



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs B Corbett BA (Hons), NPQH



School Mission Statement

'To inspire, to learn, to love with God'

This half term we are focusing on being:

Eloquent and Truthful

Pupils are growing to be eloquent and truthful in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world.

What does this mean?

Catholic schools help their pupils grow by developing an eloquent language which they can use to understand and articulate their emotions, beliefs, and questions, encouraged by the example of their teachers to be truthful in the way they represent themselves and speak about the world.

8th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We were so lucky with the weather this week, which enabled us to go ahead with our Autumn Fayre outside. What a wonderful time we all had! Many thanks to the PTFA, staff and everyone who helped and supported this event. It was great to have our school community come together once again. Year 6 did a brilliant job planning and preparing their stalls- many thanks to them all and also to Miss Smith!

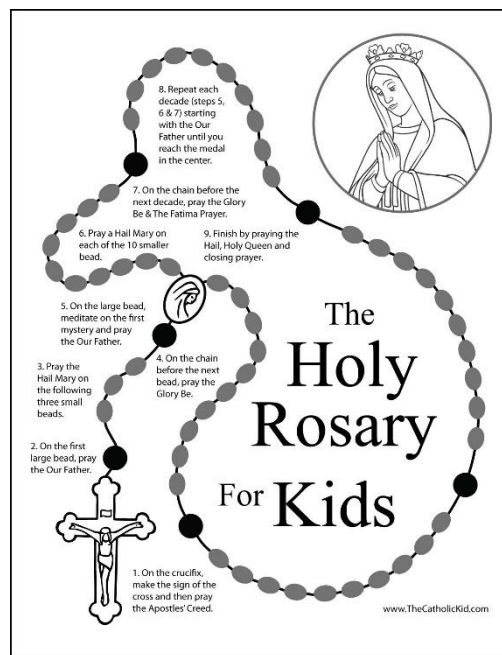
We are so proud of our Football and Netball Teams. They took part in the Catholic School's Tournament at Cardinal Griffin on Tuesday afternoon. Both teams were amazing. Our Netball team came second place and the Footballers came first winning the Tournament! Well done to them all. A huge thank you to Miss Edwards and Mr Sayce for coaching the teams.

October is Walk to School Month - this is an opportunity to join hundreds and thousands of pupils across the world celebrating the walk to school. We are encouraging children and adults to put on their walking shoes during this month. Walking has many health, social and environmental benefits for the whole family! For those that live far away try parking 5-10 minutes from the school and walking the rest of the way. Walking also promotes a less congested environment around the school gates making it safer for everyone.

Morrisons has launched 'It's Good To Grow', a campaign in all of its stores that will donate gardening equipment to schoolchildren across the UK in the hope of educating children about where their food comes from. If you shop at Morrisons you can help get free gardening equipment for our school. For every £10 you spend (in store or online) at

Morrison's in September and October you'll get a Grow Token to help school to redeem equipment such as gardening tools, composting bins and seeds to get growing.

October is the month of the Rosary - the beautiful gift first given to us by St Dominic. The series of prayers recited honour the Virgin Mary, during which we are able to meditate on the life of Christ and His mother. The Rosary Beads are used to help us; they count our prayers and tell us which prayer to say. It is a wonderful opportunity to introduce or remind our children of how to say the Rosary and share this special moment as a family. When we pray the Rosary, we approach Christ through Mary -- His Mother and our Mother -- because of her special connection with Him and with us. The children will be using this as a focus for their collective worships in the classrooms this month



I look forward to seeing children from Year 3 at our First Holy Communion Commitment Mass in Church on Sunday as they begin their special time of preparation. There will be a meeting for the children and their parents in the Church Hall after Mass.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Corbett

VERY IMPORTANT UPDATE - "RESPONDING TO INCREASING RATES OF COVID-19"

Parents and carers are asked to note that there has been a huge increase in the presence of Covid cases across Staffordshire.

Staffordshire Local Outbreak Control have advised ALL school settings to be proactive to prevent and reduce transmission, until half term.

For the next few weeks we have been asked to reintroduce a range of controls.

Part of this will be **STRONGLY ADVISING THAT ALL CONTACTS OF A SCHOOL CASE TAKE A PCR TEST**. It may also involve the need for a precautionary PCR test 7 days later. **PLEASE BE CAUTIOUS AND FOLLOW THIS ADVICE.**

- Where pupils have a brother, sister or household member who tests positive there is a high risk of infection.
- PCR tests are strongly advised for ALL people in the household.
- Pupils/household must stay at home pending results.
- Parents are reminded that children should not attend if they have any of the 3 main symptoms of Covid or are "generally unwell". In these cases a PCR test should be booked and taken.

Disco

We would like to recommence our termly discos for the children but need a DJ. If anyone is able to donate their time to school and be our DJ please contact school. Thank you!

Parish Links

Journey in Faith began on Thursday 7th October at 7pm in the meeting room in St Mary's Cannock Presbytery. Sessions will continue in the near year in Hednesford. Meetings last from not until Easter. Nine topics will be investigated over two sessions, using both videos and printed resources.



Access to the meeting room; approach the back door of the Presbytery from the Church. Park on the Club and Church car park in Hunter Road (WS11 0AE) then go to the front door of the church. Walk down the steps to the left of the Church to go through the gate to the door at the back of the house. Ring Fr Peter on 07766335591 if you are unsure. Everyone welcome.

WhatsApp

Dear Parents/carers,

We are aware that most classes have a parent WhatsApp group, which is used as a way of communicating between parents. We understand that this is a useful way of communicating but please be mindful that we do discourage discussing concerns relating to school or individual pupils on these groups, as these can be misinterpreted and cause unnecessary worry. If you have any concerns or queries at all relating to school then please discuss these with your child's class teacher or myself.

As you are aware, we have a vacancy for a parent Governor. This is a very important role and we urge anyone who is interested to contact Mrs Edge. Parent governors are a core part of a school's Board of Governors. The governor role has little interaction with the pupils or with daily school life, but is much more "behind the scenes". Information regarding individual pupils or families is never shared with Governors and all information shared is anonymised.

Decisions made by the board influence the whole school, but governors are not responsible for, or involved in, the day-to-day running of the school. Governors drive for continuous improvement and they also oversee financial performance and ensure money is well-spent. Governors commission the head teacher and other school leaders to act on their behalf in putting their ideas into practice, and they ensure that the school leadership is held to account in doing so.

Responsibility does not rest with any one individual Governor. Decisions are made by the board as a whole, and individual governors are not held to account for collective decisions. Please consider this important role and contact Mrs Edge if you are interested.

Easyfundraising

Please register by following the above link to raise money for St Joseph's.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjosephshednesford/>

Secondary School Application Forms

A reminder to year 6 parents that application forms for admission to secondary school next September must be completed by 31 October 2021. Applications can be made using the online application service, which is available at

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-secondary/Apply/Overview.aspx>

and by following the links to 'making an application'



Nursery - January 2022

If your child turns 3 before 31 December 2021 they will be eligible to start in our nursery from January 2022. Applications can now be accepted. Please see the school website or contact the school office. Closing date 31 October 2021.



Flu Vaccination

The school nurse team will be in school on Tuesday 2nd November to administer the flu vaccination to all pupils from reception - year 6. Please complete the online consent form if you wish your child to have the vaccine. This has been emailed to all parents this week.

Autumn Fayre

Thank you to everyone who supported our autumn fayre. We raised an amazing £1050!

Parents' Evening -

Tuesday 19th October 3.30pm-6pm and Wednesday 20th October 4pm-7pm

An invitation has been sent to all parents by email/text inviting you to sign up to parents' evening. If you have difficulty booking a slot, please contact the school office. Thank you

House Captains

We congratulate the following children on their appointment as house captain for the autumn term:

	St Andrew	Maisey	Indie
	St David	Leah	Libby
	St George	Darwin	Nhu
	St Patrick	Dylan	Grace

Safeguarding

A reminder to all parents that the safeguarding of all of our children is priority at our school. **Mrs Corbett is the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Mrs Farrah/Mrs C Davies/Mrs Hunwick-Davy are the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. Mr Andrew Williams is the link Governor for Safeguarding**

Should you have any concerns regarding safeguarding on the safety of our pupils please do not hesitate to speak to any member of school staff.

In this regard we also look to assist parents in keeping their children safe - including online safety. Please note that these will help with any information:

Staffordshire Safeguarding Board - <https://www.ssscb.org.uk/>

Ceop - <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre>

Thinkuknow - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

NSPCC - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>