

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 10th September 2021

## A MESSAGE FROM MISS CHOMA

Hi everyone,

What a fantastic start to the new school year – the children have returned (looking super smart!) with a super attitude and have settled quickly back into school life – well done everyone. A big welcome to our new Reception class who have been absolutely wonderful. They are settling in nicely to school life – it has been lovely watching them make new friends and explore their new classroom. I know they are going to have a brilliant year with Mrs Dalton and Mrs Hart. Well done Reception – we are very proud of you.

We also welcome some new children and families to school: Alexander and Addison (Y1 and Y4), Clover and Clovis (Y3), Sammy and Jakey (YR and Y3), Louis (Y3), Jack (Y3) and Zahra (Y6) – we hope they have a wonderful time as part of the St Joseph's family.

During their transition meetings in the summer term, the children were asked to think about things they were looking forward to in the new school year, what they would like to improve on etc. Ask your child/ren about what they have written about their wishes for this year – there were a lot of pen licenses in Y3 (I wonder why?).

### Curriculum Information Evening

Curriculum Information Evenings will take place next week via Zoom. These are important meetings as they will outline the curriculum and class routines for the year. Zoom links will be sent out Monday. See next page for dates and times.

### Drop off and Pick up

Thank you for your support this week – I am sure we will be quicker and slicker as the weeks go by! After a couple weeks, to get your views on the new arrangements, we will send a feedback form for families to complete.

### Uniform

Reminder that long hair (boys and girls) is tied back; earrings are studs only and no jewellery to be worn.

## MOLLY AND MISS CHOMA'S SUMMER HOLIDAY

We (my friend Maggie, two dogs and I) started the summer holiday with a wonderful break in a little place called Hurst (near Richmond). It is a very, very small village (3 cottages and a few farms!). We could only get WIFI if we walked to the top of a hill! It was a beautiful place – hill after hill so we did lots of lovely walks. Molly was so tired she slept for two days when we returned home. During Roman times, Hurst was a lead mining area. Prisoners were sent to work in the lead mines. It was a very interesting place to stay. I have to say – there were hills and more hills and more hills!

Molly had a day at the seaside, Fraisthorpe, which she loved. We did a 10 mile walk along the beach. It is a great beach if you have a dog as it is a designated dog beach. However, she did not understand that drinking sea water was not a good idea – it made her very thirsty and she could not stop drinking when we were back home! She loved the sea, the seagulls and chasing a ball on the beach. Also, we had lovely walks through the woods and lots of swimming wherever Molly spotted a puddle, a beck, a river, a lake or MUD!



# KEY INFORMATION

## DATA COLLECTION UPDATES



Do you receive emails and texts from Teachers2Parents?

Have you moved address in the last 12 months?



It is vitally important that we have up to date contact details for your child - including a second emergency contact. Please contact Miss Wilkinson via the office@stjosephsotley.org if you would like to update any information.

## BANANA AND NUT FREE SCHOOL

Polite reminder that due to severe allergies, St Joseph's is a banana and nut free school. Unfortunately, if your child is found with a banana or nuts, the product will have to be confiscated.

## BREAK TIME SNACKS

Additionally, please note that children should only be bringing fruit as a snack at playtimes. We are currently seeing an assortment of inappropriate snacks on the playground. If your child brings something other than fruit, we will ask them to put it back in their bag to take home.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.



## DINNER MONEY

Please make sure that you are up to date with your child's dinner money on Parent Pay.

We do ask that you do not let the balance go over 2 weeks so that we can manage our accounts efficiently.

Please do not hesitate to chat to the Office Staff if you are having any issues with Parent Pay.

Reminder - we need 2 weeks notice to change from to School Meals to Packed Lunches.



## CURRICULUM EVENINGS

	6-7pm via Zoom	7-8pm via Zoom
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6	Year 5
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 1	Year 4
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Reception	Year 3
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 2	

Zoom links will be sent on Monday.

Class teachers will continue to send out the curriculum information newsletters each term.



## PHOTOGRAPHS



The photographer will be in school on Tuesday 21st September from 8.30 to take the children's individual photographs.



# CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

## A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Loving God,

Bless this journey of a new school year that we undertake.

Refresh our souls and renew our spirits so that we can serve you to our best ability.

We welcome those who are new to this community.

Thank you for all of the special people in our community

And for all of the wonderful gifts that you have given them.

May you guide us and help us throughout the year.

Amen

## OUR LADY & ALL SAINTS CHURCH

### MASS TIMES

Due to Covid-19 Restrictions, Mass times have changed for Our Lady and All Saints Otley.

Please see bulletin for changes to Mass times

[Click here](#)

Please book a place for Saturday evening or Sunday morning Mass - [book here](#)

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

On Tuesday, it was so lovely for the whole school to come together for collective worship for the first time in about 18 months - a very special occasion! The children still behaved impeccably and were so happy to be all together again. Miss Choma led a joyful Collective Worship about new beginnings and shared this prayer:



*Dear Lord, use my eyes to see new friends*

*Open my ears to hear my teacher and open my mind to learn new things*

*Let me heart remember You are near when I'm afraid*

*Help me to love others like you do*

*I want to shine Your light so bright in my school. Amen*

Our statement for this week is : We are all special. The children learnt how God created us to be like God. We also read this poem:

*I Am Me. I am special and I am loved.*

*I am unique, in the whole world there is only one me.*

*There is only one person with my talents, experience and gifts.*

*I have immense potential to love, care, create, grow and share my talents.*

*This school year is a new beginning. A new year filled with opportunities.*

*I am me, and that is all I need to be.*

On Friday, we gathered for our celebration assembly and collective worship thinking about Education Sunday which takes place this weekend. The theme of Education Sunday this year is: A WORD IN SEASON. As a school, we thought about why words are important and what kind words we can use to each other. We apologise for the technical issues for those parents on Zoom, all the computers seemed to be on "Go Slow" mode!!!



## CONFIRMATION

Letters will be sent out next week with information about Confirmation for Year 6 children. The preparation meetings will take place on Thursdays after school until 3:15 with the first meeting taking place on 30th September. We are hoping the Confirmation Mass will take place on Saturday 27th November in our parish church at 10am.

# CLASS NEWS



## YEAR R NEWS

What a fabulous first week our Reception children have had at St Joseph's! We couldn't be more proud of them and how they have come into school in such a grown up manner, ready to learn.

We have had a lovely week getting to know each other and making new friends. The children have also enjoyed getting to explore our lovely big classroom and outside area.

Each child made a picture and handprint to take home to remember their first day at school. We have also talked about the our classroom rules and behaviour chart. The children are so excited to try and get their picture onto silver and gold.

On Friday afternoon, Miss Choma came to visit and read us a wonderful story - 'The Detective Dog'. She told the tale of Nell - a dog who loves books and listening to children read whilst also enjoying solving mysteries.



## YEAR 1 NEWS

Year 1 have had made a fantastic start to the school year and we've crammed lots in our first week back.

In English, we were excited to share all our news from the holidays with one another. We wrote a recount of our favourite parts and tried to remember our capital letters and full stops.

In Maths this week, we have been practising our number formation. We have learnt some fabulous techniques to help us remember how to form each number. One of our favourites was: Half a heart, says I love you, add a line now I've made 2. We also practised sorting objects into groups.

During our RE lesson, we thought about our wonderful world- the lakes, mountains, rivers, flowers and trees and pondered just how God had created all the beautiful things in our world.

In PSHE, we thought about our feelings and coming back to school. Pirate Pete sent us on a treasure hunt outside in the sunshine. For each piece of treasure we found, we performed a little activity like star jumps and jumping Jacks.

Year 1 got the chance to vote this week when we elected two candidates to be on our school council and to become our healthy food ambassadors. The children were introduced to the idea of participating in a democratic process.



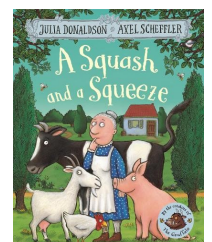
## YEAR 2 NEWS

Year 2 have had an excellent start to this new school year! They have been very sensible and have been working very hard. As part of our Leader in Me work, we have been practising being proactive and using our initiative.

In English, we are enjoying our new book 'A Squash and A Squeeze' by Julia Donaldson. We have been ordering the events in the story, drawing a story map and retold the story using actions. We have all been working hard to remember to use capital letters at the start of a sentence.

In Maths, we have been developing our understand of numbers to 50. We have looked at different ways to represent numbers using Numicon, Base Ten and Ten frames. We have been looking carefully at the number of tens and the number of ones and remembering that the tens number comes before the ones when writing it down.

We have enjoyed starting our new Science topic. This half term we will be finding out about living things and their habitats. We will start by thing about local habitats.



## YEAR 3 NEWS

It's exciting to have 5 new class members and we have enjoyed welcoming our new friends who have settled in very quickly.

In English, the children have created imaginative poems to tell us all what they 'didn't do' in the summer holidays - these were very funny to read.

In Science, we started thinking about our new topic of Rocks and Soils and asking questions like, 'What is under our feet?'. The ground outside was extremely dry due to the hot weather but we managed to dig a hole in the soil. We found lots of roots, twigs, small stones and even some worms.

Our new R.E topic is The Christian Family. We have enjoyed talking about our families and drawing pictures of them. In PSHE this week, we discussed our leadership classroom. We thought about what makes a joyful and inspiring classroom and created a class set of rules for us all to follow.

In Computing, we learnt about digital devices and how they have inputs, processes and outputs to work.



## YEAR 4 NEWS

It was lovely to welcome back everybody into Year 4, as well as our new classmate Addison.

In English, the children posed as investigative journalists and created questions about a mysterious robot arm that appeared outside the classroom! They also used SPaG time to refresh their knowledge of plural noun endings.

In Maths, our first topic is Place Value. This week the children have learned how to round a 3-digit number to the nearest 10 and the nearest 100. We have also started practising the 6 times table - please encourage your child to practise their times tables as often as possible in preparation for our times table check in the summer.

In PSHE, we looked at the Seven Habits and the children chose a habit as their personal target this year. We created leaves that will decorate our Leader in Me display in the classroom. Finally, the children have created two sets of self portraits and practised drawing the human face. They have also created a display on the life of St Joseph as told in the Gospels.



## YEAR 5 NEWS

Wow, what a fabulous first week we have had in Year 5. Mrs Russell and I have been so impressed with their hard work and positive attitudes.

In RE, we have started our work on Creation and read the creation stories in Genesis; comparing the two of them.

In English, we have watched the short film, "The Lost Thing" which we will be studying over next few weeks. Today, we used it to help us write a journal using subordinate clauses at the start of our sentences.

In Maths, we have started our work on place value. As well as all of this, we have been preparing work for our displays around school.

Thank you to all of the children who have returned their reading books, if anyone still has any at home from the summer, please could they return them ASAP - thank you. We hope you all of a super weekend and we look forward to another fabulous week next week.



## YEAR 6 NEWS

Welcome back to all Year 6 children, in particular Zahra who joins us this week. I look forward to teaching this wonderful class again.

In English, we started our new book called "The Arrival", it is wordless picture book. We looked at the first few images to predict what the story could be about. We think it might be about a refugee fleeing his country due to a war as we saw him packing up his precious belonging including a boat ticket.

In Maths, we developed our knowledge of place value to number to 10 million. We have read, compared and ordered these numbers.

During RE, we talked about how we are all called to serve God. We recognised that we all gain an invitation when we are baptised. We created our own mission badge which shows others how we can use all uniqueness, skills and stewardship to serve God.

