



ST JOSEPH'S  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to open my newsletter this week by saying thank you to you all for your understanding with the class closures on Wednesday and Thursday. It has been a difficult week in the life of the school but together we have seen true St Joseph's spirit and will continue to grow as a school community.

### **Remembering June Mead:**

Yesterday it was June Mead's funeral service. The amount of people at the service was a clear indication of how loved June was and the impact that she had on so many lives. In the Eulogy her time working at our school was mentioned with great fondness as was her love for her job, the children and her colleagues. The book of condolences will remain open until half-term in the front office area for any families who wish to add a comment. I will then pass this book on to the family so that they can share all our memories of such a wonderful lady together.

Looking ahead the school council have asked if as a school we can do something to mark her life and work at the school. They have mentioned doing something with the Prayer garden in her memory which is something that we can arrange. We will also plan some appropriate memorial events for the Summer Term with the children and staff. June lived life to the full so our challenge is to remember that and act this out in our daily lives.

### **Industrial Action by Teaching Staff:**

Again, I would like to thank you for your understanding with class closures on Wednesday. It is likely that we will have to take similar action on the next planned day of action which is Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February. I will confirm what the plan is for this before half-term so that if childcare arrangements need to be made this can be done with as much notice as possible. I do hope the Government and the Unions work together to find a solution to the huge problems schools have with funding. I am not going to get all political but school funding is under the most pressure I have ever seen in over ten years of headship so something needs to be tweaked.

### **Parent Survey**

The parent survey is now closed. I couldn't resist a quick peak at some of the results but plan on doing a full summary of the results and sharing this with you all in a separate letter. Some highlights of over 60 responses include:

- 96% of responses agree or strongly agree that their child is happy at school.
- 98% of responses agree or strongly agree that their child is safe at school.
- 98% of responses agree or strongly agree that the school sets high expectations and children behave well.
- 98% of responses would recommend the school to another family.

*Christ be our light, in life, love and learning*

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**Mental Health Awareness Week:** This year's theme is Let's Connect

Next week is Mental Health Awareness week. Around five children in every classroom have a mental health problem and many more struggle with challenges from bullying to bereavement according to National statistics.

On Friday to mark the significance of this week we will have a no school uniform day under the heading of 'Dress to Express'. All children are permitted to not wear school uniform that day and I look forward to seeing what outfits from their existing wardrobes they will be wearing.

Year 1 and Year 6 have PE on a Friday so they can either wear comfortable sportswear clothes to dress to express or bring in a PE kit to change into. We are **not** asking for any voluntary contributions to charity for this event.



**Safer Internet Day: Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations online.**

Safer Internet Day 2023 will take place on the 7th of February 2023, with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'. A special assembly and activities have been arranged for this day.

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### **Stars of the Week- Maths**

This week certificates have been awarded to children who have worked really well on their Maths work.

- LJ- Lottie
- FS1- Charlie & Tommy
- FS2- Poppy & Savannah
- Y1- Dottie & Stanley
- Y2- Millie & Gabby
- Y3- Charley & James L
- Y4- Dexter & Gracie
- Y5- Harriet & Meadow
- Y6- Sienna & Harriet

### **Final Thoughts & Prayers**

We pray for Mrs Mead and her family as her wonderful life was remembered this week.

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace, Amen.  
Warmest wishes, take care and see you all on Monday.

Mr Geaves  
Executive Head Teacher

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