



# NEWSLETTER

*We are growing together on our journey of achievement with Jesus in our hearts, heads and hands.*

[www.stjosephsbracknell.co.uk](http://www.stjosephsbracknell.co.uk)

29<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parents

We are already well into the fourth week of this term and I hope that you have all had a good start to 2020.

I am delighted to inform you that our school has been placed as the second-best school in Bracknell Forest Local Authority. This rating considers 44 different data points - including not just Key Stage 2 results but other factors like progress, pupil-teacher ratios and absence rates. Please see the website below for further details:

<https://www.google.co.uk/amp/s/www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/the-top-10-primary-schools-in-bracknell-forest/amp/>

**Religious Education:** In RE, the children are learning how God reveals Himself in scripture and in our everyday lives through the topic 'Revelation'. The youngest will learn this through some of the parables that Jesus told us, as well as learning about some of his miracles. Lower KS2 will be thinking about how Jesus is revealed at Mass, as well as the importance of light as a symbolism of revelation. Meanwhile, the oldest children will be thinking about the role of baptism in revealing God and learn about the importance of the Pope and Bishops and the role they play in revealing Jesus to us today.

'A voice from Heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am pleased.'" Matthew 3:1

**Spring Term Curriculum Letters** You will have received this term's class curriculum letter. Please take the time to read this as it gives information about what your child is learning in all subjects and how you can support them with their learning. These letters will be also available on the school website.

## **IDL-Online Support for English and Mathematics:**

The school has invested in an online English and Mathematics programme for Key Stage 2 children. This programme can be used at home and at school. It has come highly recommended and if your child has access, then 20 minutes a night will lead to great progress in your child's maths or English skills. IDL can be accessed at home by:

**Using an iPad** - If you are using an iPad to access IDL then you will need to install the FREE app available from the **Apple App Store**. To find this you can browse the App Store for IDL2 Mobile or if you are on the iPad now just click the link below:

[https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/idl2-](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/idl2-mobile/id1439882415?ls=1&mt=8)

[mobile/id1439882415?ls=1&mt=8](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/idl2-mobile/id1439882415?ls=1&mt=8)

## **Using an Android tablet such as a Samsung Galaxy**

- If you are using an Android tablet to access IDL then you will need to install the FREE app available from the **Google Play Store**. To find this you can browse the Play Store for IDL2 Mobile or if you are on the tablet now just click the link below:

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.idlsgroup&hl=en\\_GB](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.idlsgroup&hl=en_GB)

**Uniform:** We ask that all children follow our school uniform policy and your help would be appreciated in supporting this policy. If unsure, please ask your class teacher or check the school website. Please note that hair ribbons and bands should be blue or of another dark colour, with long hair tied up. We also ask the children to tuck their white shirts in.

**Adverse Weather Procedure:** As our weather turns colder, here is a reminder of emergency school closure procedure. If we must close the school due to poor weather, a message will be sent out via Parent Mail before 7am on the day, an update will be posted on our school website and the local radio stations will be informed (BBC

Berkshire, Heart & Reading 107 - although it can take some time for this information to be broadcast),

The decision to close the school is never an easy one to make but the governors always try to make the decision as early as is possible. If you do not currently receive Parent Mail emails, please contact the school office.

**Safeguarding :** Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you have a concern about a family you know, for example someone in your neighbourhood, you can phone the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01344 352005 (office hours). All the school's safeguarding related policies and procedures can be found in the safeguarding section under the INFORMATION TAB on our website, or a copy can be obtained from the school office. The school's Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Dunlop and deputies Mrs Philpott and Mrs Smit should you wish to discuss any related issues.

**E Safety & Parent Controls!** We are aware that some children may have received new devices over the Christmas period. Whether it's a laptop, phone, tablet, games console or other device that connects to the internet, there's lots you can do to make sure it's set up safely for your child. There is some useful advice on how to set up parental controls on the NSPCC website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-childrensafe/onlinesafety/parental-controls/>

Parental controls can help you to plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for, create content filters to block apps that may have inappropriate content and more. Another useful website is Net Aware:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

This has information about all apps, games, websites and social networks. Most importantly, it tells you the official age rating for such platforms.

**How to Keep Kids Safe on-line – a comprehensive guide:** Parents frequently have questions about children using the internet and what they can do to safeguard their activity. Barnardo's, Internet Matters, Bullying UK, The Counselling Directory and many more well-known

charities have joined together to create a fantastic guide on "How To Keep Kids Safe Online". You can read the full guide for free by clicking here:

<https://tutorful.co.uk/guides/how-to-keep-kids-safe-online>

The guide includes chapters on:

- online gaming
- social media
- advise on how to stop cyberbullying
- Finding inappropriate content
- online grooming and much more

**Parking:** Already, so early in the term, I have been contacted by angry neighbours and local residents concerning the apparent disregard of highways laws when parents are dropping off or picking up their children. Please remember that there should be no parking in front of people's entrances in any of the local streets at any time, nor should any car mount the pavement to park or drop off / pick up. Please be considerate of our neighbours and ensure that their driveways are not blocked.

We are in the very fortunate position that our parents can use the parking facilities at Bracknell Football Club so please avail of this parking area.

Also, please remember that the staff car park should not be used for parking when picking up from clubs. As at 3.15pm, you must park and walk into school to collect your child. On any given day, we can have up in excess of 40 children leaving the premises at 4.30pm – far too many to have cars manoeuvring in the car park – especially on these dark evenings.

**Birthday Treats:** Gentle Reminder to all parents that we no longer hand out birthday treats at the end of the day. The birthday children are given a large badge to wear and everyone wishes them a happy birthday throughout the day.

**Calls from St. Joseph's School:** Over the past year we have had many varied requests from parents regards phone calls. We respect that many of you are in a workplace and may not be able to take time off unless urgent. Our school policy will be to phone home if **we**

- ✚ feel your child is too ill to be at school
- ✚ to alert you that your child has bumped their head

Also, we may phone on the odd occasion if your child is very upset and forgot something. The teachers may also contact you by email.

**Attendance:** Our target for school attendance is 97% over the course of the academic year and presently we are 0.5% below this target across the school. Communication is sent home to those children whose attendance has dropped below 95% via Parent Mail. Please do try to ensure that your children are in school every day – hopefully there will be less illness about in the Spring and Summer terms!

| Class | Attendance |
|-------|------------|
| YR    | 93.6%      |
| Y1    | 97.6%      |
| Y2    | 96.7%      |
| Y3    | 97.15%     |
| Y4    | 97.64%     |
| Y5    | 97.5%      |
| Y6    | 97.59%     |
| Total | 96.5%      |

**Lateness:** We have children arriving late for the school day – some as late at 9.15am! This is very disruptive not only for all the children in each class and their education but also to the administration of the school. With Breakfast Club opening from 7.45 am and the school gates opening at 8.40am there is really no excuse for being late. If everyone could aim to be here by 8.40am then, if you are stuck in traffic, you will have some spare time in hand!

**Engendering a 'love of reading':** One of the delights in being a parent is reading to your child. Please spare some time every week to read to your child – even a good picture book i.e. 'Giraffe's Can't Dance' can give a Year 6 child a lot of pleasure.

We cannot stress how important it is that parents support their children by hearing them read on a near daily basis. Children can make accelerated progress in reading and with such

support you are improving your child's life opportunities.

We are asking that all children aim to read every night. School staff will be checking the yellow 'Reading Record Books' on a weekly basis to see if the children have been reading regularly at home. I have asked teachers to contact parents if children are not being heard or, for our older children, they are not reading to themselves at home.

**Hearing your child read:** When hearing your child read, try the following approach:

- Before beginning please check the inside cover as there may be advice on this cover.
- Then flick through through the book, without reading. This will give you a chance to look at the illustrations, review vocabulary and discuss what might happen in the story.
- Say the tricky words that children will have to read, e.g. "Look at that big *tortoise* in the picture". This will help children later when they are reading this word.
- Whilst reading, if your child gets stuck, try these methods:
- Sound out words phonetically: c-a-t = cat, sh-o-t = shot, h-oo-d = hood, l-ou-d = loud, r-ou-n-d = round, p-r-ou-d = proud;

OR

- Use the pictures as prompts for tricky words;
- Encourage your child to read in context, e.g. "The dog was hungry, so he ate the b\_\_" (bone).
- When you have finished reading, ask your child about what they have read. Get them to talk about what has happened so that they can develop their comprehension skills. Ask them about how certain characters might be feeling in the story. Ask them how they know, where in the text does it give this information?
- Go over any words that your child got stuck on. Get them to read the words again, individually. A tin of tricky word could be used for words your child finds difficult. You can make games with these words i.e. snap

**Achievements**



Carragh, Y1, attended an Irish Dancing Festival and she achieved two first places and two second places. Well done Carragh!

### Diary Dates

| February    |                                    |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 3rd         | Create Hope Parent's Meeting       |
|             | Y1 Walk to the Library             |
| 4th         | Badminton Competition              |
|             | Y4 Spell It Competition            |
| 6th         | Y5 School Trip to Docklands Museum |
| 7th         | <b>ORANGE Day</b>                  |
| 10th        | Y1,2,3 Football Assembly           |
| 12th        | Festival of Vision                 |
| 13th        | Y2 & Y3 Football PE lesson         |
| 14th        | Cinema Evening                     |
| 17th – 21st | Half Term                          |
| March       |                                    |
| 2nd         | Eco-Book Day                       |
| 9th         | Parents' Evening – 2 – 5.20pm      |
| 10th        | Parents' Evening – 4.50 – 7pm      |

### Dates for your Diary

- ❖ **Parents' Evening** will be held in March and you will be notified by Parent Mail.
- ❖ On Friday 7th February our school will be supporting **Muscular Dystrophy UK** by
  - making pupils aware of inspiring disabled people
  - MUFTI DAY - Inviting pupils to bring a **£1** donation for the charity and wear **ORANGE** instead of their school uniform (this does not have to be full orange; an orange item is acceptable)!
  - CAKE SALE - There will be a cake sale after school to raise money for the charity.

- TEA/COFFEE take away - Parents will be selling tea/coffee from 8.30am so parents can grab a hot drink on their way to work

- ❖ **Festival of Vision:** St. Joseph's Catholic Primary is excited to announce that we have been selected to host a Festival of Vision supported by Specsavers and Tablet Academy on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020. This event will provide several students with the opportunity to engage in activities to help develop the understand of the features and functions of an eye and also how to keep them healthy. As part of this event, your child's vision can be checked for free during the day (if permission is given). There will also be a free after school drop-in session 3pm – 4pm where you can have your child's vision checked for free. The non-intrusive pre-screening process takes around 3 minutes to complete and accompanying adults are welcome to have their own vision checked at the same time if space is available. Further information to follow via Parent Mail
- ❖ **Eco Book Day:** This year our theme for Book Week is recycling. Therefore, we are discouraging the purchase of new costumes. We are suggesting recycling or borrowing from a friend. In the forthcoming weeks we will have a costume swap where you may donate od unloved costumes which other children can take and reuse. A leaflet will follow.

### Attachments:

- Ultimate Activity Camps provide activity day camps for children aged 4-14 years during the school holidays. Children will enjoy 40 sports, games and art activities every week led by inspiring staff at amazing locations. All camps are OFSTED registered. The leaflet attached gives details of LVS Ascot Camp and provides an example of the activities children can expect to take part in.
- PSC Community Support Group Flyer
- BLAZE Martial Arts
- Bikeability School Holiday 1-day course
- CYPID Speech & Language Drop in Clinics

## Wanted

- **Spice Jars:** If you have any used spice jars with lids, we would be very thankful