



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 19th July 2024

2023/2024



I can hardly believe that this is the final newsletter of the year. This year has been both challenging and rewarding for so many reasons, but ultimately we have all got through together. I continue to be incredibly proud of our school and our wider community and I look forward to a new chapter in September. In the meantime, we have 6 whole weeks to stop and relax, so please try and do just that and enjoy the time with your little ones.

Good Luck Year 6!

Today we say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6's. It has been such an emotional day, but we couldn't be any prouder of them and the way they have tackled such a challenging year. As they take the next step on their journey, we all would like to wish them the best of luck. They will all be truly missed, but will always be welcome back to their St. Joseph's family.



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Goodbyes and Welcome

GOODBYE

Mrs Butcher - I'm incredibly sad to announce that Mrs Butcher will be leaving us today. You may be aware that Mrs Butcher was born and raised in Germany and she has decided to make the exciting move back home to be nearer to her family. She has been such a wonderful asset to our school and she will be sorely missed by all of us. We love you dearly, Mrs Butcher and we wish you and Mr Butcher all the very best in your new home.

Miss O'Brien - Miss O'Brien has been leading our Nursery this year and she has done an incredible job of helping our youngest to love learning. Thank you for all you have done! We will miss you and we wish you well in your new chapter.

Mr Canning - I'd like to say a fond farewell to Mr Canning who has been teaching our Year 3 class since April. The children will really miss you. Thank you for everything and good luck with your future teaching posts.

Mrs Bibby- Mrs Bibby will be returning from her maternity leave in September and we are all so happy to see her back!

Miss Lee and Miss Mills- We would like to welcome 2 new teachers to our school from September. Miss Lee and Miss Mills will be already so keen and excited to be joining our school family. I am sure you will all make them feel very welcome.

Mrs Crabtree - We are so happy to announce the return of Mrs Crabtree! You will remember that she took some time off, but will be back with us in September.

WELCOME

Staffing for September



Class	Teaching Staff	Support Staff
Nursery	Mrs Bibby/Miss Hagney	Miss Burns/Miss L Makintosh
Reception	Miss Roberts	Miss Brookes/Mrs Escolme
Year 1	Miss Critchley	Miss Clough/Miss Escolme
Year 2	Miss Mills	Mrs Crabtree
Year 3	Miss Lee	Miss Watters
Year 4	Mrs Neville	Miss Kelsall/Mrs Butcher
Year 5	Mrs Beaumont	Miss N Mackintosh
Year 6	Mrs Hamilton/Mrs Whittaker	Mrs Butcher
Pastoral	Mrs Willetts	

LOOK OUT!!!

Check your child's bookbag/school bag/coat pockets. They may have been awarded a special award!



Mater Christi Trust and St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School Attendance Overview

Percentage Attendance	Category of Attendance	Actual Attendance	Learning Days lost per year	Learning hours lost per year
100%	Outstanding	190 days	0	0
99%	Very Good. Best chance of success.	188 days	2	10
98%		186 days	4	20
97%		184 days	6	30
96%	Good, although room for improvement.	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
95%		180.5 days	9.5	47.5
94%	Needs to improve	178.6 days	11.4	57
93%		176.7 days	13.3	66.5
92%		174.8 days	15.2	76
91%	Poor There is less chance of success and makes it harder for your child to achieve.	173	17	85
90%		171 days	19	95
89%		169 days	21	105
88%		167 days	25	115
87%		165 days	27	125
86%	Very Poor Attendance is a serious concern and there will be a huge impact on your child's learning.	161.5 days	28.5	135
85%		161.5 days	28.5	142.5
80%		152 days	38	190

Every Day Matters' – please give your child the very best life chances by sending your child to school EVERY DAY

Mater Christi Attendance Strategy

Stage 1 - Expect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALL families to be sent a termly attendance letter and attendance certificate.
Stage 2 – Monitor When attendance falls below 91%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal letter sent home with attendance certificate informing parent/carer of current attendance percentage and next steps.
Stage 3-Listen and Understand When attendance falls below 80%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal letter sent home with Individual Attendance Plan for parents/carers to agree and sign.
Stage 4-Facilitate Support When attendance falls below 70%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal letter from the Multi Academy Trust sent home inviting parents/carers into school for attendance meeting with headteacher. Early Help Assessment advised and referral made to Child and Family Wellbeing Service.
Stage 5-Formalise Support/Enforce Possible Penalty Notice or Prosecution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If no improvement or engagement after Stage 4, school will refer to the Local Authority for possible legal interventions.

*The trigger for legal intervention is 10 sessions (the equivalent of 5 days) of unauthorised absence in a term, or 14 sessions (the equivalent of 7 days) of unauthorised absence across 2 consecutive terms (LCC 2024)

* For cases meeting the 14-session trigger, due to constraints in court evidential periods, absences should be aggregated across two consecutive terms – e.g. Autumn half-term 2 and Spring half-term 1.

Legal interventions for school non-attendance include:

Penalty notice

Parents may be issued with a penalty notice as an alternative to prosecution. If they pay the fine, they can discharge liability for the offence of failing to ensure their child's regular attendance at school.

Prosecution

Parents may be prosecuted in the Magistrates' Court and receive a fine, a community order or be imprisoned.

Parenting Order

If a parent is convicted for failing to ensure their child's regular attendance at school, a Parenting Order may also be applied for. This may require them to attend parenting classes and may specify other relevant directions for the parent.

Education Supervision Order

An application for an Education Supervision Order may be made, which appoints a local authority supervisor for the family and requires the parent and/or child to follow their directions.

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Every day
counts



Attendance

Facts for Parents and Carers

Headteacher

Miss Rachael Griffiths

www.stjosephslancaster.co.uk



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2
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www.stjosephslancaster.co.uk

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Every Day Counts

At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we know that good attendance is the key to successful schooling and we believe our pupils can be the very best!

Although we aim for 100% attendance, each year we set an attendance target and this is used to compare us to other schools locally and nationally. Our current **target is 96%**.

Attending school every day will help give your child the **best possible start in life**.

Going to school every day means learning new skills and becoming:

- A READER, WRITER, MATHEMATICIAN, SCIENTIST, GEOGRAPHER, HISTORIAN, ARTIST, MECHANIC, TAILOR, ELECTRICIAN, ENGINEER, BUILDER and CHEF!

It also means:

- making friends
- learning to hold a conversation
- having fun!

You can help your child by getting them to school every day.

Good attendance helps your child to develop their confidence and to make and keep lasting friendships.

Your child's attendance is very important; good attendance habits established in the primary school years can positively affect their entire school life.



Did you know?...

If you take your child on a **2 week holiday** in term time, attendance for the year **immediately drops to 95%**

90% attendance is equivalent to missing 100 hour-long lessons

90% attendance means 1/2 a days absence each week; 4 weeks over the year and **half a years absence over 5 years!!**

90% attendance is equivalent to a full month off school in a year!

Did you know?...

You can be **fined up to £2,500** or **given a 3 months prison sentence** if your child misses too much school.

Around 80 million days are lost to absence each year!

Research shows that pupils who attend school regularly are more likely to **do well in the future**

Children in EYFS and KS1 learn a sound a day. Missing just 1 day means they fall behind.

Holidays

PLEASE THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE TAKING YOUR CHILD OUT OF SCHOOL DURING TERM TIME

By law, you must ask for permission for your child to miss school.

Leave in term time **will only be agreed where the Headteacher feels there are exceptional circumstances**. Also, it is possible that **leave will not be agreed** when attendance already includes **unauthorised absence** and/or attendance is already causing concern .

You can request 'leave in term time' for your child using a request form available from the School Office .

Parents/Carers who take a child of compulsory school age on holiday without permission from the school may be issued with a **penalty notice**.

TO HELP YOUR CHILD DO WELL IN SCHOOL, YOU SHOULD...

- Arrange family holidays to coincide with school holidays
- Never take your child out of school when there are important examinations or tests (SATs and end of term Assessments)
- Be aware of the potential impact on your child's education. They will need to catch-up!
- Avoid taking your child out of school when they are just starting. This is very important as your child needs to settle into their new environment as quickly as possible.



Holidays

There are 190 statutory school days in 1 year. That means **there are 175 days** (weekends and school holidays) **available to use for holidays!**

There is **no** automatic entitlement in law to time off in school time to go on holiday

The Headteacher **cannot** authorise any leave in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Any period taken without agreement of the school, or in excess of that agreed, will be classed as unauthorised and may attract a **Penalty Notice**.

A 2 week holiday in school time means your child has approximately **50 hours of missed learning** to catch up on!

Policy and Procedures

- Ensuring your child's regular attendance at school is **your legal responsibility**.
- Pupil attendance is closely monitored. The MAT, Local Authority, Headteacher and Attendance Lead will check pupil attendance percentages regularly to see if action is required.
- First response calls and Class Dojo messages will be made daily if a child does not attend school.
- Classes are encouraged to compete for the best weekly attendance and the winning class feature on the Attendance Rocket and are awarded the weekly attendance trophy to proudly display in their classroom. The class with the most wins in a half term receive a prize of their choice.
- If attendance drops **below 91%**, pupils are identified as '**Persistent Absentees**'. Our MAT/School Attendance Protocol will be initiated. (see back of booklet)
- A pupil becomes a '**persistent absentee**' when they miss **9% or more** schooling across the school year **for whatever reason**.
- All persistent absent cases are also automatically made known to the MAT and Local Authority Attendance Team. Persistent absentee cases will be closely monitored to see if further action is required.
- Attendance Officers can use sanctions such as **Penalty Notices or Prosecutions** in the Magistrates Court.
- Taking leave in term time will affect your child's schooling as much as any other absence and we expect parents/carers to help us by not taking children away in school time. THANK YOU
-

We want to support you, so please work with us!



Absences

Every half-day absence from school has to be classified by the school as either **AUTHORISED** or **UNAUTHORISED**. This is why information about the cause of any absence is always required and proof may be requested (medical prescription, appointment card etc.)

Authorised Absences

Authorised absences are mornings or afternoons away from school for a valid reason like illness, medical/dental appointments which unavoidably fall in school time, emergencies or other unavoidable cause.

Unauthorised Absences

Unauthorised absences are those which the school does not consider reasonable and for which no 'leave' has been given. This type of absence can lead to the Local Authority using sanctions and/or legal proceedings.



How you can help

- Aim for 10 hours sleep a night for your child. This will make the following day at school easier for them to cope with
- Make sure your child eats breakfast, it helps them to stay alert at school.
- Help your child develop routines.
- Encourage your child to get their school things ready the night before.
- Develop a night time routine that involves checking their reading, homework and bed.
- Try and make sure that any medical/dental appointments are made for after school.
- Never take holidays in term time.
- If you know your child will be absent from school, notify the School Office **before the day of absence**.
- If your child is ill, ring the School Office as soon as possible on the **first day of absence**. (please do not send messages via Class Dojo)



Punctuality

Poor punctuality or leaving before the end of the school day is **not acceptable**.

School data shows a **link between poor attendance and under achievement**.

Missing just 10 minutes of a school day is the same as missing 2 weeks over the year!



Pupils who arrive late and/or leave early also **disrupt lessons**, which can be embarrassing for the child and can in turn, encourage absence. It is also extremely disruptive to the teacher and the rest of the class.

School starts at 8.55am
and ends at 3.10pm (KS1) 3.15pm (KS2)

Doors open at 8.45am

Playgrounds are supervised from 8.30am and free toast is available

MAT and School Attendance Protocol

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Tommie - Lee

Team Spirit Award



Awarded to

TRISTAN CORLESS

For demonstrating pride and loyalty.

WELL DONE!

Family Challenge!

All family names were put into a raffle this morning and Fr. John-Paul picked the winner.



You can look on our website or ask your child for help! Send your answer to Miss Griffiths on Class Dojo. Good luck!

Family's who answered correctly are...



**The
Clough Family!!!**

