



*St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Woodchurch Road, Oxton, Prenton,
Birkenhead, Wirral CH43 5UT*

Dear Parents,

Apologies that this letter is quite lengthy and detailed. I just wanted to get some important information to you ready for September (you could take this to the beach as your 'holiday read!'). I will write to you again before the end of term in my half termly newsletter.

Morning routine for Y2-6

As you know, our current system is that we open the doors on the KS2 playground at 8.50am and close them at approximately 9.10am. This allows for the children to enter in 'waves'. Having consulted with some parents, there seems to be a real split, with half saying they like this system as it eases congestion, but half saying they would prefer a return to lining up as it sets a good tone for discipline and ensures that children are entering the building in an orderly fashion. Please be assured that I will continue to poll before making any radical changes to this. However, this current system does pose some internal issues e.g. staffing the door and lesson starting times. It is also acknowledged that some children are arriving later and later and missing valuable learning time.

I am implementing for September that the doors will open at 8.50am to continue the 'staggered' entry, but will close at 9.00am. The expectation is that children are in before 9.00am. Any children arriving after 9.00am will be asked to go to the front office to be let in. You may have seen we have a new system in the office for staff and visitors to sign in/out. This system can also be used to sign children in and out and so if they arrive after the close of the register (9.05am) they will be signed in on this device. This can be done by the children themselves (depending on age) or parents or office staff. For children in Year 1 and F2 this will be the same process, but at their own door.

Attendance and requests for holidays during term time

Our overall school attendance and attendance for some individuals is going to be a focus for next year. I will write to you again with details and information about current policy on these matters.

School Uniform

I am very passionate about the appearance of our children. I want them to be proud to wear the St Joseph's uniform and for any member of the public to spot a pupil wearing our uniform and know that they attend a school where manners, politeness, good behaviour, drive and determination are central. It makes me so happy and proud when I do get lovely feedback from members of the public about our children – as was the case recently when Y5 visited the Tate Gallery. Please can you support me in this vision by ensuring that your child wears our uniform with pride – black or grey trousers, skirts or shorts/white or red polo shirt with school badge/white shirt/red or grey jumper/cardigan with school badge/black shoes. I would be interested in looking at our school uniform over the next year and consider changes (please be assured nothing would change during the next academic year for those of you who have already bought uniform!). I do notice some children who chose to wear a white shirt with red tie – I do like this and think it looks particularly



smart so have approached the uniform shop to see if we could have the school badge on a red tie. However, plain red is equally fine. Please can I ask you to ensure that our black shoes policy is adhered to – children can bring in coloured trainers to change in to at break times if they wish, but I am noticing children creeping in with coloured shoes/trainers during school. I understand at the end of term you may be hesitant to buy new shoes, but again, please can I ask for your support. For PE please can the children have a red polo shirt with navy or black shorts/PE skirts and suitable footwear. I will be monitoring uniform and reminding the children of the importance of good presentation and how this links to positive attitudes, impressions and behaviours.

All uniform can be purchased at the school office, or you can take polo shirts/jumpers to the uniform shop in Birkenhead to have our school badge added. Please could I discourage you from having the badge put on 'hoodies' to be worn as uniform. Finally for uniform, please, please, please can I ask you to ensure that children's names are on all items!!!!

Playground development

As I mentioned in a previous newsletter, I am delighted to let you know that the KS2 playground is due to be worked on over the Summer holidays. Thanks to a lottery grant, PTA funding and some allocation from our own budget, I have commissioned the installation of some climbing and activity equipment on the playground. This is phase one, and I wish to add more and develop the other areas over the coming years, as part of my determination to give our children the school they deserve.

I do notice that at the end of the day when waiting for collection, some children do climb in and on the picnic area, tables and the gym window ledge. Please can I ask you to prevent this. This will be especially important when we do have this new equipment as the last thing I would want is a child falling and injuring themselves. When using the equipment during the school day, the children will be supervised. Please can I ask that you ensure your children are not climbing on tables/equipment/ledges. Misuse will also cause damage and having secured this exciting development, I want it to last! Thank you for your support with this.

Behaviour

Thank you for your support this with year with our new behaviour system. Feedback from staff, pupils and parents is that it has had a positive effect on the behaviour and attitudes in the school. I know the children have their reward day coming up and there are lots of exciting things happening to thank the children for their consistent good behaviour, manners and attitudes. Like many things, there is room for improvement and I will continue to monitor and develop the system to ensure consistency, and promote our high expectations of behaviour, and consequences when they fall short.

Letters

You will have noticed I have started to text links to some of our letters. At the moment I have been sending out hard copies as well, but I do hope to phase this out. Texting e-letters will reduce our photocopying bill, as well as ensuring letters do not get lost between here and home! My hope is to just send out texts, and have some hard copies available in the office. I am also looking in to various apps parents could download to get more school information. Please can you ensure that we always have your most up to date mobile numbers.

Hope you've managed to wade through all that! Many thanks for your continued support

Mr Turner