



St. JOSEPH'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Part of the Edmund Rice Family

6th September 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the academic year 2016/2017.

I do hope that you have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer holiday and that you have managed to find some sunshine.

I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all our new families and hope that you quickly feel very much part of our school family.

Once again it has been a busy summer in school and you will see that the school is looking smart and that we have added new flood lighting to the tennis courts and a climbing wall to the school hall. It goes without saying that staff have worked very hard during the holidays to ensure that we are up and running for the new term.

The staff and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the many lovely cards, gifts and kind words that we received at the end of last term. We are all most appreciative. Thank you.

I would like to highlight some items to help you as the new school year begins and to ensure that the school runs smoothly.

Welcome

We look forward to welcoming all the school family back to school on Wednesday 7th September. We will have a "Welcome" assembly at 11am to distribute Prefect badges and an assembly at the end of the afternoon with each class helping us to worship with their "Class Prayer"- I will put these up on a weekly basis on the Blog. Please remember to check my weekly blog on the school website.

The focus for this term Assemblies will be based around the "Snow Queen" and exploring the Gospel values of Good and Evil.

The Music for this term is from a modern version of the "Snow Queen" composed by Paul K Joyce.

Timetable

We will be "off timetable" for the first three days as the children settle into their new classes. The Pre Prep and Prep will be focussing on our term's theme the "Snow Queen".

PE and Games will take place as timetabled from Friday with Mr Ferris doing a Healthy and Safety talk to children on the use of the new Climbing Wall and the use of the Jungle Gym on Thursday. Your child's new timetable will be sent home; this will be in the front of the Reading Diary for children from PP1 to P6.

Uniform

Our uniform makes our school distinctive. We ask that all children wear their uniform with pride. We would ask that children wear the correct uniform.

Boys trousers should be uniform grey and not dark grey or black.

All children should now be wearing the 'new' PE/Games kit that was phased in last September.

We do ask that haircuts are conventional cuts and that boys keep their hair above collar length; girls should have long hair tied back with red or black bobbles. Weavings are not allowed. We ask that nail polish is removed before school along with all jewellery and temporary tattoos.

This helps us to maintain high standards, so I do thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

I understand that school uniform is expensive, so would ask that you clearly mark all items of clothing with your child's name so that any lost items can be successfully returned to its owner. Stitch-In

Labels should be used in all clothing garments. Please ensure that all bags, lunch boxes, water bottles, pencil cases and footwear are clearly named too.

Parking

This is an on-going problem and one over which I am regularly in touch with the local police, residents and the other local schools about. Please park responsibly outside our school so that everyone is safe. We will be working with the police later in the term to raise the children's awareness of safety on the road.

Healthy Eating

This year as ever we will be highlighting 'Healthy Eating' with the children; this is an area which is becoming prominent in school Inspections as part of "Wellbeing, Health and Healthy Eating" and an area which is important to us.

We want to ensure that our children maintain a healthy diet and would ask that lunch time snacks and packed lunches do not include chocolate bars, crisps or fizzy/sugary drinks; please keep these as treats for home.

We now have so many children who have different food allergies that we would ask that if you want to send something in for birthday celebrations please send in just a cake and no additional sweets as these become very difficult to distribute. (If sending in cake please remember to include napkins or sandwich bags) If you do send in a cake or small cakes please can you ensure that the allergy advice is clear; thank you. If you would like to send in a small gift instead of cakes a suggestion could be a pencil or stationery.

We do run our Fair Trade Stall during Friday break time, this is a treat whilst also educating the children about Fair Trade; children may, if they wish, buy a biscuit, raisins or fresh Fair Trade fruit.

If your child would like to purchase a Fair Trade snack, then please could the Reception and Pre Prep classes ensure that their money is brought into school in a named purse or envelope. Please note that no more than 70p is required for the Fair Trade Stall.

School Swimming Caps

Swimming caps with the school logo are now compulsory and can be purchased from Mrs Pickford at the school office. Swimming this term is for P6 and P5 this commences on Thursday 22nd September.

School Bags

School Bags / Back Packs with the school logo are compulsory for the whole school. These once again can be purchased from the school office.

Punctuality

Please can you ensure that your child arrives at school on time.

School commences at **8-50am**. Children should be in the school playground ready to line up and walk into school with their class at this time.

Joe's Club

Joe's Club runs from the end of school until 5.50pm. The contact telephone number is 01782 744653.

Change to any Collection arrangements at end of school in school diaries or call office

If the collection arrangements for the end of the school day alter, please can you inform us either by a note in the diary or by a telephone call. We will not allow children to go with any other adult unless we have been specifically told to do so by you. We do not allow children to go with older siblings unless you have given written permission, nor do we allow children to meet parents off the school site unless we have written permission. I hope that you understand that this is part of our Safeguarding procedure.

Leave of Absence

Please avoid taking your child out of school during term time as this disrupts their education.

In special circumstances a "Leave of Absence" form needs to be filled in before permission can be granted. Forms can be downloaded from the school website.

For your Information

Extra-Curricular Clubs begin again on 7th September. I hope that you have all received the Extra-curricular clubs timetable as there are some weeks during the term when certain clubs are not running due to meetings etc. and I would ask that you check the timetable to clarify this.

I would like to remind you to log onto our website to see my Blog for weekly updates and news, along with my weekly prayer page; other updates can also be found on Facebook.

The staff and I are looking forward to the new term and we hope that we can welcome you into school as the term progresses.

Yours sincerely

S. D. Hutchinson .

**Mrs S D Hutchinson BEd
Headteacher**