



Newsletter



22/9/16

Flu immunisation

All children in years 1,2 & 3 should have received a consent form for their child to be immunised against flu. The deadline for returning these is tomorrow, Friday 23rd September.

PGL

The children from years 5 & 6 who went on a residential trip to the PGL Centre at Beam House last week had a wonderful time and were a credit to the school. There are lots of photos in the galleries section of the website for you to see what they got up to.

Harvest Mass

This Sunday we will be joining the parish for their Harvest Mass at 11.00. Your presence would be the best contribution (school uniform is not needed). You can also contribute foodstuff for the Harvest Gifts by sending them into school tomorrow. The gifts will be blessed at the Mass and distributed through the Shekinah Mission.

Gates

We invited an Ofsted inspector to visit the school this week. One of the areas he was particularly looking at was safeguarding. He was pleased with most of our safeguarding practice and was very complimentary about the appearance and behaviour of the children. He was, however, alarmed at our entrance area where the vehicle gates are open at the start and end of school allowing children to exit straight onto a road. He advised that the vehicle gates should remain closed at all times when children are on, entering, or leaving the school site. This means that the only access at the front of the school will be via the automatically closing pedestrian gate. The system attached to this gate is designed for safe closure and will stop and reopen if it senses somebody in the opening or touching the gate. We realise that at times parents may have to wait until somebody in the office is available to open the gates if they are closed and apologise for that but have decided that is the lesser of two evils. He also recommended changing parking arrangements so that there is a safe pathway to an area of the school that is traffic free so we will be looking into providing that as an extra safety measure.

Lunchtimes

Another aspect of practice at St Joseph's that surprised the Ofsted inspector was the length of the lunch-time that we have. He thought that one and a quarter hours was an exceptionally long lunch time. We will experiment with different lunchtimes beginning next week where we will stagger lunchtimes so that Key Stage 1 start at 12.00 and Key Stage 2 start at 12.15 with Key Stage 1 returning to class at 1.00 and Key Stage 2 remaining in the playground until 1.15.

Enriched Curriculum

One aspect of St Joseph's that the Ofsted inspector was particularly impressed with was our range of enrichment opportunities. We ended last year with our fantastic production of Shakespeare4Kidz 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Since this year has started we have had the PGL trip; all of Key Stage 2 have enjoyed a 'Lego Technic' workshop; Argyle run fitness clubs have started for years 1-4 and we are recruiting for Forest School Club members. Next week the Foundation Stage children will have Balanceability bike riding lessons while Years 5 & 6 will be learning how to ride their bikes safely on the roads through the Bikeability project. If they have their own bikes, the older children should bring them in on Monday. The bikes can then stay in school all week if needed. Class 5 (years 5&6) should wear clothes suitable for bike riding to school next week, not school uniform.

Sainsbury's Sports Mark

We heard this week that our application for the Sainsbury's School Games Sports Mark was successful. We have been awarded the Silver Level. This is a great achievement for our first application recognising the wide range of sporting opportunities our children enjoy. Next year we will be go for Gold !

Navy not Grey for girls

An increasing number of girls are wearing grey skirts or dresses. The colour for school uniform at St Joseph's is navy blue. For any future purchases could you please ensure that you buy navy not grey.