

# *St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oxford*

*"Let us protect with love all that God has given us"*  
(Pope Francis 19.03.2013)



Headley Way, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7SX

Telephone: 01865 763357

Email: [office.3838@st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3838@st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk)

Website: [www.st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk)

8<sup>th</sup> September 2023



*'Let us protect with love all that God has given us'*

Dear Families,

Welcome back! We had a lovely Mass to celebrate our new year on the Feast of Our Lady. The children were impeccably behaved – delightful as ever!

Over this week we have been settling in, adjusting to our new timetable, learning about how our brains work and routines back at school. Given how hot it has been, it has been a productive and enjoyable first week back.

We have a busy term ahead, Year 6 go to Stone Farm in Devon next week, we have International Day the following week (please put the date in your diary) and then Year 4 go to Youlbury. Keep an eye on the events section of the Newsletter.

We still have some spaces in Reception, if you know of anyone who is looking for a Reception place, encourage them to call the school office for a tour!

We look forward to working with you this year.

Warm wishes

Jess Tweedie  
**Headteacher**

## **Secondary School Applications**

Parents/Carers of Year 6 pupils

The deadline for applying to secondary school is Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October. There is plenty of time! Secondary schools will be holding open events during September and October, check the secondary school's website for information about these events. We would always recommend that you attend these, not just for your top choice of school but also for other schools you are considering.

You have an option to apply for up to 4 schools. We would strongly recommend you enter 4 schools on your application. Applying for more schools will not reduce your chances of getting a place at your preferred school. Our home/school link worker, Kate Stratford, is available to help and support parents with their applications if you would find this useful.

## **Volunteering in our school**

We are pleased that we are once again able to extend the opportunity to volunteer in our school. Design Technology and Forest School are seeking parent volunteers to help with practical sessions (under the direction of a qualified teacher). Assisting with these subjects helps us to continue to provide our broad and balanced curriculum, helping with practical learning sessions and providing exciting learning experiences. We are also looking for volunteers to listen to children read, reading aloud to an adult is a vital way in which children extend their understanding and vocabulary.

In order to become a volunteer in school, the office would need to see some photo ID and would provide some basic safeguarding information which you need to read and sign.

If you would like more information or are able to offer some regular help, please send an email to the school office.

## **Timings of the School Day – morning gates**

Our school gates open at 08:40am and close at 08:50am each morning. After 08:50am, children must be brought to the school office to be registered. This is because after 08:50am, the class teachers have completed and closed their attendance registers and lunch registers. Children are late for school after 08:50am and we legally have to record this. Bringing your child to the office ensures that they are recorded as being on site (for safeguarding and fire safety purposes) and have their lunch preference noted.

We know that the smaller drop-off window may mean some adjustment to morning routines at home, but it means that the school day is starting promptly and calmly, with children ready for learning from the beginning of the day. We have clearly recorded all the timings on the school website – [www.st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk/key-information/school-day-timings](http://www.st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk/key-information/school-day-timings)



**Our Covered Areas have been refreshed over the summer**



**New Fencing for our Poly Tunnel – It's full of lovely things to eat!**

### **Doodlebug**

This week artist Ian Brealey has worked with pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 on completing drawing projects linked to the concept of growth mindset. The children created their own piece of artwork, giving a real sense of achievement as they completed their masterpieces! The workshops were fun and educational, helped pupils improve their observational skills and helped them to apply resilience skills such as 'not giving up', 'learning from mistakes' and 'problem solving'.



**Lower Key Stage 2 Doodle Bug Assembly**

### **International Day and Evening Event**

We are celebrating the diversity in our school with an International Day on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. We have over 50 languages spoken in our school – a true international school! We will be inviting children to share what makes them unique.

Traditionally, the school has also held an International Evening. This year, we would like to invite all families to come together for a picnic on our field – from **5:30pm until sunset on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**. We will send out further details shortly, but in the meantime, please save the date!

The evening will be a lovely opportunity to welcome new families and old friends, promote our PTA and celebrate the amazing diversity in our school!

### Practical Help and Signposting

Sadly, things at the moment are difficult for many of our families. Bills all seem to be rising, and everything is getting more expensive. We want to make sure that all our families have support in place if it is needed. Even if your child is not eligible for Free School Meals, we may be able to help with uniform from our vast stock of good-quality second-hand items, we are able to refer to local Food Banks and signpost families to other sources of help, advice and support.

If you are struggling, please contact our home/school link worker, Mrs Kate Stratford. Her contact details are below. Mrs Stratford will be happy to talk to you in confidence to see what support we can offer.

If you need help towards paying for school trips, please contact the office to arrange a confidential conversation with Ms Tweedie.

Mrs Kate Stratford

Home/School Link Worker and Deputy DSL

Tel: 01865 763357      Mobile: 07500 802732

Email: [kstr3838@st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:kstr3838@st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk)

### Dairy Dates

Date	Year Group/Class	Event
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	All year groups	Mass for the beginning of the academic year
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6	Stone Farm residential
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	<b>All year groups</b>	<b>International Day with a Family Picnic from 5.30pm</b>
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> - Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 4	Youlbury residential
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October		Open Event for entry into Reception September 2024
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 2	Oxford Castle trip
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	All year groups	Half Term break
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	All year groups	INSET (no pupils in school)
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	All year groups	INSET (no pupils in school)
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	6H	Junior Citizens
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	6T	Junior Citizens
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	All year groups	Parents/Carers Consultation Meetings with teachers
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	All year groups	Parents/Carers Consultation Meetings with teachers
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 4-6	Advent Penitential Service
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	All year groups	End-of-term Mass
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	All year groups	School finishes at 1:30pm

### Flyers and Information

## Save The Odd Socks

**£6**



**Saturday 30th September**  
Museum of Oxford,  
Oxford Town Hall  
11.00-12.00/1.00-2.00

Join Mildred Mangle and Annette L'Aunderette from the Save Odd Sock society, giving pesky odd socks a marvellous makeover - but finding and catching an odd sock is easier said than done!

Live music, puppetry and odd-sock shenanigans for ages 3-7 and their grown-ups.

Book now at [museumofoxford.org/events](https://museumofoxford.org/events)

