



25.02.22

### Welcome Back Lent 2



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Joseph's,

I wish you all a very warm welcome back to school after a very windy but hopefully restful half term break. We have now completed our first week and are already in full swing.

As we adjust to Living with COVID, I am looking forward to welcoming you to: Ash Wednesday Mass (This Week at 2.15pm) and Our Diamond Jubilee Mass on Friday, the 18<sup>th</sup> March (9.30am). If you would like to attend either, please could you let the school office know so that we are able to prepare

We are also looking forward to celebrating Mardi Gras on Tuesday and World book day on Friday. Please do not spend money on new clothes for these events; use what you have and try to be creative.

Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> March
	Mardi Gras: Wear Purple, Green and Gold	Ash Wednesday Mass 2.15pm Please inform the office if you will be attending		World Book Day: Dress as a Book Character (Fairy Tale Theme)

### School Council: Improved Lunch time activities.

The School Council, with the help of Mrs Abel and Miss Lewis, have initiated Play Zones at Lunch time. Activities include 'Big Moves' (Catching and throwing activities/ Skipping), singing and dancing (A boom box has been introduced), Traditional board games, Drawing activities with Chalk / Pens and paper, Parachute games and much more. I would like to thank the school council for their work as they continue to help improve our amazing school.



## Improving our School

We are always looking for ways in which we can improve our school further as we strive to make the children's learning experiences the best that they can be. As always, I welcome ideas from our community. Please contact our school office if you would like to offer any suggestions.

## Volunteers in school

Schools are a hive of activity, and we are always looking for volunteers to support our young people and teachers.

There are many benefits of volunteering in school, these include:

**Gaining experience** – if you're thinking of starting a career in education, the experience of working in a school before you commit to it can help you decide if the career path is right for you. You will have the opportunity to work with and observe experienced teachers, get to know the curriculum, and develop the necessary skills for more permanent roles. To future employers, your time as a volunteer will show your interest in the role, as well as giving you practical examples of situations to talk about in interviews. It may even be the case that roles come up at the school you're volunteering in – and having an existing good reputation with them means that you could be their first choice.

**Improving outcomes** – One of the reasons that volunteer roles are so popular is that they're extremely rewarding. Volunteers feel as though they can make a difference, whether that's in making lessons more interesting, helping a child learn to read, or making sure there are enough adults to accompany the class on an exciting trip. Schools are always appreciative of the work that volunteers do for them.

**Improving your wellbeing** – One of the NHS' five ways to wellbeing is giving back to the community. Volunteering makes us feel good about ourselves and enriches our mental health.

Working with children and young people can be an enriching experience – their innovative perspectives on life can be both entertaining and inspiring. If you can offer any volunteering time to our wonderful school please contact the school office for further details.

Thank You once again for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you in person, as I welcome you back to 'in person' events at school.

God Bless

Mrs Dedman.



Living with COVID

COVID Updates: The Prime Minister confirmed domestic legal restrictions will end on 24th February as we are asked to begin to treat Covid like other infectious diseases. New guidance on Living with Covid is available here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19

The legal requirement to self-isolate ends on 24 February 2022.

Positive COVID cases: Until 1 April 2022

The government still advises people who test positive to stay at home. Adults and children who test positive should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least five full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received two negative test results on consecutive days. Thereafter they can return to work and normal everyday life.

Vaccination: It has been recognised that vaccination provides a greater level of protection and I encourage you to take this vaccination if possible.

We will continue to use social distancing, ventilation and good hygiene to help mitigate COVID within our school.

We are working hard to educate our children on how to behave responsibly in our digital world. Please take a few moments to talk to your children about their digital experiences: Explain to your child that what goes online stays online. Ask them what they'd do if someone was standing too close to them, or if strangers were asking nosy questions. Then ask them what they think is the online equivalent. Get them to type their name into a search engine - they may be surprised by what comes up. Encourage them to ask permission before tagging photos or videos of friends and family. Explain that they could be breaking the law if they make comments about someone online (it could be slanderous). Remind them of the value of friendship: to be a friend, other people need to be decent, kind and supportive. Talk about the consequences of posting rude images online.