



To follow Jesus' footsteps, caring for each other when we work, play and pray.

Newsletter No.5

Friday 12th November 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Newsletter number 5, it has been great to see the children come back from their half term break and dive straight back into their learning so seamlessly. Now we are in the month of November we turn our thoughts to remembrance day. The children have been able to purchase poppies to help raise vital funds for the British Legion. Yesterday we held a two-minute silence to help remember all the people who have given their lives for our country in wars. The children conducted themselves very well and showed reverence at all times.

Congratulations to the Key Stage One award winners last week. The awards were as follows:

Key Stage One

The Tidiness Award	Y2G	Lining Up award	FYW
Lunchtime Behaviour Award	FYW	The Attendance Award	FYT
The Travel Tracker	Y1G		

This week's award winner. The awards are as follows:

Key Stage Two

The Tidiness Award	Y5S	Lining Up award	Y3G
Lunchtime Behaviour Award	Y3B	The Attendance Award	Y5L
The Travel Tracker	Y6L		

Y5S Class Assembly

It was very enjoyable to watch the children of Y5S present their 'Greek Gods have Talent' Assembly. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Greeks and they were especially excited to rap about the 12 Greek Gods. A special thanks to Mrs Smith and Mr Sheehan who helped the children prepare for their assembly so well.

FY – People who help us

The children in Foundation Year have started an exciting new topic about People who help us. Over the next couple of weeks, we are having a number of visitors come in and talk to the children about their jobs and how they help other people. We had a very exciting visit this week, from the Police who drove their police car onto the school playground! The children learnt about some of the very important jobs the Police carry out every day. Thanks in advance to the parents who are giving their time to make this possible for the children.

Polite reminder for Morning Drop Offs

Staff are on gate duty from 8.35am until 8.45am. If children arrive slightly earlier than 8.35am parents should not leave them and go as staff are not responsible until 8.35am. To avoid congestion on the pavement and to avoid dangerous waiting near the roadside, all are allowed to wait on the drive. However, no parents or children should enter the playground before 8.35am. Thank you for your cooperation.

Harvest Food Collection

We received a lovely message from the Food Bank thanking you for all of your efforts with our Harvest collection:

Hello everyone at St Joseph's, on behalf of Bethany Food Bank we would like to thank all the children/parents/staff for the very kind donation of food to our foodbank. Last month we fed over 1300 people and without donations like yours it would be difficult. I am sure it took a lot of hard work to collect so much food so please can you thank all those involved we really do appreciate it.

Regards Kevin Warrington

Manager of Bethany Food Bank

On Behalf of Bethany Community Outreach





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Principal: Mr G. O'Hara

Loving our Neighbour

Twitter

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new school twitter feed. We are very excited about the opportunities for additional communication that this will offer. Please see the letter sent out via Parent Mail for more information.



Individual Photographs

Please remember individual pupil photographs will be taken throughout the day on Monday 15th November.

WhatsApp

Whats App, is a fabulous communication tools for us all to use to keep in touch with our friends and families. Every year group at St Josephs appears to have a number of parental whatsapp groups set up by parents (often not including all). Please be mindful that these are not forums to discuss daily events that school are dealing with, as the information being shared is causing upset and distress to many parents. Some of the contents discussed are referring to specific children or incidents. I have always informed parents, right from day one in FY, that should you need to know something come and ask us, should we wish information to be shared we will do so. Other than this it is merely unwelcomed gossip.

Any questions or concerns should be directed to the class teacher who will be more than happy to assist.

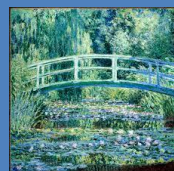
The last day of Summer term

In line with Birmingham City Council, Directors have agreed that, for all schools in the St John Paul II MAC, the last day of the summer term will now be Thursday 21st July 2022, not Friday 22nd July 2022 as previously published. This is due to the additional bank holiday which has been agreed on Friday 3rd June 2022 in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Our schools will already be on their summer half-term holiday on this day. The additional one-day holiday will therefore be taken on Friday 22nd July 2022, meaning that the Summer Term 2022 will now end on Thursday 21st July 2022.

Musician of the Month: Bob Dylan



Artist of the Month: Claude Monet



Word of the Month: Camaraderie



Inspirational Person of the Month: Emma Raducanu





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During November we remember all the departed, especially family members and friends. It is also a time of national remembrance, when we recall those who have died for our country in wars.



**They shall not grow old,
as we who are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
we will remember them.**



Some of the bloodiest fighting of World War One took place in the Flanders and Picardy regions of Belgium and Northern France. The poppy was the only thing which grew in the aftermath of the complete devastation. McCrae, a doctor serving there with the Canadian Armed Forces, deeply inspired and moved by what he saw, wrote these verses:

*In Flanders' Fields
John McCrae, 1915*

*In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe;*

*To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Field*

Yours sincerely,

G M O'Hara
Executive Principal

Mrs N Hill
Acting Head of School

Mrs L Chambers
Acting Vice Principal

