



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Living, Learning  
and Loving  
together with  
Christ

Executive Head Teacher: Mr P Brown

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

Dear parents,

It feels like the first half term in the new school year has rushed by. I thought that I would take the opportunity to inform you of some updates and forthcoming events in the year ahead.

**ATTENDANCE:** As you know, good attendance is completely aligned with good outcomes for children. It allows the children to be settled in school and not miss any key learning. We have had a brilliant start at St Joseph's. Our average attendance is 96.42%. The national average is 96%. Many children who had poor attendance last year have improved significantly, which is fantastic.

**ATTENDANCE  
MATTERS.  
ALL DAY, EVERY DAY**

We do, however, have a small number of children with very poor attendance. I must remind parents that it is a **legal responsibility** for parents to get children to school whenever they are fit enough to attend. It is also a **legal responsibility** for parents to inform school if their child is unable to attend school on a given day. Also, children need to be on time for school. Our school day begins at 8.45am.

After half term we will have an attendance review of all children below 90% who have a high number of unauthorised absences. We will inform parents of their child's current attendance and then will offer parental contracts which is a chance to work with school to improve attendance levels. **I would strongly advise parents to take this up as a chance to work with the school. Otherwise school has no choice but to inform the Local Authority who can and will impose fines for poor attendance.**

Our best attenders will go into a draw to win a meal out with one of their parents just before Christmas.

**CLUBS:** After school clubs will start straight after half term. The same clubs will be offered to the same Year Groups as this half term and will be reviewed after the October holiday. Clubs will end for the term on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December. There will be no clubs on the last week of term.

In order to book places for next term's classes, you will be required to make one payment for the term. This will secure a place for the full half term. Please note places must be booked prior to Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October. There is a limit of 25 children per club. When the limit is reached, you will no longer have access to book a place.

**CHRISTMAS EVENTS:** We are very close to finalising dates for our Christmas events. We will be in a position to advise parents of dates immediately after half term.



**FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS:** You should have received your voucher if your child qualifies for benefits related free school meals. We have noticed that numbers of children that have applied for free school meal meals from Nursery to Year 2 are far lower than what is typical for our school. **If you think your child should qualify for this, please approach the office to make an application.** This is an easy process. With the cost of living crisis, it is important that everybody gets their entitlement. It also provides extra funding for the school.

**PICK UP AND DROP OFFS:** Please always make sure your child is brought to school on time and is collected promptly. **The school day starts from 8.45am.**

**PARKING OUTSIDE:** Please try and walk to and from school where possible. It is better for the children and avoids congestion with traffic outside of school. Where this is impossible, I would appeal to parents to park a reasonable distance away from the school gates. This has been better this term and I am sure we would all like to see that continue as safety of our pupils is paramount.



On behalf of the staff, we wish all families and children a safe and enjoyable half term.

Yours faithfully,

Mr P A Brown  
Executive Head Teacher



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Bishop Bewick Catholic Academy Trust

