



# NEWSLETTER

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

[www.stjosephsbracknell.co.uk](http://www.stjosephsbracknell.co.uk)

18<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for the donations of food for Harvest. Y2 led the school with a wonderful video of their Harvest assembly. This has been shared with the parents of Y2 and all the classes across the school.

We have an exciting week ahead with the performance of 'Treasure Island' today, cake sales and then dressing up for book day. Photos will be taken and posted on Twitter – so keep an eye out!

**COVID 19 Update:** After half term, we are no longer going to separate the children in school or in extended school. If we have a positive case in a class then we will take measures to isolate that specific class from the rest of the school for the 10-day isolation period. We used this strategy for Year 3 and Footstep's outbreak and it proved very successful in keeping the rest of the school safe.

**October Black History Month:** We would like to share a poem written by Liv (Y5)

*I am a black child; I am beautiful and proud.  
I am proud and I can express myself in every way.  
I reach every goal in life and I have a wonderful body  
by one creator, God.  
Don't look down on me - I am black and beautiful.  
Everyone is beautiful in their own way.  
Everyone can work hard to achieve their dreams - just  
believe and achieve.  
You are unique in every way.  
Your skin, your hair and face - it doesn't matter where  
you are from.  
Just be positive and happy*

**Attendance:** If your child is not at school, then they risk of falling behind the expectations for their year groups. Although, we are proud of the efforts everyone made and the quality of remote learning in the past 5 terms, the children have missed a lot of schooling and it is therefore more important than ever that they do not miss even one day. We now have to work smarter in all year groups in ensuring that every child has the core knowledge so that they can successfully move forward in their learning. This

catch up in learning is further complicated with the COVID outbreaks – so if your child is well. Please keep them at school.

The Local Authority are still applying 'Fixed Penalty Notices' in the following circumstances:

- Where there is a minimum of 10 school sessions of unauthorised absence (5 school days) in any 10-week period (these do not need to be consecutive)
- Where term time leave is taken without obtaining authorisation from the school
- Unwarranted delayed return from term time leave without authorisation
- Persistent late arrival after the register has closed (U code) on 10 or more occasions in a 10-week period.

Please note that persistent lates are also included. To date we have not issued a FPN for this reason. However, we have noticed that lateness has become an issue and we therefore need to address this habit from forming and continuing.

**School Day:** We have trialled the staggered starts from the beginning of term and unfortunately due to lateness of a number of pupils from across the school, we are now forced to review this system. **From Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November we expect all children (YR to Y6) to be in school by 8.45pm.** To help with the parking situation, we will have a soft start to the day – so the gates will open at 8.30am and the children can enter and play in the playground (on wet days they will be allowed to go to their classroom). When the bell rings at 8.43am, the children will line up and then walk to their class line and from there, into their class. Parents should continue to drop their child at the main double gates and a member of staff will be there to welcome the children into school. We will have at least two members of staff on duty in the playground each morning.

At the *end of the day*, we have also made some changes:

Year R: Collected at 3pm from main gates beside Footsteps Nursery.

Year 1 & 2: Collected from the side gates at 3pm.

Year 3 & 4: Collected from the side gates at 3.10pm

Year 5 & 6: Collected from the main gates beside Footsteps Nursery.

Footsteps Nursery timings will remain 9am – 3pm.  
**Please note that siblings will no longer be allowed to arrive early to Footsteps Nursery.**

**Quick Summary:**

Soft start: 8.30 – 8.45am. Children expected to be in school in class at 8.45am.

All classes from Reception Year to Year 6 to be ready to line up at 8.45am

Y2 and Y1 collection time changed to 3pm.

Year 3 collection time changed to 3.10pm.

**Parents' Evening:** You should have already received an invite last week to a MSTEAMS, online parent & teachers' meeting for the week of the 18<sup>th</sup> of October. We decided to hold these meeting virtually as our school have just managed to be 'Covid' free and we do not want to take the risk of ruining half term week for anybody.

During this meeting, the focus will be on:

- how your child has settled in the new class
- learning behaviours i.e. concentration, completion of work set
- behaviour in school
- Sharing any parental concerns as together we can make a greater difference to your child's learning and experience of school life.

**Reading Books:** We expect all children to read at home every day and this should be recorded in the yellow reading dairy. After half term in YR, 1 & 2 two reading books will be sent home on Monday. If your child finishes his/her books – please reread to increase fluency and remember there are variety of books available online through Oxford Owl Reading Buddies.

IF children need extra interventions with their reading, there are ample resources in school for daily readers.

**Mobile Phones:** Polite reminder that mobiles phones are not allowed to be used on the school site. So, once you pass into the school car park, we ask that you put your phones away in order to safeguard the pupils.

**School Photographs:** All of our children looked smart and happy as they had their school photographs taken last week. You will soon receive a proof with details of how to order your child's photograph on-line.

**Football Squad:** *Following on from last week's home defeat to Birch Hill, the team headed to St. Michael's Easthampsted (SME) with an air of confidence having spent the previous training session working tirelessly on defending. SME had decided to play 2 different teams in either half, so SJS were up against it before a ball was kicked.*



*This is a new SJS team but with our captain Declan up front supported on the wings by Matthew and Dempsey, something special is coming together. Goals from Dempsey and Declan in the first half saw the team go in at the break 2-0 up. More excellent play from the team saw Matthew make it 3-0 and Declan scored a further 2 goals to complete his hat trick and see the team win with a 5-0 score line. We head into the winter break with our heads held high. We have a lot to work on as a squad, but the early signs are good.  
Well done all!*

*Mr. O'Connor.*

**Netball Squad:** On Wednesday 13th October 2021, 8 girls from Years 5 & 6 went to Kings Academy to take part in this year's Netball Stingers Competition, this was the first event St. Joseph's had taken part in since the Covid 19 pandemic. Ten schools from Bracknell Forest took part in competition with each school split into 2 pools. St. Joseph's were in pool A. Each match was 2 halves of 6 minutes. After each half, the girls had to change positions. The girls started well drawing their first three games with a loss by 1 goal in their last pool match. They had one more game to play for 7th / 8th position. It was a good match which the girls didn't deserve to lose but they came away with 8th place. There was some amazing shooting by Belle, great defending by Elsie and some brilliant interceptions by Nuala, Holly, Clara, Hannah, Jessica and Mya. Mrs Gofford and Mrs Micklewright were so proud of the girls as they had only been playing for 3 weeks. They were amazing!

**Daily Prayers:** Every day, we expect the children to pray by giving a few minutes of the day to reflect on the gifts God has given us. At the beginning and end of the day and at lunchtime we have school prayers we say, and I thought that you may like to use them at home.

### Morning Offering

O my God, you love me  
You are with me night and day  
I want to love you always  
In all I do and speak  
I'll try to please you Father,  
Bless me through this day,  
Amen.

### End of Day

God our Father, I come to say,  
Thank you for your love today,  
Thank you for my family and all the friends you give to me,  
Guard me in the dark of night and in the morning send your light,  
Amen.

### Prayer before meals

Bless us O Lord as we sit together,  
Bless the food we eat today  
Bless the hands that made the food  
Bless us Lord, Amen.

### Prayer after meals

Thank you, God, for the food we have eaten,  
Thank you, God, for all our friends,  
Thank you, God, for everything  
Thank you, God, Amen.

### SAFEGUARDING UPDATE – OCTOBER – MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH: Did you know that



October is Mental Health Awareness month? It's no secret that the past couple of years have been particularly challenging for our children. October aims to raise

awareness of mental health and wellbeing and it is a good time for us to check in with our children. Many of our families have reported that their children are feeling particularly anxious. Here are some tips to support a child that may be experiencing anxiety. Things to say to your child:



- I am here for you. You are safe.
- Tell me about it.
- What would you like to say to your worry? What might your worry say back?
- Let us draw your worry.
- What does it feel like in your body? Where is your worry? How big is it?
- Match your breath to mine.
- Let us think up some endings for what could happen.
- What is something we could do to make you feel better?

For more information and support:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/a-z-guide/> If you are concerned about your child's mental health or wellbeing, please speak to our safeguarding team: Mrs Dunlop or Mrs. Philpott or our SENCO Mrs. Pay.

### Diary Dates.

#### Autumn term 2021

**Autumn Half Term Holiday:** Monday 25 October 2021 to Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021

**Children back to school:** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

**Term Ends:** Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December

#### Spring term 2022

**Children back to school:** Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January

**Spring Half Term Holiday:** Monday 14 February 2022 to Friday 18 February 2022

**Easter/Spring holiday:** Monday 4 April 2022 to Monday 18 April 2022

**Good Friday:** 15 April 2022,

**Easter Monday:** Monday 18 April 2022

**Term Ends:** Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April

#### Summer term 2022

**Children back to school:** Tuesday 19 April 2022

**May bank holidays:** 2 May 2022, 2 June 2022, 3 June 2022

**May/June Half Term holiday:** Monday 30 May 2022 to Friday 3 June 2022

**Children back to school:** Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**Term Ends:** Friday 22 July 2022

**Anti-Bullying Week:** 'One Kind Word' is the remarkably simple but effective slogan and theme for this year's antibullying week which begins on Monday the 15th of November. On this day, the children will be encouraged to wear odd socks to mark the beginning of this important week. Kindness is more important today than it has ever been. The isolation of the last year has underlined how little acts of consideration can break down barriers and brighten the lives of the people around us. This is one of the reasons, that 'One Kind Word' has been chosen as the theme of Anti-Bullying Week 2021.

**Children In Need:** On Friday 19th of November, we will be supporting Children in Need, the BBC's charity that helps to ensure every child in the UK is safe, happy, secure and has the opportunities they need to reach their potential. The theme this year is 'Together We Can.' Children will wear their own clothes with a hint of Pudsey attire. Please donate £1 to support the charity.

## Christmas

Christmas Panto at South Hill Park on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

End of Term Last day of term is the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2021.

Collection Times:

- Footsteps 12pm – there will be no afternoon session.
- YR, 1, 2 & 3: 1.30
- Y3, 4, 5, & 6: 1.40
- There will be no After School Club on this last day of term

## Reflection: Prayer for Peace, St Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand;

To be loved, as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive,

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

## Online Safety Concerns this month

**Squid Game. What is Squid Game?** Netflix's Squid Game is set to become the streaming service's most successful show of all time, with huge numbers of viewers taking to social media to discuss each new episode. The South Korean thriller features some scenes of fairly brutal violence and is rated 15 by the BBFC. It follows a group of adults who compete to win innocent-looking playground games, but who are killed if they do not succeed at the tasks.

An unexpected success in terms of viewing figures, Squid Game's popularity is beginning to spread across various online platforms. There has been a slew of content created – ranging from memes to apps – that convey the violence of the show, so it is important for parents, carers and educators to understand the basis of Squid Game and the potential risks to young people who might be exposed to it.

**What are the hazards for children?** Squid Game's 15 rating has not prevented clips and images from the show being uploaded onto social media sites such as [TikTok](#), with the #SquidGame hashtag being viewed more than 22.8 billion times. There have been reports of children who have accounts on these

platforms inadvertently viewing gory, explicit scenes from the programme, and parents and carers should be mindful of the prevalence of these uploads. The popularity of the programme has also led to [online challenges](#) based on various scenes, which see people taking part in seemingly innocent children's games. On the show, however, characters are executed if they fail in the game – and videos of people pretending to kill each other after competing in Squid Game-style contests are going viral on social media, where they are easily accessible to children.

**What is the Squid Game Challenge app?** Squid Game Challenge (also known as K-Game Challenge) is an app for smartphones and tablets that has been released for Android and iOS, and the two systems differ significantly on their [age ratings](#) for the game. The iTunes Store rates the app as 12+ (advising of "mild/infrequent horror/fear themes"), while the PEGI rating for Android is just 3+, which means that very young children might be able to download and play the game even with parental controls activated on their device or through Google Play. The gameplay is frequently interrupted by pop-ups and ads (sometimes appearing while the user is rapidly tapping their screen while attempting to complete the challenge). This could easily lead to unwanted purchases or accidental visits to inappropriate sites beyond the app.

**What can trusted adults do?** As a parent or carer, keep a watchful eye on the content that your children are viewing. [Speak to them openly](#) and chat about how they have been spending time on their devices; let them ask questions, too. Ensure that the [parental controls](#) are activated [on your child's device](#) and that age-restricted child profiles are properly set up any on-demand services available through the family TV (such as [Netflix](#), in this case) to prevent inappropriate content being streamed.

If you see your child replicating the challenges from the show or hear them talking about scenes and characters from Squid Game, it would be a timely opportunity to discuss with them that the programme is not intended for children, that much of the content would be inappropriate for their age, and that the violence in the series is very realistic and often upsetting.

**Library Art Work needed:** Spend some of the half term creating a book related piece of artwork. Read the information below.

## Half Term Project: Library Artwork

We are looking to make the library an even more inviting place.

We are asking all pupils across the school to create a piece of book-related artwork.

It could be a replication of your favourite book cover; an illustrated quote from a book; a famous reading quote; or something suitable to display in the library to encourage reading.

All pieces of artwork need to be completed on A4 (landscape or portrait). You can use paints, felt-tip pens, pencils, crayons or create a 2-D collage.

All artwork should be handed into your class teacher by

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

**We will be displaying a selection in the school library and our class libraries.**

*Dojos will be awarded for every child who takes part.*

