



NEWSLETTER

Headteacher: Mrs Maria Whitehead

Friday 26th March 2021



Dear Parents,

After the anniversary of the first national lockdown was marked on Tuesday, I cannot help but reflect on the extraordinary 12 months we have all just had. I feel very sad that some of our families have experienced illness and loss. But I feel enormously thankful and blessed that we have emerged at the other side, and with the progress of the national vaccination programme, the future is hopeful.

What has never failed to amaze me is the resilience of our pupils who have dealt with the changes of the past year with remarkable maturity, and the determination of our staff who have worked tirelessly to keep the children learning. I am really proud of how every person in our small school community – staff, parents and pupils – has done their bit.

Of course things remain 'different'. We will never use the word 'bubble' again without thinking of Covid-19. But at least all the children are back in school where they need to be and are loving school life again. We are helping them deal with any concerns they have, and giving them more opportunity to play and socialise with their friends.

I have had no further detail from the Department for Education about changes to the current safety guidance. I will let you know of any changes to our current arrangements as soon as I get the information. But this may be over the Easter Break, so I will be sending an email via Parentmail.

Kind regards

Mrs Whitehead

ISA National Art Competition

Many congratulations to Hanna in our Reception class for winning 2nd place in the ISA National Art Competition for her self-portrait. Hanna won first prize in the North ISA competition and went forward to represent the North in the National Finals. We are delighted and very proud that her talent has been recognised. Mrs Hannah, our Art subject leader presented Hanna with her certificate and prize.



Scholastic Book Club

Thank you so much for your orders in our new book club. I am thrilled to say that school has already gained £62.29 in book rewards which we will spend on books for the classrooms and library. If you haven't had chance to browse yet, then follow this link to see the discounted books available to order. All books ordered are delivered to school for us to distribute.

<https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/st-josephs-parkhill>

Perhaps you could give a book instead of an Easter egg next Sunday!

Facebook and the Website

Please have a look on both the website and on Facebook as we try to update both daily with photos of the children to give you an insight into their day in school.

We are currently investigating the use of other platforms like Instagram and Twitter, and will communicate again about these at a later date.

Spring Reports and Parents' Meetings

You should have received your child's progress report for this term via Parentmail this week.

Please do take the opportunity to discuss this with their class teacher.

Unfortunately, we cannot offer face-to-face meetings but you have the choice of a virtual meeting on Zoom or a telephone conversation.

LENT

The Lenten season is drawing to an end as we prepare for Holy Week next week. The Faith Ambassadors have been taking the children through the Stations of the Cross (on video!) each day and Year 6 are recording an Easter assembly to share with all classes next Thursday, Maundy Thursday. We continue to encourage the children to Pray-Fast-Give during Lent and say our special Lenten Prayer together. This week we are also focussing on KINDNESS – and are encouraging the children to reflect on their words and behaviour to ensure that they always try to be kind to others.

There is still the opportunity for the children to earn £2 at home by doing something for you and then donating this to St Joseph's Penny by texting SJP to 70460.

A Special Lenten Fast



Give up unkind words and use kind ones
Give up anger and be gentle and patient
Give up worrying and trust in God
Give up complaining and value what you have
Give up being unforgiving and learn to forgive
Give up selfishness and think of others
Give up sadness and fill your heart with joy
Give up words and listen to others
Give up noise and action and be still

Children will return for the summer Term wearing the full summer uniform please.

Girls Summer Uniform

Summer dress (only available from Grays)
Plain navy ankle socks
Cardigan and Blazer

Optional Mac in a Sac (cagoule) is available as part of the Summer uniform

Boys Summer Uniform

White short sleeve shirt
Grey shorts (from Grays)
School tie
Navy V-neck jumper trimmed with royal blue
Navy ankle socks
Blazer

Optional Mac in a Sac (cagoule) is available as part of the Summer uniform.

Reception and Pre-school children as above but wear the school polo shirt instead of a shirt and tie, summer dress for girls. (Optional for pre-school).

Dates to Remember

The Spring Term ends next Thursday 1st April and school closes at lunchtime.
We need to stagger the finish times as follows:

- Pre-school - 11.45
- Reception - 11.50
- Year 1 - 12.00
- Year 2/3 - 12.05
- Year 4 - 12.10
- Year 5 - 12.10
- Year 6 - 12.15

School re-opens on Monday 19th April and at the moment all our current arrangements will remain the same.