

St. Joseph's Convent School

REGISTERED CHARITY

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28th September 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

Another busy week has come to a close. Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended the meetings on Monday and Tuesday. We have received lots of positive feedback and support. It was lovely to have Governors with us on both occasions and this will continue to be the case on our journey forward. For those parents/carers who couldn't attend, staff have emailed or are in the process of emailing those parents a copy of their presentation. Again, feedback on the day and following days has been that everyone found those opportunities helpful and supportive.

Healthy Snack

Healthy Snack is provided by parents/carers each day for all year groups apart from Nursery and Infants 1. It can be provided in the form of fruit or appropriate raw vegetables. It is eaten during morning playtime. The children are really enjoying this and it contributes to one of their five a day Healthy Schools recommended allowance. Please continue to note that, as a school we are supporting 100% a Nut free environment. We have some children and staff with allergies and we need to ensure their safety. Please adhere to this and continue to give due consideration with regard to your daughters' packed lunch. Thank you.

Mass

Prep 3 went to Mass yesterday at Our Lady of Lourdes Church at 9am. It was the Feast of St Vincent De Paul. We led the singing and following the end of Mass were given a round of applause this week too after the final hymn. We again received several compliments. Being a visible presence in the Parish is wonderful and we should not underestimate its impact on Parishioners. It was lovely that several parents attended too. Next week on Thursday Prep 1 and 2 will be attending.

Harvest Festival

Thank you to those who have sent in Harvest donations already. Please keep them coming. We are donating them to an excellent cause, 'Women's Refuge'. If you are able to provide your donations before Tuesday 2nd October, we would be most grateful. Please see the list below linking to the item allocated to your daughter's class.

Nursery and Infants 1 are asked to donate biscuits;

Infants 2 tins;

Infants 3 dried foods (pasta/rice);

Prep 1 tea/coffee/sugar/hot chocolate;

Prep 2 toiletries (toothpaste/brushes/shampoos/nappies)

Prep 3 washing powders/conditioners

Prep 4 Jars (jams/marmalade/marmite).

Infants 2 and 3 are busy learning lines and preparing for their Assembly on the 11th October. An invitation is extended to all parents across all year groups to celebrate with us at 9.15am. However, their first performance will be for Bishop Alan on Wednesday 3rd October when he visits the school.

Punctuality

I would like to bring to your attention that some children are persistently arriving late to school. It is important that every effort is made to arrive in school on time every day. The gate opens at 8.45am and school begins at 8.55am. The registers are taken and have to be back in the school office by 9.05am. Anyone arriving after 9am, when the gate is closed, will receive a **Late** mark. Having an excellent attendance and punctuality record in school is reported when transferring to secondary schools.

Attendance this week

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|--------|------|
| Nursery | 98% | Prep 1 | 100% |
| Infants 1 | 98% | Prep 2 | 99% |
| Infants 2 | 96% | Prep 3 | 97% |
| Infants 3 | 98% | Prep 4 | 99% |

Many congratulations to Prep 1 for 100% attendance!

Holiday requests

Please be reminded that holiday requests will not be permitted during term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances. This would involve having a conversation with the Headteacher. Please note that a written letter is required to cover absence of any kind e.g.

Doctors, Speech and Language appointment. A copy of the appointment letter to support the absence must also be provided. Similarly, I strongly urge parents not to request an early pick up from school, unless, once again, there are exceptional circumstances. This information allows us to correctly record on the register and therefore have accurate attendance details, which are submitted to Governors and scrutinised for inspections. Please do not be offended if you are requested to submit a letter if one has not been received. Attendance at school is key. Missed days equate to missed learning opportunities. Thank you for your support.

Clubs

All requests for attendance at after- school club on the day now need to be made to the office by 2.30pm. Thank you to all who have adopted this so promptly.

Exam Preparation Club

For Prep 4 girls will begin on Thursday 4th October. It will run from 3.20pm until 4.20pm. Thank you to Mrs Ayling and Miss Dacosta for running it. They will be sending out a letter with further details.

Uniform

The Second Hand Uniform sale and Cake sale were a great success last Friday. Cakes were delicious! Lots of parents sent in and bought items of uniform. Please relabel clearly any uniform that was bought so we do not have confusion by girls, parents and staff. Thank you. All girls will transfer into winter uniform after the October half term and return to school on **Tuesday 30th October.**

PA

Thank you to all who attended the PA meeting on Monday evening. Thank you for your support and all you do to enhance opportunities for the girls' education and development. Please also refer to the PA newsletter for further information regarding their activities.

INSET DAY

I would like to remind you that Monday 29th October 2018 will now be a staff INSET DAY and therefore school will be closed. I appreciate this was not on the calendar you received before the start of the year. Thank you for your understanding.

School Photographs

The school photographer will be in school on Wednesday 10th October to take individual photographs, a separate letter will be circulated today.

Reminder

Please remember that Parents/Carers are not permitted to park in the Convent / School car park at any time.

Christmas Bazaar

Our Christmas Bazaar takes place on Saturday 10th November. Please see attached letter from the PA regarding details of the event and a plea for help!!

Carol Singing at OLOL on Sunday 16th December

Please excuse the error in the dates circulated last week, Preps 1 & 2 are also invited to sing in church at 7.30pm on Sunday 16th December.

Saturday is the Feast of the Archangels, Saint Michael, Gabriel and Raphael.

Blessing:

May we enter this day alert to the wonder of the invisible presence of the Archangels,

May we realise that we are never alone and,

May we learn to see ourselves and others with the same delight, pride and expectation with which God see us in every moment.



**Mrs S Birtles
Headteacher**