

St Joseph The Worker R C Primary School

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Friday, 10 September 2021

Dear Families,

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week. They have settled very well and are eager to learn and spend time with their friends. A special welcome to the new families who are joining our school, it will take a few weeks for children to settle into the new routines, but if you do have any concerns, please feel free to speak to the class teacher.

Over the summer, our staff have been working on our priorities for the first term and beyond. During this pandemic, we have had to adapt our approaches in so many ways. We have learnt and achieved a lot, so will take this forward into this new year. However, we have also been restricted by the government's guidance and have been unable to give children the full range of experiences which they deserve. Moving forward, we are determined that our children experience everything that our school can offer so that they become confident, determined, and resilient learners who are respectful and tolerant of the wishes and feelings of others.

Below, I have included some key messages which I would like you to reinforce with your children and our key priorities moving forward. These are just some of the ways in which we can work together to maintain the good standards in the school and ensure that your children fulfil their potential.

KEY MESSAGES AND PRIORITIES

Manners and Attitude to Learning

For 18 months, children have been working in bubbles. They have been taken around the school by staff and have worked as a single class. They will need the time to adapt once more to the new routines and get used to working and playing in larger groups. Therefore, our key messages will remain that:

- Good manners are shown at all times.
- That all children move quietly and sensibly around the corridors.
- That children show respect for adults and the school environment.
- Children politely greet adults and visitors in corridors and central areas.
- Children take turns in class and outside and show awareness of the wishes and feelings of others.

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**Communication
Friendly**



Prayer and Worship and Wider School Experiences.

As the term progresses, we will be encouraging children to:

- Show reverence in prayer, learning to be still and enjoy periods of quiet reflection.
- To know and join in with our prayers in class and in the hall.
- To sing and enjoy praising God in song.
- To perform for a wider audience, to experience what this feels like and share their talents.
- To find ways in which children can work more collaboratively as a team, rather than individually.

GIFT Team, Caritas Ambassadors, House Captains and Vice Captains, Eco Team and School Council

Throughout the past 18 months, teachers, pupils and parents have shown such strength and resilience even at the most challenging of times. However, as a community, we have not been able to come together very often, and children have gained very little experience of mixing across age groups. This term, we will focus on:

- Children understanding what it means to be part of our school family.
- The reintroduction of a GIFT team and Caritas Ambassadors.
- The development of prayer and worship within the classroom and whole school assemblies.
- Going out into the community and spreading the joy and happiness which the children bring to our school, to others.
- Developing a greater sense of responsibility for others and ensuring that we find ways in which we can support those in greater need.
- Ensuring that our older children remain role models for our younger pupils.
- Giving pupils greater responsibilities across the school
- Re-establishing our school council and eco team
- Relaunching our house point system and rewards policy.

Holidays

A reminder that that no holidays taken in term time will be authorised unless there are **exceptional circumstances** which are agreed by the Governing Body. Parents must put a request in writing to the Headteacher. If holidays are taken without authorisation, procedures outlined by the LA will be followed and may result in a fine.

Welcoming refugees.

I am certain you will have followed recent events on the news and in particular the plight of many refugees. On Saturday 18th September our school parish will host a special event to welcome refugees. Unfortunately, our GIFT chaplaincy team are unable to attend this year. We can still contribute and participate in spirit by donating:



- Cakes and biscuits (either homemade or shop bought)
- Toiletries (e.g. toothpaste/ shower-gel or any other essential items)

These will be gratefully received and will support many families in our city. We ask that donations are given to school by Friday 17th September. In this small way we can show our love for others.

I look forward to working together to ensure that our school community continues to thrive and builds upon its many strengths.

Best wishes



E Clayton
Headteacher

