



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
 Bournes Row, Hoghton, Preston, Lancashire, PR5 0DQ
 Tel: 01254 853473
 Email: secretary@st-josephs-hoghton.lancs.sch.uk

Mission
Together we love, learn, follow Jesus
Vision
At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, through an open and generous heart, we learn together as a family in faith, following the gospel values of love.
Values
Hope Thankfulness Collaboration Compassion Friendship Resilience Empathy Creativity Justice Respect

Wednesday, 14th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all well and it is wonderful to see all of our children settling into school and following our routines so well.

We have recently reviewed and updated a number of things in school and I just wanted to inform you of some of these.

We have changed the certificates that are handed out at the end of the week. Children will receive certificates in the same way as last year, but you will have seen on last week's Newsletter that some of these are different.

As a staff, we felt that giving particular certificates often led to disappointment for those children who didn't receive them, especially pupils who had not received an award for many weeks. Praise and rewards have their place in school. They will still take place, recognising and celebrating efforts, within curriculum areas, behaviour, attitudes and school values. Children will continue to have their self-esteem boosted at every possible opportunity and encouraged to always give and try their best, with reference in particular to the times they have gone above and beyond in all aspects of school life.

As a result, the certificates that we will give at the end of the week are as follows:

- Spotted Award: Children, throughout the week, are given the opportunity to anonymously write another child's name and the reason why they have chosen them for this award and place it in our "Spotted Award Box".
- Spotted Award given by our staff (this can sometimes be given by teachers other than your child's teacher or a teaching assistant): This is where children have "been spotted" going above and beyond in any area of school life.
- Demonstrating School Values and living out our Mission Statement
- Dojo Champion Awards: Given to the child that has gained the most Dojo points that week. This year we are introducing the "Dojo Shop". The "points" gained will be used as currency to spend. The shop will only open once a term and items will be priced in multiples of 25. The more Dojos a child has accumulated, the better the prize they will be able to "buy"! Children can spend, or save, each term and, in turn, we will be sharing real life maths problems with them as they will have to work out what they can afford to "purchase".





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We will continue to review our practice and policy in this area of St Joseph's as part of our school development plans and will, as always, seek to keep the very best interest of the children at the forefront of our decision making.

Please can I remind all families, as part of our responsibility with regard to healthy eating, we are required to communicate with parents about snacks in school. The expectation, which is in line with healthy eating guidelines, is that children bring in a low sugar snack to school. Sweets, crisps, and chocolate bars are not advisable. Children are also asked to bring just water in their water bottles. With regards to the playtime snacks, can you ensure that your child keeps this in their school book bag as children should not be taking items out of their packed lunch.

We will be sending out diary dates on this week's Newsletter; you will notice that each class will be inviting their families in to school for either a class assembly or a Collective Worship each half term. Our class assemblies are very much a celebration of the work the children have been learning about. We would encourage you to share in this celebration of their achievements. In contrast, the invitation to join a class Collective Worship will enable you to experience a more reflective, prayerful environment. As with class and church Masses led by Fr Raphael, Collective Worship is our opportunity in school to read from Scripture and then "go forth" to live this out in our day to day life. As such, we would encourage families to sit with their children and participate in an appropriately reflective manner.

A final reminder is regarding homework. Teachers in all classes will now be setting homework on a Friday to be returned to school the following Thursday. Spelling tests will now take place for every class on a Friday. More information will be sent out by your child's class teacher if you haven't already received it.

Please can I encourage you to read the Newsletter that we send out every Friday as vital dates and information is always put on there and will always be the most up to date information.

Kind regards,
Miss Dewhurst
Headteacher

