



ST JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 20th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

The school is awash in red as we mark a say no to racism day with special mention in today's assembly. Don't forget that next week is Parent's Evening on Monday & Tuesday and we cannot wait to use this opportunity to update you on how your child has started in this school year. Cooking club is still on on Tuesday as Miss Hawxwell is stepping up to the oven for us!!

Please take the time to read through the reminders below.

- Term Dates Reminder
- PTFA Meeting
- ParentPay Reminders
- Poppy Appeal
- Mini Bus Collection
- Headlice
- Dates/Stars of the Week

Term Dates Reminder

Term dates are available on our school website by clicking on <https://stjosephs.npcat.org.uk/term-dates/>

PTFA Meeting: Wednesday 25th October 2.30pm

We will be hosting our first PTFA meeting of the year on Wednesday 25th October 2.30pm in school. If you are interested in helping to plan fundraising events, helping out at these events and having a say on what funds should be spent on, it would be lovely to see you there.

ParentPay Reminders

Some of you will be starting to receive emails from ParentPay if your accounts for school lunches or our childcare services slip into arrears. This is a facility which we haven't fully utilised in the past however is useful for several reasons. Firstly, all services such as Little Joeys, extra Nursery sessions, Breakfast Club and school lunches should be paid for in advance, and this has always been the case. Changes to ParentPay in coming months will mean that some of these services will not be bookable if the account is not in credit. For this reason, we are trying to get parents' accounts to a position where this has less impact. Some accounts have long standing debit balances which are not reducing and when this happens, we will need to enforce the Trust's debt recovery policy. Earlier intervention should help to prevent this.

Also, we sometimes find that parents appreciate an early reminder when they slip into a negative balance rather than a phone call when the debt has grown. There are also rare occasions where an entry is

Christ be our light, in life, love and learning

Executive Head Teacher: Mr Simon Geaves Deputy Head Teacher: Miss Elizabeth Wright
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Rosecroft Lane, Loftus, Redcar and Cleveland, TS13 4PZ
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recorded incorrectly and it is much easier for you to spot this if you are informed immediately. If this is the case, or you are experiencing difficulties in paying, please contact us as soon as possible. I hope that this helps clarify the situation.

Poppy Appeal:

Our Mini-Vinnies will be selling poppies from next week to support this annual appeal. As well as poppies there are also some extra items such as snap bands, wrist bands and reflectors. The suggested prices for these donations range from 50p for reflectors, £1 for the wristbands and £1.50 for snap bands.

MiniBus Collection

As the weather has certainly turned and we are in the depths of Autumn please can I ask all families to be punctual for the minibus. We have had buses running a little late this week as we are waiting for families to arrive or pick up their child depending on the time of the day. If for whatever reason you are not able to be at the pick-up point at the end of the day at the expected time, school policy is that the bus will continue its run and then bring your child back to school for your collection.

Headlice

We have had a couple of incidents of headlice in school this week. Please can I ask all families to support us with this matter. If you are notified that there is a case of headlice within your child's class please treat them immediately.

Vacancies in Loftus Parish Church Choir

Please see a separate letter for our Key Stage 2 children who might want to join this choir. The Parish Church is hosting an open evening on Friday 27th October at 6pm. Why not pop along if this is something that interests you.

Dates for your calendar:

Next week we will issue the parents calendar by email and post on the school website. It will include dates for the Christmas productions and even Sports Days. A couple to pop in the diary straight away are:

- Monday 23rd October and Tuesday 24th October Parents Evenings.
- Wednesday 25th October PTFA Meeting 2.30pm
- Thursday 30th October Y3/4 Athletics Competition Eston
- Friday 27th October Break up for Half-Term

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Stars of the Week:

This week certificates have been awarded to children who have worked with their writing:

- LJ- Dash Dash M
- FS1-Riva S & Willow H
- FS2- Louie M
- Y1- Harriet E & Hazel G
- Y2- Phoebe M & Frankie M
- Y3- Cimmera B & Lucas M
- Y4- Alexis C-T & Jacob M
- Y5- Bobby W & Gracie L
- Y6- Tilly S & Freddie B

Final Thoughts/Prayers:

Our prayer today is a prayer for peace in the Middle East.

God of peace, bearer of hope,
we seek your help
for the peoples of the Middle East.

Quiet the clamour of war
and guide us towards peace.

Where there is hatred and division
sow seeds of calm and openness.

Where there is destruction
help us to rebuild.

Where children are crying
bring an end to tears.

Shelter your peoples and protect them
Guide them and keep them from harm.

Show us how to break down the barriers of history and fear
and breathe whispers of hope.

Amen.
Linda Jones / CAFOD

Yours sincerely,
Mr Geaves

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