



NEWSLETTER

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

www.stjosephs.bracknell-forest.sch.uk

21st May 2021

Dear Parents,

Celebrating Pentecost: The feast of Pentecost is on Sunday 23rd May and marks the day, when the Apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and went out telling everyone about God, Jesus and! the Good News. Scriptures tell us, they spoke in many languages so that people of all nations, creeds and languages understood God's love for them. We are a very diverse community, with families representing every corner of the world with over 14 different languages spoken by the children. This enriches our community, and it is lovely to see the harmonious and respectful relationships that exist across the school. To celebrate the feast of Pentecost and we celebrated a special service on-line with St. Margaret Clitherow School. Many thanks to Deacon Aidan who led this special celebration.

Wi-Fi: Unfortunately, the Pentecost service this morning was glitchy due to Wi-Fi. Since we have started to place more demands on our Wi-Fi, we have noted that it needs updating. The Wi-Fi was put in across the school in 2007 and now 14 years later, it needs a complete overhaul if it to last us for the next 20 years! Our school budget is very tight, and we are asking all parents, families and friends to support our funding for this project. We are hoping to raise £10,000 through the following link:
<https://app.investmycommunity.com/friends-of-st-josephs-catholic-school-2537> This site will take you through to options to raise money for us. You can easily invite your friends and family to support through sharing social media buttons. Join in the fundraising fun and help further improve your child's education! More details to follow...

Please note that to launch our Wi-Fi fundraising, we are having a Mufti Day this Thursday 27th May. So please bring a voluntary contribution.

Road Map: As the roadmap out of the pandemic continues, I dearly hope that family and friends have enjoyed spending more time together. The advice we have received from the DFE is that many of the measures we have had in place over the last few months need to remain. That means the children will continue to be taught in bubbles and we will avoid contact between bubbles. Hand washing and sanitising will be prioritised along with additional cleaning and that classrooms will be kept ventilated. The main change in the new guidance affects secondary schools and their use of face coverings. Here at St. Joseph's staff will continue to wear masks in corridors and shared spaces like the Staff Room and at the end of the day when children are collected. For parents, the drop off and collection arrangements will remain the same – I anticipate this will stay in place until the end of this school year and indeed into the autumn term. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents for their persistence in wearing face coverings when they come onto the school grounds.

School Uniform: The staff at St. Joseph's have been discussing the changes that have been implemented across the school as a result of the pandemic - changes that we may want we wish to keep going forward. One of the most popular changes has been the PE kit days. Children have been coming into school happier in the knowledge that they will not have to change in school and there has been a noticeable increase in the teaching time in our PE lessons. We have allowed a combination of PE kits to be worn but going forward from September, we need to ensure that the children are coming to school in a smart and standardized PE kit. Mrs Philpott has

done a lot of research into the various types of PE sweat suits available. Many thanks to all the parents who contributed to the quick poll last week. As a result of this poll, the school has decided to go ahead with the navy-blue crew necked sweatshirt with the navy-blue sweatpants (purchased online from Brigade for £18.90). From September, we asked that all parents ensure that their children have this kit for September and wear it on their PE kit days. We also ask that the pupils wear dark PE shoes with white soles. If you have any concern about this addition please talk to Mrs. Dunlop or Mrs. Philpott.

	Navy sweatshirt	Crested crew necked (navy) sweatshirt £9.95
	Navy jogging bottoms	plain joggers (navy) £8.95

Reception Year 2021/2022: We are looking forward to welcoming siblings and new families to our school in September – exciting times! Fourteen siblings will move up from Footsteps Nursery. We have sent out information about transition and invited parents to an online meeting on Tuesday June 15th at 7.30pm. We look forward to seeing all virtually!

Transition: It is that time of year again, where everyone starts to wonder who their teacher will be next year. As staff, we are very conscious of the fact that most children have been with the same teacher and Teaching Assistants for the past two years. The children have had very little contact with other staff. We are therefore presently investigating how we can ensure that transition to the next year group can be improved from previous years with the aim to reduce the anxiety that children may experience from these changes. More information to follow.

After School Club: Please keep an eye next week for a ParentMail to book sessions for the morning and After School Club after half term. All bookings should be made by Sunday 6th June. After this date, the increased ad hoc session costs will be charged.

Summer Fit for Sport Holiday Camp: There is just enough interest at this moment for the external company to agree to host a holiday camp at St. Joseph's. We will also be advertising at local schools so if you know of any family who may need childcare during the summer (even for a day), please direct them to St. Josephs. More information to follow!

Sports Day (24th & 25th June): We are very thankful to Bracknell Football Club for offering us two days use of their pitch. We are presently organising the days so that each class can have a chance to race and complete a set of activities. As we have use of the pitch parents will be invited and can watch from the stalls. However, we will have to stagger each classes time over the two days. Once the timetable is finalised, we will share it with parents.

School Diary

Monday 24 th May	Class Photographs
Thursday 27 th May	Mufti Day for Wi-Fi
Friday 28 th May	Y6 class trip to Horseshoe Lake
Monday 31 st to Friday 4 th June	Half Term
Wed 16 th & Thur 17 th June	SEND meetings with parents
Friday 18 th June	Cricket Coach for Y1
Week June 21 st	Sports Week
Tuesday 20 th July	Children's Last day

School Term Dates: The school's term dates 2021 - 2023 are available on the [school website](#).

School Menu: The school menu will change after the half term. Please see the attached

Why pay for school meals when you could get them for free? Once you qualify for free school meals you may also get help with things like extra- curricular activities, school trips, uniform and even summer camp. It is really easy to apply and if your application is successful, money for school meals is automatically credited to your child's ParentPay account for them to use in school.

You qualify if you get:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under the Immigration & Asylum Act
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (& your income is less than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit (& your income is less than £7,400)

To apply, go to the [Bracknell Forest website](#) – it takes just a couple of minutes. Or if you do not have access to the internet or would like assistance, contact the school office who will be happy to help. 01344 425246 or email secretary@stjosephsbracknell.co.uk

Childcare Survey: Do you have a child aged zero to 14 or (18 if disabled)? Bracknell Forest invite you to complete a short survey about your child's needs and your experience of accessing childcare in Bracknell Forest. Please click on the link below to access the survey the information you provide in the survey will inform future plans to provide high quality childcare places at the times and in the places that families need it:
<https://consult.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/public/ey/childcare-2021>

Keeping your children safe online Parents may find these websites useful as they provide useful guides and advice about how parents can protect their children when there are online;

- [Net Aware: Your guide to social networks, apps and games \(net-aware.org.uk\)](#)
- <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>
- Our school website has other sites to support parents;
www.stjosephsbracknell.co.uk

Reflection:

We thank you Lord for our children, a precious gift from you

May we use the gifts of our time, wisdom and experience to help them to learn and grow, fulfil their potential and become all that you want them to be

We pray for Saint Joseph school for the staff who teach support and care for our children

We ask that you bless them cause them to flourish and give them resilience as they face both challenge and joy in their work

Help us all to see the big picture and attend to the small details with grace and hope, knowing you hold us all in your loving hand

In your mercy ...

hear our prayer

Warmest Regards

Mrs. J. Dunlop