



The Messenger



October 2019

St Joseph's RCP School.

Limes Avenue,

Darwen,

Lancashire.

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WEBSITE:

www.stjosephsdarwen.org

Diary dates

Fri	18th Oct	School closes for Half Term 3.30pm
Mon	28th Oct	INSET Day
Tues	29th Oct	School re-opens 8.45am
Fri	8 th Nov	Remembrance Assembly
Fri	20th Dec	School closes for Christmas Holidays 1.30pm
Tues	7th Jan	School re-opens for Spring term 8.45am
Tues	15th Jan	Closing date for Sept 2020 School Admissions

Goodness doesn't the time fly when you're having fun! We've had an amazing first half term. Our little super stars have settled in so quickly and are getting very used to life in school. Already they have been in to our Harvest Assembly. The next step in their journey to independence is to come into school all by themselves. Just last night at parents evening, a mummy was telling me how proud she was that her little girl was already doing that! So from after half term, let's make sure all our children can leave their grown up at the black gate. A big well done to you all.

Our work developing our 'Curriculum for the Future' is going really well. The staff are planning to together to make sure our lessons are as good as they can be. Currently we're focussing on Year 1 and Year 3 – Reception is already done. We've included lots of opportunities for learning outside, building on the work done in Reception. Year 5 and Year 6 have been engaged in Forest School type learning this half term – Year 3 and 4 will get the chance after half-term. We've already had a number of classes out on visits. Yesterday Reception went down to church to baptise our dolly - (you'll be pleased to know that he was very good and didn't cry). Year 1 and 2 visited the top park to finish their work on Autumn and trees – Boris the Boggit had written to them I'm told. Years 3 and 4 have been to the museum to learn about the Ancient Greeks. We know that giving children the opportunity to learn outside the classroom can be so motivating. We're also building in some of the key skills we identified on our curriculum intent day – things like resilience, team building and problem solving. I know through talking with some of you that you think they are important too.

I'm delighted to have taken over from Mrs Bottomley as Librarian for the junior children. It's lovely to spend a moment or two chatting with the children about their book at lunch time. They love to tell me how they've done in their quizzes as they are quite rightly proud of their successes. If your child hasn't changed their reading book recently, do encourage them to do so. I'd love to see every child at least once a week. (No news yet from Mr and Mrs Bottomley – but our baby is due next week. I know that you'll continue to hold the family in your prayers).

The staff and children have worked so hard this half term and truly deserve a lovely break. At this stage the weather forecast looks promising. So try to make sure you all get the chance to get outside to kick some leaves, jump in some puddles and have a lot of fun. (Maybe let the children join in too 😊)

Y3/4 Visit to Liverpool Museum

Year 3/4 recently visited Liverpool World Museum in relation to their 'Gods and Mortals' Topic. They had a fantastic time learning all about Ancient Greece. They had a workshop where they got to see artefacts, try on Ancient Greek costumes and they had the opportunity to explore the whole museum.



Breakfast Club Reminder-

We have a growing number of parents that are leaving children outside the Breakfast Club door before 7.30am. Please can we ask that parents wait with their children until a member of staff lets them in to school. There is no member of staff on site prior to this time, so for health and safety reasons it is not acceptable for children to be left unsupervised.



Breakfast Club runs from **7.30am** each day until **8.45am**. It costs **£2.50** per day or **£10.00** per week. If you only need to access the club occasionally this is fine, just bring your child up to the school on the morning you need our exciting service and we will keep them safe and provide a lovely breakfast. If you wish your child to attend Breakfast club please use the side door near the top of the junior playground.

Unfortunately, as we have more children attending Breakfast Club and we have to close the kitchen at **8.25am**, breakfast cannot be served to children arriving at or later than **8.20am**.

Please ensure that your child has already eaten if arriving after this time.
Thank you.

Class Dojo

As you are all aware we use the Class Dojo system in school. Parents can now access their child's account using the app. Here you can view the Dojo's that have been awarded to your child and why.

There is also an option to message your child's teacher. Please can we ask that you **do not use the app to send messages**. We are not using this feature on the app and therefore teachers will not see your messages. You are more than welcome to contact your child's teacher in the usual way through the school office if you have any concerns or messages that you would like to pass on.



Harvest Festival – Friday 11th October 2019

We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their kind donations of tins and packet foods for our Harvest Festival that took place on Friday 11th October. These have been donated to our local Darwen foodbank.



Primary School Admissions September 2019

The online application service is now open for Primary School Admissions for September 2019.

If your child is 5 between 01/09/19 and 31/08/20 and, therefore, due to start school in September 2019, please follow the link below to apply for a place:

<https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Pages/School-admissions.aspx>

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2019. All applications received before this date will be considered with equal preference using our Admissions Policy 2019/20 which can be found on the school website: www.stjosephsdarwen.org
Offers of places will be advised by BwD Admissions via email on 16th April 2019.

Attendance and Punctuality

The Attendance and Punctuality of our children is extremely important to us as a school. The school day starts at 8.55am and the school is open from 8:45am for children to arrive to minimise congestion for you at the gate. Mrs Ashenden and Mrs McAuley are on the gates to safeguard the children and for you to pass on any messages.

It can be very unsettling for the children to join a class once lessons have started so punctuality is paramount. In addition to this, it can be disruptive for other children if the whole class is interrupted once lessons have started.

Taken from our Attendance Policy:

Why Regular Attendance is so important:

Learning:- Any absence affects the pattern of a child's schooling and regular absence will seriously affect their learning and progress. Ensuring your child's regular attendance at school is your legal responsibility and permitting absence from school without a good reason creates an offence in law and may result in prosecution.

Safeguarding:- Your child may be at risk of harm if they do not attend school regularly. Safeguarding the interests of each child is everyone's responsibility and within the context of this school, promoting the welfare and life opportunities for your child encompasses:-

Attendance

Behaviour Management

Health and Safety

Access to the Curriculum

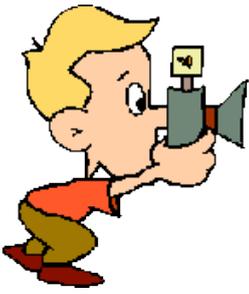
Anti- bullying

End of the school day

Please note that school closes at **3.30pm**.

Please ensure that your child is collected on time each day as we have an increasing number of children who are still here much later.





Individual Photographs

The Tempest photographer will be in school on **Thursday 21st November** to take the children's individual photos. You are invited to bring in younger children from 8.45am to have photos taken with their older siblings. Proofs will be sent out later that day and need to be back at school within 7 days. The photos will be delivered in time for Christmas.

Parking outside school

Please could we politely ask that ALL Parents take notice of the **timed yellow and zig zag lines** outside school to avoid an accident to our children.

Please could you also avoid parking across Residents driveways where there are dropped kerbs.

The voluntary one way system (up Limes Ave and down East Park Ave) is in place to try to ease traffic congestion.

Please be aware that Parking attendants regularly carry out random checks in the area.

We are aware that parking is difficult and congested at certain times. Please be patient and courteous to other parents/drivers at these times.

Thank you for your consideration.

