

St Joseph's Journal



14TH MAY 2021



Proposed Changes for September

Being forced to change so much about our school day and how we learn, because of the national Covid guidance has taught us so much.

There are aspects of our teaching and learning that we value now, more than ever and cannot wait to reinstate fully, such as our ability to mix more widely, our collective worship as a whole school and our school trips to further enrich the curriculum.

We have however, also discovered some significant benefits to some of the changes we have had to make and would love to be able to hold on to these aspects, making them a permanent aspect of our school day. Please read the letter that is now available both on our website and as a paper copy detailing the proposed changes, with the benefits for these changes with the option for you to respond to this before 28th May.

The benefits and drawbacks as seen by our staff and governors are set out below and we invite you to respond to this via email using: admin@stjosephs.romerocat.com with 'Proposed changes to the school day' as the email subject. Any comments will be collected and reviewed by Mrs Lloyd and our Governing Body. Thank you.

Benefits :

Greater emphasis of learning taking place in the morning, before lunch when pupils have proved to be better focussed and able to concentrate

Each Key Stage is benefitting from a slightly larger amount of learning.

No loss of learning - lessons are punctuated with clear start and finish times across the school and children are able to access the full breadth of the curriculum

Duration and frequency of breaks altered based on findings during pandemic, resulting in safer playtimes with a reduction in accidents and 'fallings out'.

Calmer lunchtimes, especially in KS2, with greater focus in the lesson immediately following lunch.

Teachers in a better position to be able to offer after school clubs due to the earlier finish as well as being able to complete the expected daily marking and preparation for the following day.

No change to levels of support provided to pupils during their lessons

Drawbacks:

Earlier finish which may be an issue for some parents.

Eid Mubarak!

Warm wishes to all our Muslim families on Eid ul Fitr.



More outdoor learning!

On Monday Cedar class were able to take their music lessons outside, with the expertise of our visiting musician, Mr David Insua-Cao. The workshops took place in small



groups and our Year 1 and 2 children experienced many natural objects, comparing the sounds they made and the instruments they were most similar to.

Ascension Day Celebrations

This Thursday we celebrated the Feast Day of the Ascension. Father Peter live streamed Mass for all of our pupils back in school and the Early Years then continued the celebration with a Feast Day Breakfast!



Thank you to all who support this appeal today by coming in their own clothes and donating money to support the work of CAFOD.

As a school we have raised £



Coronavirus Appeal

CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development



Beech Mason: For taking care and pride in our classroom.

Cedar Connor: For his super, improved behaviour.

Elm Olivia: For Persevering and not giving up!

Larch Troy: For helping his friends complete tasks in DT.

Oak Alicia: For her commitment to improving arithmetic.



Beech Logan: For his contribution in RE, answering questions about Pentecost.

Cedar Joshua: For improved writing—trying his best to form letters correctly.

Elm Aleks: For a wonderful wanted posted in English.

Larch Alfie: For being so focussed in his maths lessons.

Oak Phoenix: For her art work at home to support CAFOD



Please can we remind all families that unless your child is wearing a gingham dress during the Summer term they should still be coming to school wearing their shirt and tie. We are so proud of how smart our school family looks and many people have commented on our uniform when they have been seen in published photographs and video clips.



This week is **Mental Health Awareness Week** and the theme this year is nature.

As a school we have been discussing this with our children and would like to share some of the Top Tips from the Mental Health Foundation with you too. To look after our own mental health we are advised to:

1. Find nature wherever you are
2. Connect with nature using all of your senses
3. Get out into nature
4. Bring nature to you
5. Exercise in nature
6. Combine nature with creativity
7. Protect nature

For more details on each of these areas please download the PDF at: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week/tips>

These are just a few handful of ways you can connect with nature. You can also download the free "Thriving with Nature" guide – created in partnership with WWFUK – for even more tips and activities to enjoy nature every season of the year



Guidance for parents and carers using out of school settings for child care and extra curricular activities.

Guidance from gov.uk

As we begin to reopen more of our facilities at school, including the reintroduction of after school activities in the Summer term, we have been asked to share with you additional guidance to ensure we are all doing as much as possible to keep the risk of transmission as low as possible. In addition to your child attending school, you are asked, where possible, to use only one other out of school setting for child care purposes and to check the measures that are in place both at these settings as well as any extra curricular activities your child may attend during the week. We all want to see our children get out and get active, however, we also need to be responsible in how this is carried out. For further information please check 'the guidance for parents and carers for children attending out of school settings'. Thank you.



Tuesday 11th May School Nursing Team in school

Friday 28th May break up for half term

Monday 7th June School reopens

Friday 16th July School closes for the end of term

Please avoid taking children out of school for holidays in term time—they have missed so much already and these absences will not be authorised. Thank you.