

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School Huddersfield

School Bulletin -May 2021 Edition



First Reconciliation & First Communion

First Sacraments

Over the past few weeks, children in Years 3 to 6 have been making their First Confession and First Holy Communion. On Tuesday last week, twenty-six children went over to church and made their First Confessions with Fr Mike. These children will now begin their First Holy Communion classes which start week beginning 10th May. As we're unable to have a single, big First Communion event this year, parents need to call Fr Mike and agree a date that their child will receive this sacrament as he's doing a couple at each Mass, every weekend. Once you've agreed when your child is making their First Holy Communion, please let us know and send us a photograph of their big day!



Summertime is (just about) Here!

We've had some relatively warm weather in the last few weeks, interspersed with the usual rain, of course. We'd like to remind parents that as the weather gets warmer, and maybe more consistently so, that the children need protection from the sun. Due to the number of children in each class, staff won't be able to apply suntan lotion, so please ensure that this is done before your child comes to school in the morning. So that the children are comfortable when they play out, please provide them with a sun hat. It would also be worth sending them to school, if you don't already, with a water bottle with their name on. This should be taken home each evening for cleaning.



Covid-19

Firstly, I'd like to say a massive thank you to everyone for your support in the last fourteen months which have been like no other period in the living memory of most of us! As we hopefully move towards a reduction and then removal of restrictions, I'd like to ask everyone to stay vigilant:

1. Please wear a face covering when you are bringing your children to school and collecting them, unless you have a medical exemption. Please do not approach or speak to anyone about not wearing a face covering.
2. Please use the entrances and exits for your children(s) class(es).
3. Please arrive in good time at the beginning and end of the day.
4. Please contact school by email or phone, rather than coming into the building, unless you have an appointment.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping everyone safe!



Academy Conversion

Our school is still on track to convert to an academy on 1st October 2021. We will be joining the Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Academy Trust (BPSCAT) along with other Catholic schools in Kirklees and Calderdale, although the schools are joining in 'waves' rather than all at the same time. We currently have a consultation out, with information on the school website, to allow parents to comment on the proposals prior to Governing Body meetings that will deal with the conversion. Please email me with any comments and I will ensure that they are passed on to the Governors, to help inform the discussions about this issue.



Catholic Care Support for Children and their families

Catholic Care is here to support all our children and their families. In the last fourteen months, we've all had to face many challenges and pressures. If you would like your child to see Lesley Sanders, our Catholic Care counsellor, or would like to see her yourself, please let me know. I'll pass on any requests to Lesley and we will make sure that they are dealt with quickly. Lesley is at school every Monday, but other counsellors are available to parents as well at different times, over the phone initially.



Online Safety

There are many excellent resources available from the CEOP website for parents www.thinkuknow.co.uk. Parents are given the latest information on how to keep their children safe online, including their children's mobile phones. We have regular lessons on Online Safety in school. We all need to be really vigilant about our children's use of the internet.



Sports Premium Funding

We've clubs running on every day of the week this term, both at lunchtime and after school and we will be increasing the provision further from September. I'd be very interested to hear comments from parents and pupils about the clubs that we've had this year. Please email if you'd like to comment, so that we can ensure that our provision is as good as it can be for the children. I'd also welcome suggestions for clubs for the new school year. Please get in touch if you have any ideas!



Sponsored Event

Thank you very much for your generosity at our recent 5000km sponsored event that took place just before we finished for Easter. We raised a fantastic £1181 for the Friends of St. Joseph's 'Playground Challenge'. This year, we're aiming to raise funds to help improve our three playgrounds and our Summer and Christmas Fairs (Covid-19 permitting) will also be aiming to support this project as well. Many thanks to the children who took part and made such an excellent effort, the staff who helped the children on the day, and to the Friends of St. Joseph's who give so much fantastic support to our school.



Change of Parish Priest

We're very sad to announce that Fr Michael Walsh, our parish priest, will be retiring this summer. Fr Mike has had two spells working in our community in this part of Huddersfield and he'll be really missed by the many people who he's ministered to. Just after Easter, Bishop Marcus Stock, the Bishop of Leeds, announced that Fr Mike's replacement will be Fr John Carlisle who is currently the parish priest of St. Peter and St Paul parish in Yeadon, Leeds. As we say farewell and thank you to Fr. Mike, I'm sure everyone will give a very warm welcome to Fr John when he joins us towards the end of July.



Events for the Summer Term

It seems like an eternity since we've had events that we can invite family and friends to attend! We're feeling optimistic about the next two and a half months and have arranged a number of events to end our school year. I'm sure that everyone is aware that, despite the wave of optimism that is understandably sweeping the country, after nearly fourteen months of restrictions, there is still the potential for further rises in Covid-19 infections and the resultant measures that may arise from this. So, we need to be prepared for changes to the schedule below or, if they can go ahead, for some special arrangements to keep everyone safe. We'll put more information in the June Bulletin when, hopefully, things will be a lot clearer. The government have 21st June as the possible date for the end of all restrictions, but there is still debate about whether some measures will need to be in place after that date. Fingers crossed!

Monday 12th July 9.30am Y3/4 Sports Day
Tuesday 13th July 9.30am Y5/6 Sports Day
Wednesday 14th July 9.30am End of Year Mass - whole school
Thursday 15th July 9.30am Y1/2 Sports Day
Friday 16th July 9.30am EYFS Sports Day
Friday 16th July - Reports to parents
Monday 19th July Open Day (9.30-11am & 1.30-3pm)
Monday 19th July 6.30pm Headteacher's Awards
Wednesday 21st July 9.30am Year 6 Leavers Mass
Wednesday 21st July 1.30pm Year 6 Leavers Assembly and Buffet
Friday 23rd July 3.15pm School closes for the summer holidays

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