

St Joseph's Catholic Middle School

Fortnightly Newsletter – Friday 16th April 2021

Statement of the week: Jesus is Alive!

Dear Parents, Guardians and Parishioners,

What a wonderful first week we have experienced since our Easter holiday. Firstly, many thanks to all parents for carrying out tests during the holidays and making sure we are a 100% COVID free school. If we can all keep doing our part I am sure we can keep this going throughout the summer.

This term, I am delighted to welcome back Miss Mooney, Mrs Binns, and Mrs Lockhart following a period of absence. We have also welcomed 4 new pupils this term in Y5, Y6 and Y7. We hope they will settle quickly and enjoy their time at St Joseph's.

A huge thanks to Mrs Hagger for organising this week's Drug and Alcohol workshops in school, a summary of the event can be found below!

Finally, I hope parents and pupils are impressed with our new security fencing and gates which have been installed in both schools over the holiday. The gates will all be automated in the coming weeks. Visitors to school will need to ring the intercom to gain access after 9 am.

Canteen Logo

We can now release an image of the new logo for the canteen which was designed by Joe and Madeleine. This will be printed on uniforms, promotional material and in the canteen. We love it!



Chicks

As many of you will know, we have had Living Eggs in school this week. The chicks were placed in Miss Mooney's capable hands, she has taken her 'Mother Hen' role very seriously. There are now 8 chicks in 5M. Children from all year groups will get the opportunity to meet the chicks next week before they are taken back.

Music Lessons

Mr Rosier and pupils are delighted that all peripatetic music teachers have resumed music lessons at St Joseph's. Please can I remind pupils to check their timetabled music lessons a list is available outside of the music room.



Swimming

Children from 6D and half of 6H have been enjoying their swimming lessons down at Wentworth Leisure Centre. The children go out for one afternoon a week as part of their P.E curriculum. We aim to have all children able to swim 25m before they reach KS3.

School Uniform

Many thanks to all parents for making sure pupils have appropriate uniforms. With non-essential shops opening parents may be purchasing new school shoes. Can I remind parents that we have a



clear policy on polishable shoes. Trainers or trainer type shoes are not permitted, any sports branded shoes are being phased out completely this academic term ready for September.

Price increase information from Salto

We have been notified by several of our brands about imminent price increases that are having to be applied to offset a number of contributory factors that are happening globally at present.

We are working closely with all of our suppliers to mitigate as much of the increasing cost pressures as we can. However, we regret to inform you that we will be forced to increase prices the increase will come into effect from 1st May 2021.

We experienced many delays with certain school uniform items in 2020, and these delays are expected to continue for the foreseeable future. The factors attributing to these delays remain beyond our direct control and are impacting supply chains across the globe.

Once more, this reinforces the case in favour of parents ordering early for a successful 'Back to School' in September. We will notify you of any school items that may be a particular problem and keep you informed of the situation.

Clubs

This week, especially with the wonderful weather, we have managed to utilise all our outside facilities to the full and clubs are up and running again. If your child would like to sign up for a club, please contact the school office to see what is available.



Penny Challenge – Volunteers needed

Please can I appeal to any parents that have some spare time and could help to count our Penny Challenge collection that many of you have viewed on Facebook. We have half a dozen small buckets that need collecting and counting. Please contact the school office if you can help.

Dance

This week we welcomed back our dance teacher Pippa Wild who is currently working with Y6 pupils. Pippa comes into school a few times a year to run workshops with the children. They love the sessions!

Informed Choices Workshops

We've had a fantastic start to the first week back with a PSHE focus throughout the school! We have had the wonderful Dave Burns from Be Safe come into work with the students on how to make informed choices about their personal safety.

Y8 looked at cannabis awareness, where they increased their knowledge and awareness of the issues relating to cannabis use, including how the police identify people that grow cannabis and the laws that are in place surrounding this ongoing issue. Life in prison and the effects this can have on a person's education and family life.

Y7 looked at healthy relationships & CSE prevention awareness, where they increased their knowledge and awareness of the issues and potential dangers. They discussed what their understanding of a healthy and unhealthy relationship is, again they looked at the social media aspects of this too.



Y6 looked at their personal safety and staying safe on the streets - knowing your area, peer pressure and friendships, mobile phone safety, and the appropriate ages for games and online platforms.

Y5 explored friendship and resilience through a workshop delivered by Mrs. Hagger. This was a combination of

bespoke friendship, team building, and resilience activities. The students looked at the value of friendship, how to work as a team and the importance of understanding the difference between feelings and behaviour choices.

Please ask your children about their experiences as we are confident that they all enjoyed these informative and valuable sessions this week.

Mrs Hudson's Kitchen

Here are a few photographs of some of the meals Mrs Hudson has been serving! The new menus are going down a treat. We would encourage all children to try the school meals!



Pupils Recognition Awards

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Pupil</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Miss Armstrong	Alice 7S	Fantastic Concentration in Maths.
Mrs Hagger	Meghan 7H	Settling in so well and becoming a valued member of 7H.
Mr Secker	Amelia 8D	Always having a positive approach to school.
Mr Simpson	Geoff 6D	Outstanding Maths work.
Mrs Coulson	Rupert 6S	Expert knowledge of WW2.
Miss Dodds	Ruby 6S	Great focus and work in Maths.
Mrs Gelson	Elektra 5G	She just keeps shining.
Mr Naughton	Alarice 7H Liam 7H	Looking after new pupils and making them feel welcome. Outstanding creative writing.
Mr Rosier	Isobella 6D	For her enthusiastic singing.
Mr Seddon	Charlie 7R	Great Scientific investigation work.

Covid-19

Restrictions are now slowly but surely coming to an end but I ask that everyone remembers what we have been through and continues to follow rules. Washing hands, face masks and social distancing make a huge difference to stopping the virus spreading. We are now able to meet others outdoors but should all still be following the rule of six or two households when we do and I'm sure, in time, we will be able to come together freely again.

Gospel

This is the prayer for the week beginning the 19th April, the third week of Easter.

The reading is about Jesus' appearance to the disciples.

Gospel of Luke, chapter 24, verses 35-48.

'Jesus Himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you!" In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But He said, "Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have." And as He said this He showed them His hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they still could not believe it, and they stood there dumbfounded; so He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" And they offered Him a piece of grilled fish, which He took and ate before their eyes. Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and He said to them, "So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in His name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this."

Prayer

Creator God,
Because of your abundant love
you chose to bring light and order into the formless void,
to create a world of unsurpassed beauty
and you saw that it was good.
We ask that you continue to recreate the world
with that same attentive love,
to bring light into today's ever increasing chaos and darkness
where we have failed to be stewards and carers of your creation.
Replenish our hearts
so that we too can renew the face of the earth.
Amen.

On behalf of Fr Chris, Governors and staff, may we wish you a happy weekend.

Mr P Naughton

Fr Chris



