

St Joseph's Newsletter



23rd September 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

I would like to start by saying how lovely it has been seeing so many parents in school over the last couple of weeks. Thank you to everyone who attended the parent meetings; we hope that you found them informative and useful. Thank you also to the parents who got in touch with the class teachers to say they were unable to attend. It's impossible to find a time which suits everyone but if anyone would like further information please contact your child's teacher via dojo.

Parents of Reception children in St Francis class, we would like to invite you into school to meet with Miss Suarez on Thursday 6th October at 3:30pm. I will also be in attendance. This meeting will focus on early routines and guidance on supporting your child with phonics.

Changes to Entry into School – Monday 26th September 2022

Following a safeguarding review our Trust, Plymouth CAST, we have been looking closely at improving site security and safety. Part of this improvement will entail locking the vehicle and pedestrian gates in the staff carpark during school hours. We have on order new gates with intercom and magnetic release systems to allow them to be controlled from the school office. However, whilst we await installation, access into school will only be possible via telephoning the school to request entrance. The phone number of both the school and the pre-school will be attached to the school gates for ease. 01626 352559.

To reduce congestion at the pedestrian pre-school gate and to stop pupils waiting in a carpark in the mornings, **from Monday morning (26th September), we ask that ALL pupils arrive via the playground gate** and not the carpark/front office. I have sought the opinion of some parents over the last few days and have been informed that this was actually the case before covid. This way, I also get to see all parents and pupils arriving at school each morning too and I am sure it will assist those parents with children in both the lower and upper years.

To clarify, the gate will open at 8:45am. To avoid build up on the pavement outside, please do not arrive at school too early. We have noticed a number of St Oscar Romero pupils arriving as early as 8:20am and sitting on the pavement unattended. Please remember that to assist working parents, we run both a breakfast and after school facility.

Miss Suarez will be visible in the playground every morning for St Francis class by the bottom of the steps (you will see her when you arrive). We encourage parents to escort their children to her for handover. Mrs Pascoe will be on the gate every Monday morning and I will be there the rest of the week for this term.

Please note that as the gates will be locked, it is essential that you do not drop late arrivals on the road as they will not be able to get into school. Anyone arriving after 9am will need to ring the office for the gate to be unlocked.

End of School Day

Please ensure that the scooters and bikes stored in the shelters are only used by their owners. We have had reports of older children riding on other people's property. Although property is left at the owners' own risk, we must all be respectful and the expectation is that they are not touched by others.

Uniform

We have new stock of school ties in the office. £2 for an elastic tie and £3 for standard tie. Thank you to those of you who have purchased a school tie already. The children are looking very smart. There are also school embroidered logos available for purchase.



Catholic Life

Mrs Pascoe and I met with Tim and Deborah Van Kroonenburg earlier this week regarding the Catholic Life of the school. We have arranged for a Harvest Mass to take place on Friday 14th October in school and a special liturgy to mark the re-launch of the Gospel Values on All Souls Day (1st November). We also started to discuss Christmas and ideas for services in December. Details on all of these to follow. Deborah has kindly agreed to become our Pupil Chaplain lead. Once in place, Deborah will meet with the appointed chaplains and support them in their pupil leadership. Pupils in Year Five will be able to apply to be a Pupil Chaplain following a presentation about the role and its commitment next week.

First Holy Communion



If there are any children in Year 3 or above who would like to enrol in the programme to prepare for their First Holy Communion in 2023, please email the school office for further information.

Family Support Worker

Contact Andrea direct on
07917 204826



Hello, I am Andrea, your family support worker.

I offer support and guidance around a range of family challenges and can signpost to an assortment of local and national services.

I provide one to one support to families and children in school, virtually or at home.

I am also a skilled parenting therapist and can share a variety of strategies to help with any parenting challenges.

I am a happy, approachable, pro-active person and I believe that working together can help support families to move forward towards positive change as well as improve family health and wellbeing.

Contact: Andrea Gjikolaj. mob: 07917204826
email: andreag@southwestfamilyvalues.org.uk

Have a lovely weekend with your families,

Best wishes,

Mrs Nichola Day

Headteacher

To live, love and learn in a caring Catholic Community

