

Dear Parents,

This week's Gospel reading comes from John.

The next day as John stood there again with two of his disciples, Jesus went past, and John looked towards him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' And the two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi' -- which means Teacher -- 'where do you live?' He replied, 'Come and see'; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him that day. It was about the tenth hour. One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother and say to him, 'We have found the Messiah' -- which means the Christ- and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' -- which means Rock.



Lockdown

We are all having to get used to the restrictions currently in place. School systems to ensure safety in school are still in place. I strongly advise the wearing of a face covering when on the school site and ask that you maintain a social distance at all times.

The School Day

As numbers are much reduced, the school gates will be open from 8.35-8.45am each morning and children from all classes should be collected between 3.00 and 3.10pm.

Extended Provision

Breakfast club is open from 7.30am so please make sure you make use of this if it supports your working pattern. From Monday to Thursday school will be open until 4.30pm each day. Children will be able to draw, use a computer, watch programmes etc. in this time rather than us having sports coaches in so there will not be a charge for this. However, we do need to know that children will be stopping back so please email enquiries@stjosephs.npcat.org.uk if you intend for your child to remain in school on any of these days.

Numbers in school

We all have a duty to try to reduce the transmission of COVID and this can only be achieved if we only have pupils in school where absolutely necessary. Thank you to those parents who have booked critical worker places as you are only using them when you need to. I know in other schools children are in every day regardless and this does not help to keep school numbers down. If you have not already informed us of your working pattern or it is irregular, please be aware that you need to book a place by Friday lunchtime for the following week. Children will not be allowed in school if a place has not been pre- booked. There is also a school place for those children who are vulnerable. This includes a range of children for a number of reasons. Whilst keeping numbers as low as possible in school, I feel that it is our role as a Catholic school to support those who are vulnerable.

Telephone calls

We know and understand how valuable phone calls to children were during the previous lockdown. As a result of this, school staff will make fortnightly telephone calls to those children who have not been in school. Please make sure that you respond to these calls as it will save a lot of time making home welfare visits if they are not needed.

Remote Learning

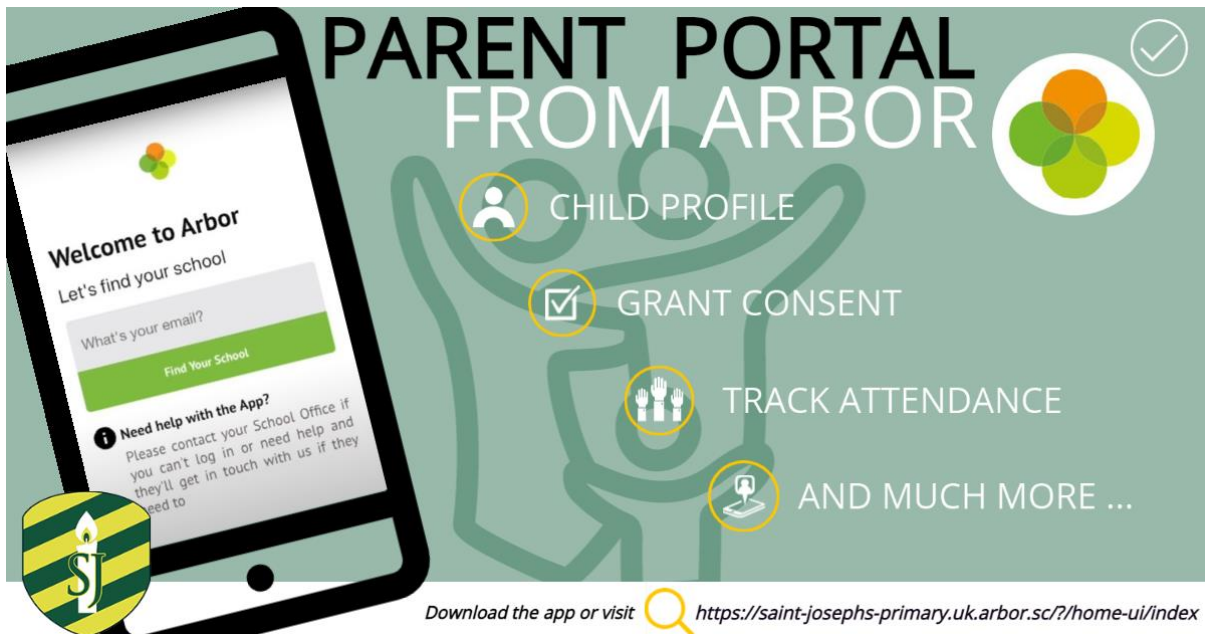
There is an additional letter this week explaining remote learning. The response on Google Classrooms has been great, thank you so much for the lovely comments given to staff who are working so hard, as are all of you at home. I understand it is hard at home to juggle online learning and home life - please talk to us if you are struggling and we will certainly try to help. We have a small number of devices that can be loaned out to those who are unable to access any at home or where families have more than one child. We also have a number of 30gb data sim cards which can be used via devices to increase internet access. Just contact school if either of these will help your child to access lessons at home.

FSM

I would hope that the FSM hampers that have been delivered to those eligible have supported families. We have now signed up to the voucher scheme and have been advised that our first vouchers will commence on Feb 1st. A huge thank you to Middlesbrough Football Club foundation who have been delivering our hampers for us.

Arbor

Please check your emails for information how to access the new parent portal used now in NPCAT schools - Arbor. Please read the guide carefully so you can set up your account- <https://t.co/6LkL1q28YI?amp=1>



PARENT PORTAL FROM ARBOR

CHILD PROFILE

GRANT CONSENT

TRACK ATTENDANCE

AND MUCH MORE ...

Download the app or visit <https://saint-josephs-primary.uk.arbor.sc2/home-ui/index>

The advertisement features a smartphone on the left displaying the Arbor app interface. The screen shows a 'Welcome to Arbor' message, a 'Let's find your school' section with an email input field and a 'Find Your School' button, and a 'Need help with the App?' section with a message: 'Please contact your School Office if you can't log in or need help and they'll get in touch with us if they need to'. The background is a light green with a faint illustration of a person with arms raised. A circular logo with three overlapping circles (orange, green, yellow) and a checkmark is in the top right. A small circular logo with a green and yellow striped background and a white 'S' is in the bottom left.

Stars of the Week

Teachers have awarded certificates this week to children who have worked really hard with their writing. Well done to you all!

FS1	Rory and Elsie
FS2	Martha and Gabby
Y1	Charley and George
Y2	Joseph and Toby
Y3	Daisy and Evan
Y4	Harriet and Sofia
Y5	Macey and Quinn
Y6	Oliver P and Charlie



Times Tables Rockstars



Y2	Henry
Y3	Ellie
Y4	Isabelle
Y5	Lucian
Y6	Jake

Well Done

A huge well done to all children who are managing so well at home. Keep up the good work, your teachers are very pleased with you.



A Reminder

If you need additional exercise books please let us know and we can have them ready for collection for you.

A lot of information this week! Have a good weekend, see you all on Monday either virtually or face to face!

Mrs A G Toward

Head teacher