



# Newsletter



Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 4!

Please take some time to read this newsletter. I am sorry if it sounds like a list of reminders but that is what we did in assembly this morning!

As we are half-way through the school year, it is sometimes a good opportunity to revisit things that may have been shared previously or even assumed to be known by parents.

## School News & Updates

### World Book Day – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

This year we are asking children to come to school on World Book Day in their pyjamas and onesies to celebrate enjoying a bedtime read. We are asking the children to bring in their favourite bedtime book – perhaps one they are enjoying reading at home or an old favourite.

There is no need to visit Amazon (or other online stores) and pay for a costume your child will wear once!

### World Book Day – Poster Competition

The PTFA are supporting the school with a prize for each year group for the best poster advertising a good read. Choose your bedtime favourite or an adventure story, wizards and dragons – it is up to you. But make someone want to pick up the book and read it themselves. Entries need to be brought into school by 7<sup>th</sup> March – winners will be announced in assembly on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

## Pupil Absence

The government has made it clear that school attendance is paramount for children to make progress in school.

Please see this Ofsted blog:

<https://educationinspection.blog.gov.uk/2023/11/16/improving-school-attendance/>

The local authority is now being more proactive in supporting schools and I will be having regular meetings with our Education Welfare Officer (EWO) and North Somerset.

As a school, we have a legal responsibility to record attendance accurately. We therefore have to trust parents to keep us up-to-date with appointments and illness but also to inform us accurately of any absence.

We have had a number of cases recently where parents have taken their child out of school citing "illness" when it is clear that the child is on holiday with parents – it does not help maintain a good relationship with parents and also relies on the child to keep a secret. Most children cannot! If the school feels there is evidence that a holiday has taken place, the days will be recorded as unauthorised and, in some cases, a fine issued.

If you have no option but to take a holiday in term time, please fill out a absence request form. Fixed penalty fines are issued for ten sessions (five full days) in a six-month period.

## Parents' Evenings

Please contact school if you did not manage to see your child's teacher before half term. We can arrange for a telephone call or a meeting at a different time.

## School Led Mass – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

The next school lead mass is coming up in a couple of weeks' time; please put the date in the diary and email [mass@st-josephs.org.uk](mailto:mass@st-josephs.org.uk) if your child would like to help with a reading or a prayer.

## Year 6 SATs Meeting

A number of parents in Year 6 asked for more information about the annual "Quiz Week" in Year 6. There will be an online meeting with opportunities for questions on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 4pm. Please log into your child's google account and use their Google classroom link.

## Smart Watches and Gadgets

Children should not have any electronic devices in school. This includes smart watches and "FitBit" style devices. We would encourage children to wear a normal watch if they have one.

## Mobile Phones

If your child is walking home from school and is in Year 5 or Year 6 then them having a mobile phone is a great way to give them and you a way to keep in touch and stay safe. Phones must be handed into the class teacher and not used on the school premises. If your child is not walking home

## Toys in School

We appreciate that some of the youngest children need a toy or cuddly in the mornings but children in Year 1 to Year 6 should not be bringing any toys into school.

## Dropping Off

Please use the drop-off facility in the morning for Key Stage 2 children to help with parking.

Whilst some parents prefer to stay and chat, if your child is in Year1 or Year 2 and are happy, you can leave them on the playground in the morning. Both gates are supervised and Mr Broyd, Mr Sturdy or I will cover the playground.

## Portishead in Bloom – Art Competition



RHS South West in Bloom

### 2024 Schools Painting Competition

The theme this year is -

### 60 years of Britain in Bloom - Celebrations and Friendships

The age groups are as follows:

Up to 6 years old

7-11 years old

12-16 years old

**Art work should be a maximum of A3.**

- Please put your name, age, name of your school/nursery and the name of our town on the back of your painting.
- All the paintings must be submitted through and will be judged by the Portishead in Bloom Artist in Residence.
- Only one winner from each category will entered into the RHS SW-in-Bloom competition.
- Please note that entries cannot be returned.

**Closing date for entries is Friday 24 May 2024**

## Lunchboxes – Snacks – Water Bottles

Whilst we do not routinely "check" children's lunchboxes, we are very aware that a number of children do not have a balanced and healthy lunch. Many parents do try to encourage their children to eat healthily – thank you!

If you need help with ideas, please visit this site:

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

Snacks – Breaktime snacks should be fruit or vegetable. They can be dried fruit too. Again, children have chocolate, sweets, crisps and even a Pepparami or two!

Finally – Water bottles – Please can your child have water in their bottles and not squash. We

had a spillage in one of the infant classrooms last term that resulted in a very sticky mess!

### **Chewing Gum**

Although I have never seen it written on a set of school rules, chewing gum is one of those unwritten rules in all schools. Some of the older children have had chewing gum in school – there should be no gum or sweets in school.

## **School Reminders**

### **ParentPay Charges on the System**

- Pre-School and ASC Charges
- Yr3/4 swimming contribution
- Yr6 Evacuee workshop (deadline 18.3.24)
- Yr2 Noah's Ark Trip (deadline 19.2.24)

There are also payment items for Y5 and Y6 camps (current Y4 and Year 5).

### **Swimathon**



The next Rotary Swimathon will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> March – please keep the date free!

It would be great to have as many children take part but also ex-pupils and parents are very welcome to join in too. We had a fantastic team last year – the largest number from any single school in Portishead and the only one to fill the session while other schools share the pool!

## **PTFA**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Mr Bath's Runaround Quiz

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – St Joseph's Got Talent

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2024 – Summer Fete

## **Safeguarding**

### **Social Media – Instagram**



Instagram is one of the most used platforms among young people and adults alike. Over the past decade, the platform has become ubiquitous and is an excellent source of entertainment and information for people globally. The global reach of the platform though, can be a cause for concern for those who have children or work with under-18s.

The programme is principally a digestion source focused on images and videos, with a private chat function which for many is the sole reason for its use. In today's image focused society, it can be an outlet for how people wish to be perceived physically or in regards to their personality. As a result it actively encourages people to post about their personal life, in a way that would be detrimental should everyone have access to it.

Privacy is optional on Instagram, and there is a wide spectrum of privacy options. To understand these options better the Southwest Grid for Learning has published resources aimed at achieving this goal. Please click on the link below to find out more. They have updated advice in line with current safety settings.

<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/instagram/>

## **Church News**

Here is the link for this weekend's church newsletter:

<https://cdn.filestackcontent.com/qZzxPvaZSVmnDviuGXqi>

To keep up to date with news and events from our parishes please follow our new joint Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisandstjoseph/>

Please note that the old separate parish Facebook pages are no longer active and that you will need to follow the new page to see news stories and future events.

## And Finally...



Have a great week.

Mr Bath

Headteacher