

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support as we have started this new academic year together this last week or so. It was wonderful to welcome everyone back again and to welcome several new children to our School family. So I just wanted to extend a special warm welcome to those families that are new to the St Joseph's community.

The children have made a good start in their classes and we had the privilege of welcoming Father Philip on Tuesday who helped us to start our year off well, by holding a special welcome to the New Year Mass.

With the theme of new beginnings, next Friday after school the PTA are organising a special welcome back to school event with drinks and nibbles. We would love to offer you the chance to come and hang out after school for a few moments and catch up with friends from the playground as well as to give our new parents a big welcome to our community.

As part of getting things up and running we wanted to share with you the dates that we have so far for the coming term, which you will find below the newsletter.

Car Parking

It has come to our attention that parking outside and in the vicinity of the school has become rather a problem.

Some are parking or dropping off in a very tight part of the road, or on the school zig-zags and this is causing difficulties for other motorists, pedestrians and our neighbours using the roads. Please may I remind you all to be courteous of where you park or drop off. Please do so carefully and legally, for the safety of the children and to avoid damage to cars.

After School Club is available until **5.45pm Monday to Thursday** and **4.30pm on Friday**. There is an option to book the 'early' club for those collecting before 4.30pm, please only use this option for Friday bookings.

Staff and Volunteer vacancies...

Here at St Joseph's we are looking to expand our team through both volunteer and staff support.

We have an exciting opportunity for someone to join our team as a class TA in KS1 from Monday to Friday from 8:50am to 12:50pm term time only. If you are interested in this role, or exploring ways you can support us as a volunteer, please email senioradmin@stjo.uk.

PTA

Cake sale donations please, we're hoping to sell cakes at the back to school play date (Flyer below) on Friday 20 September.

Please let us know if you can bring some cakes by Wednesday by emailing pta@stjo.uk. All donations will help raise money for our school.

Back to school play date, Friday 20 September, 3.30-4pm. Join us in the playground (or street if it's raining) for a cake sale, uniform sale, school ideas and guided walk through the classrooms. There will also be a trail with a little prize for the children.

Disco, Friday 18 October

5-6pm FSU and KS1, 6.15-7.15pm KS2. More information to follow. Can you help with set up, tuck shop, or tidy up? Please get in touch pta@stjo.uk

Fr Philip: This week we had the pleasure of Fr Philip leading us in a school mass. And **today** Fr Philip celebrates his Silver Jubilee. There is a celebration mass tonight at 7pm, at the Holy Ghost Church.

**This Year's academic Attendance**

Our aspiration target is **97%**

At St Joseph's, we think attendance is extremely important! Attending school helps children to prepare themselves for the rest of their lives.

The higher the attendance, the more opportunity for success!

The class with the highest attendance this week is **Rowan Class**

Diary dates:

20th September – PTA Play Date – 3.30pm – 4pm

27th September – Escot trip yr. 6 and Kents Cavern trip yr.3 – both live on PP

1st October – Black History Month begins

4th October – Harvest Festival – details to follow

7th October Dogs Trust coming to school – details to follow

21st October - Parents Evening Week– details to follow

25th October – PTA AGM – details to follow

26th October – 4th November Half-term

23rd to 27th September – Ride or Walk to school week

3rd October – School Census day – details to follow

7th October NSPCC Kindness Week begins

18th October – Disco – details to follow

23rd October – Yr 6 Assembly – details to follow

Stars of the week: Oak – **Olive**, Rowan – **Rupert**, Sycamore – **Murphy**,

Cherry – **Archie**, Maple – **William**, Willow – **Isla**, Beech - **Amelia**