

St Joseph's



News

Half termly Autumn 1 edition

October 2025

Head-lines

Welcome to our first termly newsletter of the new school year. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back from their Summer break, and meet all the new faces who start their St Joseph's journey. The term has got off to a flying start, with lots of learning, friendships, clubs trips and events. As detailed in an earlier letter, we have a focus this year on Adaptive Teaching and Inclusive Pedagogy so we are really enjoying spending time reflecting on and developing these key aspects. I hope you have a lovely half term break, and as we return to Autumn 2 and the run up to Christmas, there will be so much more to look forward to! Best wishes, Mr Turner

Welcome!

In the final newsletter of the Summer term, we said a sad goodbye to our Year 6 Leavers. But in the first newsletter of our Autumn term, we have the joy of saying hello and welcome to our new Reception children! Maisie, Penelope, Khizer, Thomas, Trevor, Poppy, Cassius, Jason, Indigo, Ella, James, Ferne, Violet, Elena, River-Rose, Nancy, Oliver, Naomi, Anastasia, Coby, Zoe, Carmen, Gwennan, Finley, Isla, Joseph, Navaneeth, Daisy-Belle, Rebecca, and Arthur, I hope you are enjoying life at St Joseph's so far and have made lots of new friends. We are all looking forward to working with you and getting to know you over the coming years.



Prefects and Play Leaders

I would also like to say a big congratulations, and introduce our new team of Prefects and Play Leaders for the year. Following a gruelling application process, consisting of letters of application, references and interviews, I am delighted to appoint Alisa, Sophia, Maggie, Maisy, Ava, Jewel, Bailey-Rae, Amelia, Olive, Thomas, Evan, Anabelle, Jasmine, Anna, Ryan, Teddy, Lily, Abigail, Annet, Ruby, Aoife, Mason, David, Kayla, Sofia, Annabelle, Sam, James, Jia and Sophia as our Prefects and Hetty, Lucas, Alice and Harry as our Play Leaders. Congratulations to all of them, and I look forward to working with them, and thank them as they are such an integral part of the running of the school!

Attendance and Punctuality

We continue to have a big push on attendance and punctuality this year. Last school year, we finished with a whole school attendance figure of **94.3%**. The National figure was **94.8%** meaning we were just slightly below. However, our Persistent Absence (those children with less than 90% attendance) was high, with **14.8%** compared to the National of **12.6%**

Please can you ensure your child has good attendance as every day counts. As we are early in the year, figures can be distorted, but already we have children with low levels of attendance. The detail above that a child is considered to be a concern if they are Persistently Absent (Attendance of less than 90%) actually translates as having **19 school days of absence** across the year. We already have children who have missed 10 days, and we are only at the first half term. If that pattern doesn't change, in all likelihood the child will be considered Persistently Absent and ultimately liable for parent fines. Please work with us to ensure your child has good attendance over the year.

Please can we also remind you that the **school day starts at 8.50am** as we are seeing more children arrive late. And at the opposite end of the day, please may we politely remind you that **F2 finish at 3.20pm** and the rest of the school **finish at 3.30pm**. We are regularly left with late collections. We understand that 'one offs' happen, but if you are going to be regularly late to collect, we politely point you towards our AfterSchool club, Firbobs, as they are here for parents who need provision later than 3.30pm. Thank you.

Dates and events

A reminder that pupils finish the half term on Thursday 23rd October. Staff have an Inset day on Friday 24th. We re-open Monday 3rd November. As we return to Autumn 2 and the build up to Christmas, there are lots of events and dates to be aware of. An overview of the term dates and some key events can be found on our home page www.stjosephscatholicprimarybirkenhead.co.uk and please visit the PTA Facebook page for a list of all of the fantastic things they have planned for the year.

Uniform

As the weather begins to turn, please can you ensure your child has suitable outdoor clothing (coats, gloves, hats etc).

Please can we also make a plea that all items of uniform, including coats and winter items are labelled with names as we get a lot of lost property! It will greatly help ensuring items are returned to their owner!

Also, we have a lot of items in our Freecycle collection, including coats. If you need any items of uniform, coats etc, please just call in via the office and you are welcome to take what you need.

Parent/Community Drop In Morning



Earlier this term we held our first Parent/Community Drop in event. The morning was attended by external agencies such as Police, Health, Family Support, and IT, who were able to talk to and advise parents with issues such as Social Media, sleep, anxiety, staying safe, behaviour, SEND and much more. We even had our school kitchen team providing food samples for parents to try! The morning was well attended, and we plan to run another event in the Spring term, in the hope that it becomes even more attended and a termly event. If there are any agencies or themes you would like to see included in the next one, please do email Mrs Dyas-Ward and we can extend the invites out to make the event even more bespoke.



There has been so much going on this half term already! We've had children competing in a range of sporting events, such as Cross Country and football through the LFC Foundation, as well as children presenting their work on plastic pollution at Chester Zoo. We've had visits from Tranmere Rovers players, and practical learning through science experiments, as well as exploring seasonal changes by going on an Autumn walk! It's been a busy half term with lots more to come.



Just a reminder that you can keep up to date by following our Socials - we are on X (Twitter) @stjosephsbh and on Instagram stjosephsbirkenhead - follow us to keep updated with all the exciting things taking place.

Prayer for the term

As October is the month dedicated to Mary, and as we spent some time with the travelling icon of the window from Shrewsbury Cathedral depicting The Visitation, we ask Our Lady, help of Christians, to pray for us.

In the Gospel of St Luke, we hear of Mary's pilgrimage journey to meet her cousin, Elizabeth. Having said 'yes' to God's call, with the Son of God growing in her womb, Mary may have set out on the road, apprehensive and anxious, but also full of hope, that even though the future was uncertain, she could be certain of God's great love for her and that he would be with her every step of the way. She carried the joy and hope of salvation with her as she travelled to visit Elizabeth. Our Lady, Help of Christians, comes to our aid for that is her pilgrimage, that is her desire and that is her place in the Christian life. Our Lady comes quickly to help us in all our needs and shares with us, her Son, Jesus, who is our light and our hope.