envelope with your child. The children can then give these to their teachers who will ensure that the office staff receive them.

REMINDER

All children in Key Stage One are entitled to a free school meal, a saving of £10.25 per week. Children who are now in Year 3 will need to pay for school meals unless parents are in receipt of certain benefits. If you are in any doubt – please contact the school office for advice.

Menu choice available from office

SCHOOL GAMES

During the holidays – we discovered we had been awarded the Gold Kitemark for PE this year. For such a small school this is a fantastic achievement. Huge 'Thanks' must be extended to Mrs Smith, for her hard work in this area and all the children who grasped every opportunity provided for them – we couldn't do it without you! Let's aim high and keep the 'Gold' next year!



Polite Notice

We are writing to you to express our concerns about the start of the school day and concerns raised by our staff, who are responsible for supervising the children on the yard each morning from 8:40am.

The number of parents who remain on the yard until the bell goes at 8:55am is increasing and whilst we wouldn't stop parents remaining on the yard if they wish, we would respectfully ask that they do not stand by the gate or the bike stand – moving right onto the yard until all the children have gone into school.

It is vital that all staff can see all children on the yard, as well as those coming into the school yard. Parents who stand in these areas cause an obstruction and as a result staff can struggle to keep all children within sight. It can also be quite daunting for children to walk onto the yard if there are a number of adults in their way. The health and safety of all our pupils is of paramount importance to us – and we want to avoid any possible issues that could potentially arise if this continues.

Please support us by either dropping your child off at school, to be supervised by our staff – as many of you already do – or if you do stay, move right over on the yard next to the benches until the children have all gone into the school building.

Important Notice

As there are many shared events between St Joseph's and St Thomas More, many photographs taken will contain images from both schools. We would like these to appear on the websites of both schools. If you object to your child appearing on St Thomas More's website, please indicate this on the consent form. Please be aware that no names are attached to any images published.

Website details for both schools are:

- <http://www.stjosephsgilesgate.durham.sch.uk>
- <http://www.stthomasmorebelmont.durham.sch.uk>



WALKING HOME

Children walking home

Sometimes our older children inform us that they will be walking home alone. This is not a problem, however we request that parents complete a consent form so that we can be sure which children are allowed to walk home alone. Would you please collect one from the school office if your child will be walking home unaccompanied.

Share Aware

The internet is a great place for children to be, being Share Aware makes it safer.

Share Aware, from NSPCC and O2, gives parents all the tools they need to have regular and informed conversations with their child about staying safe online.

Under 20% of parents discuss online safety regularly with their children but we want to get every family talking about their child's life online, just as they would their day at school.

Just like in real life, children need our help to stay safe online. Teach your child to be #ShareAware with @NSPCC and @O2

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/>



Polite Notice No parking in this area

I'd like to take this opportunity to ask parents to park considerately when dropping off and collecting their children and remind

everyone that there is a 20mph speed limit in force along Mill Lane. Please do not park on the zig-zag lines or in front of school gates at any time, as this poses a huge health and safety risk to any pupils and parents crossing the road, as it hampers visibility. Additionally – we have been asked by parishioners to remind parents that only those who are eligible to use disabled parking spaces use them. The paved area in front of church is also off limits.