



NEWSLETTER

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

www.stjosephsbracknell.co.uk

9th March 2020

Dear Parents

With half term being a dim and distant memory already, it is great how the children settle back into learning quickly. We all enjoyed the fun and entertainments of last week's Book Week (more of this later) where the children were delightful as always.

Ash Wednesday: We celebrated the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday morning with a Lent service followed with staff distributing the ashes.

God Matters – Lent. The children have begun the Lent unit of work in their 'God Matters' RE. Our infant children will be hearing that this is a special time when we get ready for Jesus and a time when we think especially about forgiveness and what that means. Children in lower KS2 will be thinking about Jesus' temptation and the challenges that we face as Christians, as well as thinking about how they can be like Jesus during Lent. Finally, our oldest children will think about why we give alms during Lent and answer big questions, such as 'Can everyone be forgiven?'

Updates on Covid 19: The school is being updated daily and following advice to the changing situation in Britain. We have been informed that last Tuesday the government Coronavirus action plan was launched. This plan sets out what the UK as a whole has done to tackle the Coronavirus (COVID-19), and what it plans to do next. The action plan sets out a four phased approach in response to the Coronavirus – Contain, Delay, Mitigate, and Research. An approach designed by world leading experts. As there are already cases in the UK, the current emphasis is on the Contain and Research phases but planning for Delay and Mitigation is already in train.

We are advised that personal hygiene is the most important way we can tackle COVID-19, especially washing hands and the catch it, bin it, kill it strategy for those with coughs and sneezes.

We are informed that the current advice ***remains in place that no school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.***

You can find the action plan here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

Other illnesses: We have had reported cases of Hand Foot and Mouth, Chicken Pox (Y2 has had four cases to date) and worms in the school setting. Please can we all be vigilant and treat your children as appropriate.

Parent Teacher Evenings & Headteacher

Surgery: Teachers will be available to see parents on Monday and Tuesday the 9th and 10th March. If you would like to see Mrs. Dunlop regards any issue that you would like to share or discuss, either pop into her office or make an appointment after/before your designated slot.

Book Week: Well, what a week! We started the week with dressing up. All staff and children put great effort into representing characters from their chosen authors. On Wednesday, the children enjoyed the show 'Secret Garden' and this proved very popular – so popular that we have booked the company for next year's book week. There was a lot of laughter and book sharing last week. We must all offer our huge thanks to the teachers for all their planning and efforts to make the week so enjoyable for the children. Particular thanks must go to our English Leader Mrs Broadbridge, not just for organising us all and ensuring that the week ran smoothly,

but also for making us smile by turning up as a ladybird on Monday morning.

Morning Gate To ensure safety on site I would like to remind all parents that the school gates close at 9am. We expect the children to be lined up at 8.45am where the teacher will lead the children into the classroom. KS2 doors need to be closed after 8.50am and anyone arriving after KS2 door or gates are closed will need to go through the School Office and sign their child in. Parents are not allowed to come into the school in the morning. If you have a message then you should meet the teacher at 8.45am, send an email or leave a message at the school office. We aim to start lessons promptly and talking to the teacher in the morning holds up the class. Thank you.

Attendance Update The overall attendance figure so far for St. Joseph's this school year is 96.94%. The government expects attendance to be at least 96% so we just above this benchmark. Please have your child in school as much as possible. I endeavour to work alongside parents by informing any parent whose child's attendance drops below 95%. In addition, I hold meetings where attendance is not improving and where the attendance is becoming a persistent concern.

I am delighted to share the individual class attendance figures from September to last Friday:

Year R	93.66%
Year 1	97.72%
Year 2	97.01%
Year 3	97.72%
Year 4	97.86%
Year 5	97.21%
Year 6	97.42%

100% Attendance – Halfway through the year Congratulations to the 43 children who have 100% attendance to date. These children have been given a certificate today.

ESafety: Reminder of the wide range of articles on an even wider range of subjects for children of all ages can be found on;
<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/digital-parenting> .

In the Resources link, the latest Digital Parenting magazine can be downloaded and there are some very good information on smartphones:

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/digital-parenting/resources-category>

Diary Dates

Marcy	Event
Mon 9 th	Parents' Evening
Tues 10 th	Parents' Evening
Wed 11 th	Anxiety Workshop
Thur 12 th	Y2 Trip to Gordon Brown Centre
Fri 13 th	Science Afternoon Football Match – SJS vs Newbold
Mon 16 th	Bracknell Bees -Whole School Assembly on Tolerance
Tue 17 th	Y4 Trip to Gordon Brown Centre Y5&6 Hockey Festival
Wed 18 th	Y3 Trip to Singh Sabha Gurudwara Anxiety Workshop
Thur 19 th	St. Joseph's Day
Mon 23 rd	YR Trip to Weasley Garden
Wed 25 th	Anxiety Workshop
Frid 27 th	Y5 at SJS Church – Stations of the Cross
Mon 30 th	Whole School Assembly - Cricket
April	
Friday 3 rd	Last Day of School. School closes at 2.30pm. There is no ASC.
SATS Week for Y6	
Mon 11 th May	Y6 SATs Week

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

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

Please can all family holidays be booked accordingly. All term dates for this year and next academic year, 2020-21 are on our website.

Volunteering: If you would be interested in becoming a volunteer and joining a great team, could you please inform the office of your interest. If you would like to find out more information with regards to the role, then please pop into the school office and talk to Mrs. Dunlop or Mrs. Philpott.



Father God,

You have given us the season of Lent to draw us closer to you. Help me to know you more personally as both God and man. Open my heart and mind to hear your voice during the coming weeks so that I may trust in you more and more.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



**Igniting Writing: Wokingham Library's
Teen Creative Writing Club**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

To introduce myself, my name's Alex Baker and I run a group called Igniting Writing. If you've never heard of Igniting Writing before, it's a creative writing club for Year Six pupils and above, based at Wokingham Library. Writing can sometimes be seen as a solitary activity, so the aim of the club is to bring together young writers to share their imaginations and develop their story writing skills in a relaxed and friendly group environment.

We cover a different writing topic every week, ranging from creating characters to exploring the worlds of fantasy, sci-fi and beyond, so there's something for everyone. We even hold special 'guest speaker' events, where local authors, literary agents, poets and more come in and share their writing tips and experiences – it's a great chance for group members to get the inside scoop from writing experts and write alongside

the pros, as well as answer any writing-related questions they may have.

If your son/daughter is interested in trying some creative writing out, they're more than welcome to join. **Membership is completely free**, so there's no cost to book a place, and all our sessions are held at **Wokingham Library on Saturday mornings, from 10:30am to 12:00pm.**

If you want to find out more about the group, ask some questions or see what goes into planning the sessions, you can get in touch at the following webpages:

Website:

<https://directory.wokingham.gov.uk/kb5/wokingham/directory/service.page?id=Wi6ijfJao4E>

Blog: <http://ignitingwriting.tumblr.com>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/829509490414536>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IgnitingWriting>

You can also call Wokingham Library on 0118 9781368.

If you think the group is something your son/daughter would be interested in, I hope to see you this Saturday!

Regards, Alex

Alex Baker, founder and group leader of Igniting Writing



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Easter Multi Activity Holiday Camp at Holly Spring Primary School

6th – 17th April 2020 (excluding bank holidays)

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Book before 9th March and receive 10% off your booking using code: EAS20

Is your child is aged 4+? Do they love to have fun and make new friends? Then our Multi Activity Themed Holiday Camps are perfect!

Our specially designed programmes have something for everyone from engaging Multi Sports, Team Games and creative themed Arts & Crafts.



Did you know.....

We accept Childcare Vouchers & the Tax-Free Childcare Schemes

All of our holiday camps are Ofsted registered

Play Leader Scheme for 12+ years

Times & Prices.....

Full Day

8:00am–6:00pm £28.95

Half Day

9:30am–3:30pm £20.95

Morning Boost

8:00am–3:30pm £24.95

Afternoon Boost

9:30am–6:00pm £26.95

Peace of mind.....

Many of our staff hold a minimum of NVQ level 2 Play Worker & National Governing Body level 2 qualifications. Enhanced DBS Check. Paediatric First Aid trained and have completed child protection safeguarding courses.



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IN
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