



# St Joseph's Journal

## 10th January 2022

Happy New Year to all our families.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6.

May the Lord pour out blessings on each of you and grant you infinite moments of peace and joy throughout 2022.

### Measures to help protect class closures

As some of you will only be too aware, the Omicron variant of Covid-19 is hitting much of our local community hard and the impact on school can be significant and instant if there are not enough staff members or access to supply staff to keep some classes open. A letter was emailed before the start of term outlining the additional steps we are taking to try and prevent this and a summary of steps for parents can be seen below. If you have not already done so, please do read the full letter published on the school website. Thank you for your understanding.

1. **Please follow measures on isolation periods strictly and share any information about isolation immediately with the school office:** If someone in the household has tested positive for COVID-19 (on LFD or PCR), pupils should stay at home. If they develop symptoms, they should get a PCR test straight away. If they don't have symptoms, they should get a PCR test 3-5 days after their household member started with symptoms (or took their test if they had no symptoms). If this test is negative, the child can return to school but must stay at home and arrange another test if they go on to develop symptoms.
2. **Please use of face coverings when entering the school grounds** and particularly at the point of drop off and collection at the school doors.
3. **Please use the telephone for passing on messages to staff wherever this is possible.** Face to face meetings will only be held in extreme cases if a telephone conversation or virtual meeting is not appropriate.
4. **Vaccinations and boosters:** Please ensure that all household members who are 12 years + are fully up-to-date with their vaccinations.
5. **Lateral Flow Testing:** Please encourage regular lateral flow tests to be carried out by all household members who are secondary age and above. (Tests can be ordered online and sent to your home address or collected from local collection points such as libraries and pharmacies with a 'collect code')



### Gifts For A Baby

This Thursday we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany and the celebration of the arrival of the Three Kings bearing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. At this time in the liturgical calendar we reflect on the contrast of joy and love that surrounds the birth of Christ with the humility with which Jesus was born. Throughout January we are asking our school to take a little time to think about how difficult it is for some who are also awaiting the arrival of a baby in some very difficult circumstances.

The Mini Vinnies are once again collecting 'Gifts for a Baby' to be given to the Women's Refuge (mother and baby unit) within the diocese. These gifts too will be most graciously received. Please note however that all gifts must be new and so we thank you in advance for your kindness.

## The Nest



Over the Christmas holidays instead of taking a well earned rest, several staff have been busy adding to the provision for pastoral care that we can provide for our children as they continue to adapt and cope with the ongoing impact of the pandemic. We have now created a room called 'The Nest' which will provide a dedicated space for the opportunities some pupils need to access activities and interventions beyond the national curriculum, enabling them to take time out in a safe, calm and quiet space when this will support them the most.

Once again, I must thank staff for their commitment way beyond any contract, with a special mention to both Mrs Green and Miss Tunney for the additional time they have dedicated to the launch of this project.

## Uniform Purchases

If anyone is purchasing additional uniform for this term here is a little reminder:

- A Navy v-neck jumper or cardigan to include the school logo (Logos can be purchased separately from school and sewn on)
- A white shirt and school tie
- A grey skirt or trousers with white, grey or navy socks or plain navy tights
- Black School Shoes
- Navy, white or grey hair bobbles, ribbons and clips.

Please can we also remind parents that hair colour should be 'natural' only, in line with the uniform policy.

Thank you for your support

## Dates for your Diary

**Thursday 13th January** Y3 Todmorden Schools Sports Session - make sure you have your correct PE Kit in school!

**Thursday 27th January** Todmorden Schools Cross Country Competition - separate letters to follow

**Thursday 3rd February** Reception children Todmorden Schools Mini Olympics - make sure you have your PE Kit in school!

**Monday 7th February** Family Projects Open Night tbc

**Friday 11th February** Close for half term

## Extra Curricular Clubs

Due to staffing disruptions this week, we are proposing that any voluntary extra-curricular clubs organised by school staff will not commence until w/c 17th January. Homework Clubs, Karate and Multi skills will begin next week as originally planned (w/c 10th January). Please phone the office to register your child for the full half term if you have not already done so and would like them to attend. Letters will be sent home next week with details of clubs organised by school staff and all clubs will need to be booked through the school gateway app. Apologies for the delay in getting these started. As usual there will be limited spaces so we will inform the children and please keep checking for information so that you can book as early as possible and avoid disappointment.

## Headlice in Early Years and KS1

Sadly, the pandemic does not seem to be affecting the frequency of additional visitors in our classroom found in children's hair. We know the only way we can ease this frustration is for all parents to be thorough and frequent in checking their own children's hair and treating children as soon as possible if they are detected. We will also discreetly inform you if we notice any in your child's hair during the school day. Thank you for your support.

### This Week's Attendance:

This week's attendance will only take into account the first 3 days of term and has been heavily affected by isolation and illness due to the Omicron variant of Covid-19.

We will therefore publish figures in our next edition when a full week of school can be taken into account.

**Can we please remind all parents that our school day starts promptly at 8:40am**