**Newsletter - 6 September 2019**

**Our Catholic Mission**

A very warm welcome back to all our families at St. Joseph’s. We hope you had a lovely summer and we are delighted to see the children looking so well and smartly turned out. We look forward to sharing in the wonderful learning journey that lies ahead of you all.

**Mass of Dedication**

A Mass of Dedication will be taking place in school at 9.30 am on Tuesday 10 September – everyone welcome.

**Welcome**

Please join us in welcoming the families of Polly, Thomas and Jack and we also welcome, as a new member of staff, Mrs Hollywood to Pre School.

**Parish Mass/Children’s Liturgy**

The parish newsletter or website [www.romancatholiclichfield.co.uk](http://www.romancatholiclichfield.co.uk) contains information about Masses and other church notices.

Mass Times: 6pm Saturday @ SS Peter & Paul

(with Children’s Liturgy)

8.30am Sunday @ Holy Cross
(with Children’s Liturgy)

11am Sunday @ SS Peter & Paul
(with Children’s Liturgy)

**Attendance**

Congratulations to Y1 and Y2, the classes with the highest attendance this week with 100% attendance.

**Reception Children**

On Monday 9 September, we welcome our new intake of Reception children. We know that Miss Cartwright and Mrs Delgiudice are very excited to see you all. Reception parents are invited to join the PTFA in the school hall for tea/coffee after settling their child into class. This is a lovely opportunity to chat with other Reception parents and to meet the PTFA.

**Pre-School**

The children have settled in well this week. Please remember they will need to bring a labelled coat (and wellies to keep in school).

**Music lessons start 9 September onwards**

Please make sure that your child brings their instrument to school on the appropriate day. Please see the website for more details.

**After School Clubs**

Information on our After School Clubs can be found on the school website – all After School Clubs start week commencing 9 September.

**Summer Reading Challenge**

The Summer Reading Challenge finishes on Monday 9 September at 5 pm so there is still time for your child to get their medal and certificate from the library. The competition is strong this year so we would like to encourage all our pupils to complete the challenge to put us in with a good chance of winning the School Trophy!

**Swimming – Y4**

Please remember your swimming kit on Monday 9 September as swimming lessons start back.

If you are able to volunteer to help with accompanying the children to/from swimming lessons, we are very much in need of assistance – please speak to Mr Ashton or the school office asap.

**Parent Helper Induction – 10 September**

We are very fortunate to have so many parents who are willing to help and offer time to the school. In order to ensure that all parents fully understand the expectations when working in school, and the role they play in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children, a full induction is offered at the start of each year. All volunteers in school will need to attend, even if you attended last year’s induction. Also, any parent or grandparent out there who has a morning or afternoon to offer, you are most welcome to come along. This year, the induction will take place at 11 am on Tuesday 10 September. If you are unable to join us at this time, please let me know and I will arrange a suitable date for an alternative meeting.

**Family Lunch - Friday 13 September SURNAMES A-B (WEEK 2 MENU)**

**MENU CHOICE TO BE IN BY 12 NOON ON 11 SEPTEMBER**

Come and enjoy a school meal with your children on Friday 13 September at 11.45am. Please ensure your account is in credit by at least £2.76 for your lunch on parent pay. Menu choices are available on the school website. Please email your choice to lunches@st-josephs-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk before 12 noon on Tuesday 11 September.

**PE Kit**

Please make sure children have the correct PE kit in school each week. Could we ask you to label every item of PE clothing (sharpie pens are the best pens to label clothes with as they do not fade as much). Children will be unable to ‘borrow’ a PE kit from others; unfortunately, if they do not bring their kit to school, they will be unable to take part in this statutory subject.

**Water bottles**

Children should have plain water only in their water bottles. We thank you for not sending them in with flavoured water or juice.

**Y6 Residential**

If you have not already done so, please remember to pay the deposit on ParentPay to secure your child’s place on the Y6 residential.

**Rainbows**

Rainbows provides a safe setting in school in which children can talk through their feelings with their peers who are experiencing similar situations. They are helped to articulate their feelings by a trained facilitator. If you feel your child would benefit from these sessions, please speak to a member of staff.

**ParentPay**

Parents are reminded that school lunches need to be pre-booked on ParentPay. If a meal has not been booked, it will be expected that they bring a packed lunch from home. Snacks and Parent Lunches are currently still be ordered on the ‘old’ system, however, we are hoping to be able to introduce the pre-booking system to these in the near future.

**Pupil Premium/Free School Meals**

Parents claiming some benefits can claim free school meals for any of their children who are registered at a Staffordshire school and who would normally be at school at lunch time. School meals are a good way to ensure that your child eats well at lunchtime, and you can save yourself time and money.

Even if you don't want your children to have the meals, claiming them helps their school. The more eligible parents who claim meals, the more funding the school receives.

To apply online, please click [here](https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx)

**Library**Your child’s class teacher will share information with you about when each class will visit the library. Every class will visit the library once each week to change their book. Please ensure your child is able to do so by reminding him/her to return their book to school on the appropriate day. Thank you to Mrs Cooper and all parents who help to run the library.

**Music lessons at St Joseph’s - September 2019**

Thank you to all those who have sent in their forms for music lessons next year. If you would like to apply for lessons, please email lichfieldmusic@yahoo.co.uk or text Clare Ray on  07806 933156 or see the school website.

**Message from the PTFA**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all parents in this new school year. Please join us on Monday 9 September in the School Hall from 9.10 am for a catch-up and chat. You are automatically a member, but we would be grateful if you could spare some time in becoming an active member. If you are unable to get to meetings but would like to help or have special skills we could use, we would really like to hear from you. Find us on the school website or Facebook "St Joseph's School Lichfield PTFA".

**School Calendar and Information**

You will be able to find more in-depth information on the school website. We will no longer be including a ‘fridge copy’ of the school calendar along with the weekly newsletter as this information is readily available on the website. However, should you require a fridge copy, please email office@st-josephs-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk and we will email a copy to you.

**New School Year Housekeeping**

Just a couple of polite reminders as we start the new school year:

* Please name all belongings
* Please do not enter the school car park at any time.
* Please email us at absence@st-josephs-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk before 9 am if your child is going to be absent.

May God be with you.

Mrs D McLeary