



# NEWSLETTER

## Welcome

*We are growing together on our journey of achievement*

[www.stjosephs.bracknell-forest.sch.uk](http://www.stjosephs.bracknell-forest.sch.uk)

Welcome back to a new academic year! I have just been on a walk around the school and am happy to report that the children are all settled in their new classrooms and the teachers have already got them working hard! The teachers were all in school on Tuesday, preparing for the arrival of the children. It was nice to see them all looking refreshed, ready and enthusiastic about the new school year. We welcome back Ms Smith, who has settled into the routine of Year 1. We were delighted to offer a very special St Joseph's welcome to Mrs Perrett, our new Year 6 teacher, and our two new support staff, Mrs. Saxena and Miss Clark.

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to the following EYFS / Year R children and their families: Aoife, Rochelle, Ronan, Rory, Dayn, Charlotte, Nathaniel, Declan, Aurora, Kenon, Summer, Amelia, Delphina, Phoebe, Dominik, Liliana, Feliks, Samuel, Roza, Filip, Noah, Nicole, Mia, Caleb, Carys, Harry, Freddie, Helena, Zuzanna and Victor

All the children have been introduced to their Buddies this week and they have spent some time together. We will officially welcome all the new EYFS children to St Joseph's School at their Welcome Assemblies on Friday 30th September. Parents and family are invited to join us for this special event.

We are also delighted to say hello to Kaitlynn and Michal, who have also joined us this term. Please join with me in welcoming them and their families to our school community.

## Condolences

It is with deep regret that we announce that YR6 Marcin's dad passed away over the summer holidays. The family have arranged a mass in his memory to take place on 15th September at the 10.30am mass in St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Bracknell. The school community is invited to attend.

Please also remember Chloe's and Reginald's great grandmother who also passed away during the holidays.

May they rest in Peace.

### Meet the Teacher



The staff would like to informally invite you to your child's new classroom at 2.45pm during the week of the

9th September, so that you can see where your child is working and find out a little about the work they will be covering this term. The meetings have been spread over the week. If you have a child in Y4 or Y5, please feel free to simply "pop-in" to each class. The details of the learning for the term will be given to each child as they leave and will also be available on the school website. Please note: Meet the Teacher is NOT for Reception year.

Once the meeting has finished you are welcome to take your child/children home.

#### Dates and Year Groups

- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September: Year 1
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September: Year 4 and Year 5
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September: Year 2
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September: Year 6
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September: Year 3



The school will also hold the beginning of term mass on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 9am. Parents are welcome to join us for this celebration of the eucharist.

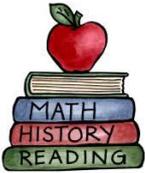
### Class Assemblies



Parents, friends and family are invited to the following class assemblies/celebrations/plays.

- Y6: RYG Assembly on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December
- Y5: Class Assembly on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November
- Y4: Remembrance Assembly on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November
- Y3: Class Assembly on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November
- Y2: Harvest Assembly on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October
- Y1: Nativity Play Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December @ 1.30pm & 6pm
- YR: Nativity Play with Footsteps: Mon 16 @ 2pm & Tue 17 @ 9.15am

## Home Learning



St. Joseph's Primary School has a clear home-learning policy.

As children get older, they will be expected to spend longer on homework activities in preparation for secondary school. We follow guidelines as set out by the Department for Education

- Year R - 30 minutes a week (5 minutes a day)
- Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour a week (10 minutes a day)
- Years 3 and 4 - 1 ½ hours a week (15 minutes a day)
- Years 5 and 6 - 3 hours a week (30 minutes a day)

As home-learning occurs outside of school time and is in addition to the school's curriculum offer, the school charges £10. This amount is subsidised by an already tight school budget.

A Parent Mail request was sent home this week and we ask all parents to pay this charge as it provides excellent value for money. With this charge we can continue to provide a selection of home-learning activities for children:

- Mathematics online programme
- Comprehension Book/s
- Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar Books
- Reading Buddies Home Reading
- Access to Purple Mash

\* At the start of each child's school journey, both parent and child are asked to sign the home-school agreement which includes completing homework. If children do not complete their homework within a reasonable amount of time, they will be expected to stay in at lunchtime to complete the homework.

## Medical



If your child uses an inhaler or auto injector, can you please ensure that these come into school as soon as possible. Health & Safety advice also asks schools to ensure that spacers are also sent into school.

## Free School Meals/ Pupil Premium



Are you entitled?

It is really important that if you feel you may be entitled to claim Free School Meals, that you do so. This is because there is additional government funding awarded to the school, called the Pupil Premium,

which is awarded to schools according to the number of children in receipt of Free School Meals. This means that claiming Free School Meals could also help your child receive other benefits at school. Therefore, if you do feel you are entitled to claim, it is very much in your, your child and the school's interest that you do make this claim. You can even claim and then not take the school hot dinner if your child does not like it; or your child can just have the school dinners on the days they wish to.

## What are the eligibility criteria to claim for Free School Meals?

The current criteria for claiming free school meals are that you must be in receipt of one or more of the following;

- Income Support (IS).
- Employment and Support Allowance (Income Based).
- Child Tax Credit, provided the annual taxable income, as assessed by the Inland Revenue is not in excess of £16,190. (Families who also receive an award of Working Tax Credit do not qualify to claim for free school meals.
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Children who receive Income Support (IS) or Income Jobseekers Allowance in their own right are also entitled to receive free school meals.

In addition, there is also a temporary qualification for free school meals.

- From 1st May 2009, where a parent has been entitled to Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after their employment ceases, or after they start to work less than 16 hours per week, they will be eligible to claim free school meals over that period.

## How do I claim for Free School Meals?

You can do a quick check to see if you are eligible via:

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-meals/how-do-i-apply-free-school-meals>

**PLEASE NOTE:** Even if your child is in receipt of Universal Free School Meals [UFSM] – Reception, Years 1 and 2 please still register for FSM as otherwise you will miss out on this additional funding

## Rhos Y Gwaliau (RYG) – Y6 Residential Trip



In December (1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> December) our Year 6 children are going to RYG, North Wales with the children from Year 6 at St. Francis School. RYG now takes up to 90 children per visit. To ensure that we can continue to use

this exceptional venue we invited St. Francis who have agreed to accompany us this year. This has also kept the cost slightly down.

As this is the first time St. Francis is going to RYG, a member of RYG staff is holding a meeting at St. Francis on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm. Parents of Y6 from St. Joseph's are also welcomed to attend.

This is also the first year that the children will stay on a Friday night. The children will return afternoon on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>. The journey from North Wales to Berkshire on a Friday

afternoon can be horrendous so we plan to leave RYG site around 9.30am and miss the heavy traffic.

## Uniform



The winter or summer uniform can be worn for the month of September. However, from the week of the 30<sup>th</sup> September, all children should be wearing the winter uniform.

Please see the school webpage which reflects our expectations:

[http://www.stjosephsbracknell.co.uk/wp-admin/post.php?vc\\_action=vc\\_inline&post\\_id=24698&post\\_type=page](http://www.stjosephsbracknell.co.uk/wp-admin/post.php?vc_action=vc_inline&post_id=24698&post_type=page)

A large number of clothing items have been found without any names. The school will wash all unnamed items which will then be placed with the second-hand uniform sales. So **PLEASE** ensure all items are named. There will be a uniform sale on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> and again during Family Day, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>.

## Backpacks



We encourage all pupils to take a small backpack to school. The lockers (Y2 – Y5) should be able to close with no strings or straps hanging out.

In Y1 & YR, there is no space for backpacks.

We ask that the children only bring a small book bag, PE kit and coat to school.

## Morning Club



St. Joseph's Morning Club is available as a drop-in facility every morning from 7.45am – 8.45am. It is a Pay As you Go club with a session charge of £2 per session, payable each morning.

We understand that it is not always convenient to have the correct change in the mornings and so the school has worked out two payment options.

1. Parent to have the correct amount (no change to be given)
  2. Parent to purchase pre-paid Stamp Card which will enable 5 sessions per child to be purchased. Parents can choose to use this card as an alternative to daily session payment.
- A stamp card can be purchased at any morning session **per child** at a cost of **£10** each.
  - Each card will be valid until the end of that full term. All credit **must** be used by that date. There will be no carry over.

- Cards will be kept in school and date stamped each time your child attends the Club.
- Parents will be informed at drop off how much credit is remaining on the card.
- Payments for these cards is required in cash.

Reminder: Daily cash payments of the exact amount of £2 will continue to be accepted if you prefer. Parents are politely reminded that no child can be accepted into the Club if there is no credit on the Pre-paid Stamp card or no cash to pay for the session.

## Leave of Absence from School



A Reminder There are strict Government rules and regulations that Head Teachers must follow regarding children's absence from school. Permission for a child to be absent for any reason other than illness must be applied for in writing and will be granted only in exceptional circumstances. Further information and details can be found at: [www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence/overview](http://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence/overview)

## Lateness



When pupils arrive late, they miss out on essential instructions given at the beginning of the lesson. This can significantly reduce achievement, regardless of academic ability. Your child may also feel awkward arriving

to the classroom when everyone else is settled.

Furthermore, when one pupil arrives late, it disrupts the entire class and the teacher – everyone's education is compromised. We therefore encourage all children to be in the school playground at 8.45am

## Arriving at School

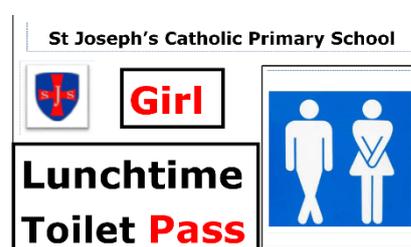


The school gate opens at 8.40am. A bell will ring at 8.45am and the children in Y2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 will line up. The children will then walk into their classrooms. Any children arriving later will either join the end of the line or walk straight into class.

Some children will go into school earlier (invitation only).

In YR and Y1, the classroom doors will open at 8.45am and the children should walk by themselves into class.

## Break & Lunch Time



We have implemented a new system at break and lunch time. There are now special passes for the children to use if they wish to

go to the toilet during break times. Only children wearing these passes are allowed inside.

### Pet Therapy Dog



We are very fortunate to have had many visits in the past from a Pet Therapy Dog. There are enormous benefits that caring for animals brings to children, and evidence from the UK and America shows that having a dog in a school classroom can have many positive benefits – these include helping to calm children down, improving academic achievement, motivating those children who are often not that attentive, teaching responsibility and encouraging children to respect all life.

We have been looking for our own school dog. We considered the type of dog and recognised that we needed to have a calm, friendly dog that was confident around children and adults alike. One of our TAs, Mrs. Taylor owns Angel – a Goldendoodle - a popular breed for school dogs, due to the fact they do not moult (and are therefore as hypoallergenic as a dog can be) and are known for their calm, friendly nature. The school has now completed a full risk assessment regarding Angel's presence in school.

We understand that it is not possible for all families to have a family dog and therefore we are delighted to provide the opportunity for children at St Joseph's to have a 'share' in a dog and gain from the relationship and contact on a regular basis.

If you have any concerns or your child has any dog allergies, please inform the school office.

### Online Safety Day



Parents are invited to join the school on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> September @ 9am for an E-Safety assembly which will be held by Paul Hay. Mr.

Hay will introduce the main tips to keep safe with the use of a video focusing on the use of online games.

### Family Day



As you may be aware, we are planning a Family Fun Day on **Saturday 21st September from 2pm-5pm.**

Please come along for: live music, Punch & Judy shows, fun inflatables, Penalty shoot-out, games, ice-cream van, raffle, delicious international food and more!

If you can help with the international food hall or running a stall, please let your class rep know asap. Finally, please sell as many raffle tickets as possible to raise funds for our school.

### Prayer



#### Lord God,

At the beginning of this new term teach us to **be your hands and feet where we are,**

At the beginning of this new term teach us to **love as you**

#### love us

At the beginning of this new term teach us to **pray for those in need**

**So that You are honored and glorified**

Amen

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As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any immediate concerns, issues or worries.

Best Wishes

*Juanita Dunlop*

Headteacher

### Attachments



1. Term Dates: Please note that the children are expected to be in school **on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December.** This will be the last day of the Autumn term.
2. Lunch Menu

Sep-2019						
Monday		2	9	16	23	30
Tuesday		3	10	17	24	
Wednesday		4	11	18	25	
Thursday		5	12	19	26	
Friday		6	13	20	27	
Saturday		7	14	21	28	
Sunday	1	8	15	22	29	

Oct-2019						
Monday			7	14	21	28
Tuesday		1	8	15	22	29
Wednesday		2	9	16	23	30
Thursday		3	10	17	24	31
Friday		4	11	18	25	
Saturday		5	12	19	26	
Sunday		6	13	20	27	

Nov-2019						
Monday			4	11	18	25
Tuesday			5	12	19	26
Wednesday			6	13	20	27
Thursday			7	14	21	28
Friday		1	8	15	22	29
Saturday		2	9	16	23	30
Sunday		3	10	17	24	

Dec-2019						
Monday		2	9	16	23	30
Tuesday		3	10	17	24	31
Wednesday		4	11	18	25	
Thursday		5	12	19	26	
Friday		6	13	20	27	
Saturday		7	14	21	28	
Sunday	1	8	15	22	29	

Jan-2020						
Monday			6	13	20	27
Tuesday			7	14	21	28
Wednesday		1	8	15	22	29
Thursday		2	9	16	23	30
Friday		3	10	17	24	31
Saturday		4	11	18	25	
Sunday		5	12	19	26	

Feb-2020						
Monday			3	10	17	24
Tuesday			4	11	18	25
Wednesday			5	12	19	26
Thursday			6	13	20	27
Friday			7	14	21	28
Saturday		1	8	15	22	29
Sunday		2	9	16	23	

Mar-2020						
Monday		2	9	16	23	30
Tuesday		3	10	17	24	31
Wednesday		4	11	18	25	
Thursday		5	12	19	26	
Friday		6	13	20	27	
Saturday		7	14	21	28	
Sunday	1	8	15	22	29	

Apr-2020						
Monday			6	13	20	27
Tuesday			7	14	21	28
Wednesday		1	8	15	22	29
Thursday		2	9	16	23	30
Friday		3	10	17	24	
Saturday		4	11	18	25	
Sunday		5	12	19	26	

May-2020						
Monday			4	11	18	25
Tuesday			5	12	19	26
Wednesday			6	13	20	27
Thursday			7	14	21	28
Friday		1	8	15	22	29
Saturday		2	9	16	23	30
Sunday		3	10	17	24	31

Jun-2020						
Monday	1	8	15	22	29	
Tuesday	2	9	16	23	30	
Wednesday	3	10	17	24		
Thursday	4	11	18	25		
Friday	5	12	19	26		
Saturday	6	13	20	27		
Sunday	7	14	21	28		

Jul-2020						
Monday			6	13	20	27
Tuesday			7	14	21	28
Wednesday		1	8	15	22	29
Thursday		2	9	16	23	30
Friday		3	10	17	24	31
Saturday		4	11	18	25	
Sunday		5	12	19	26	

Aug/Sep-2020						
Monday			3	10	17	24
Tuesday			4	11	18	25
Wednesday			5	12	19	26
Thursday			6	13	20	27
Friday			7	14	21	28
Saturday		1	8	15	22	29
Sunday		2	9	16	23	30

KEY:
Bank Holiday
School Holiday
Inset Day
Guitar

**Academic year 2019/2020**

All white boxes are days when the children are expected to be at school. This calendar also includes the Guitar lessons for Y4,5 &6.

**Last Day of the Autumn term: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December. School Finishes at 2.30pm**

**Last Day of the Spring Term: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. School Finishes at 2.30pm**

**Last Day of the Summer Term: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July. School Finishes at 2.30pm**



## Bracknell Menu Winter 2019

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK 1	Quorn Sausage	Penne Pasta Carbonara	Roast Chicken	BBQ chicken pizza	Fish Fingers
	Macaroni Cheese	Roast Vegetable Calzone	Roast Quorn	Margherita Pizza	Quorn Nuggets
	Jacket Potato with Tuna	Thai Vegetable Noodles	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans	Cheese and Tomato Pin Wheel
	Pear and Berry Pie with ice cream	Garlic Bread Starter	Fruity Flapjack	Carrot Cake (reduced sugar)	Strawberry Jelly and Peaches
WEEK 2	Sausages and Mexican Wedges	Penne Pasta Bolognese	Roast Gammon	Margherita Pizza	Fish fingers
	Chilli sin Carne with Mexican Wedges	Oriental Honey Soya Strips	Roast Vegetable and Lentil Loaf	Vegetable Chow Mein	Roast Vegetable and Cheese Fritata
	Vegetable Biryani	Jacket Potato with Bolognese	Cheese Salad Wrap	Beany Pasta	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans
	Lemon and Courgette Cake	Apple and Banana Cake	Vanilla and Chocolate Mousse	Peach Upside-down Cake	Lemon Shortbread
WEEK 3	Sausages with gravy	Mild Chicken Korma	Roast Chicken	Ham Pizza	Fish Fingers
	Macaroni Cheese	Cheese and Bean Fajita	Roast Soya Strips	Margherita Pizza	Salmon and Broccoli Quiche
	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Cheese and Ham Melt	Neopolitan Pasta	Baked Beans on Toast
	Apple Crumble and Custard	Tiffin	Pear and Chocolate Sponge	Strawberry Jelly and ice cream	Oat Dream Cookie