Diocese of Northampton - Duns Scotus Trust

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*Address: St. Joseph’s Catholic High School, Shaggy Calf Lane, Slough, Berkshire, SL2 5HW*

**St. Ethelbert’s Catholic**

**Primary School and Nursery**

***‘Learning, achieving and growing together with Jesus’***

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Friday 28th February 2020

**Friday Newsletter**

Welcome back to all our pupils and their families! It has been a very long time since we have all been back in school and the teachers have been very pleased to welcome their new classes, to get to know the children and to get face-to-face teaching and learning going again. Life in school is different to before, but the children have been exemplary in adapting to new routines and understanding the importance of hygiene and sensible behaviour around distancing.

We are working hard to make school life as normal as possible for the children, with an absolute focus on learning. The full curriculum is being taught, and we are finding creative solutions to timetabling issues so that the children are kept safe in their class and year group bubbles.

Thank you to parents for working with us to make the drop off and pick up from school as manageable as possible. There are a large number of people to move on and off site, and I have constantly reviewed arrangements to make this as smooth as possible, with just one drop off time and site for each family, and staggered times to allow for the flow of children. These arrangements are under review and may be amended to try to accommodate the changing guidelines, but also to take into account what works best for our pupils and families. Staff work hard to make the routines work, and while it may be frustrating to have to wait, please be polite and considerate to the St Ethelbert’s staff.

**Meet the Teacher**

As of yesterday, the Government has announced that groups of more than six may not meet. Workplaces and schools are exempt from this as we follow ‘Covid-safe’ practices. Therefore, our outdoor Meet the Teacher sessions will go ahead as planned. To be able to attend, only one parent per child will be admitted and you must wear a mask unless you have some form of evidence to say that you are exempt. This is part of our Trust policy and procedures.

A register of parents attending will be kept. You will not be in ‘close contact’ with any member of staff or pupil during the meeting.

Teachers will share information about the curriculum, class expectations and pupil targets for the year.

**Celebration Assembly**

It has been a busy week at school with our pupils showing their teachers just how hard they have been working. This week in Celebration Assembly the following certificates were awarded:

**1I – all of 1I for settling into their new class so well.**

**1M – to all the children for settling in well and having excellent manners.**

**2S – all the children for settling in so well.**

**3F – all of 3F for making a great start to Year 3.**

**3P – to all the children for the positive way they have started the new school year.**

**4C – Paavan for making a positive start to year 4 and settling well back into school.**

**4W - Deborah for always modelling positive behaviour to her peers. She has had an outstanding start to the term.**

**5M – Christopher for working hard in every lesson.**

**5E – Vanessa for persevering with her work despite a broken wrist.**

**6D – Brian for focusing on his work and trying to do the best he can.**

**6G - Elijah, who has been persevering and giving every activity his best effort.**

**6M –Oliwer for insightful and inquisitive contributions in all lessons.**

**School Uniform**

Please ensure your child has the correct uniform:

* Grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore
* Blue shirt
* St Ethelbert’s school jumper or cardigan
* School tie
* Plain black shoes
* Hairbands, bows and hair beads should be navy or brown/black

On PE days, pupils wear PE uniform all day:

* St Ethelbert’s coloured house polo shirt
* Navy shorts or joggers
* School jumper
* Plimsolls or plain black trainers
* In very cold weather, a navy sweatshirt may be worn as an additional layer outdoors only

If you are having difficulty in providing uniform, please make an appointment to speak to Maggie Brennan, Welfare and Parent Support Officer, in confidence.

**Secondary Admissions**

The application process for secondary school admissions for our current Year 6 pupils for September 2021 opens on **Saturday 12th October 2020** and closes on **Saturday 31st October 2020**. Parents can enter their applications through the online portal using the link below. All information is on the Slough BC website.

<http://www.slough.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-admissions.aspx>

If you wish your child to sit the 11+ test for grammar school entry, it is essential that you read the information on the council website carefully, and in good time. **Parents must enter their children themselves; the primary schools do not do this.**

Please read the admission criteria for each secondary school carefully, if you apply for schools where you do not meet the criteria, your child is unlikely to be awarded a place. For St Joseph’s High School, a priest’s reference is required.

**Reminders for next week**

* After school clubs start, distancing and hygiene guidelines are being followed.
* Reception start school, attending half days.
* **Monday 14th September** Year 1 parent meeting 9am playground **.**
* **Tuesday 15th September** Year 2 parent meeting 9am playground.
* **Wednesday 16th September** Year 3 parent meeting 9am playground.
* **Thursday 17th September** Year 4 parent meeting 9am playground (enter via front gate)
* **Friday 18th September** Year 5 parent meeting 9am playground (enter via front gate)
* **Friday 18th September** Year 6 parent meeting 2.30pm playground (enter front gate)

**Clubs start next week**

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| **Day** | **Club** |
| **Monday** | **Girls Only Football (Years 4-6)** |
| **Tuesday** | **Multi-skills (Years 4-6)** |
| **Wednesday** | **Multi-skills (Years 1-3) and Dance (Years 1-3)** |
| **Thursday** | **Athletics (Years 4-6)** |
| **Friday** | **Gymnastics (Years 1-3)** |

Parents who applied for a place in football on Monday and dance on Wednesday have received a text to inform them if their child has secured a place. Please ensure if your child has a club on a day in which they are not doing PE, their PE kit is sent to school is a named bag for them to change into for club at the end of the day. **Clubs finish at 4:30pm with collection at the main front gate.**

**Moray Drive**

We have received a number of complaints from residents in Moray Drive, next to the back gate of the school, about school parents blocking drives, moving bins and standing in driveways or gardens. Could I please ask all parents to respect our neighbours by parking away from the houses directly by the school, arriving at the specified time, and keeping off driveways and gardens. The situation is not ideal but it appears that we are going to have to continue with these arrangements for the foreseeable future.

**Welfare Reminder**

There are understandably high levels of anxiety surrounding Coronavirus, and much unregulated information being shared on the internet and social media. The school receives regular updates from the DfE and Slough Borough Council, and follows the NHS and Public Health England advice.

The latest NHS advice is in the link below. Please check this if you have any questions or concerns

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

If you have any other concerns about welfare issues, please call the school office and ask for Ms Brennan. All enquiries will be treated in confidence.

**Please do not send your child to school if they, or anyone in your household, is showing symptoms of coronavirus.**

**Safeguarding Reminder**

Our school staff member with responsibility for safeguarding is:

**Miss Kerry Slattery, Safeguarding and Pupil Wellbeing Officer**

If you wish to speak to Miss Slattery, please make an appointment via the school office.

God Bless

**St Ethelbert, pray for us**

**Mrs Maynard**

**Headteacher**