



St. Joseph's Catholic & Anglican High School
Ysgol Uwchradd Catholig ac Anglicanaidd Sant Joseff



Weekly Bulletin ~ Bwletin Wythnosol

Autumn Term ~ 10th September 2021

This Week's Prayer

Lord, we thank you for the opportunity to begin this new school year and we ask that you bless the students, faculty and student families that make our school a great place.

We pray that you will guide us in your ways and strengthen our school community so that we will seek your will in everything that we do, and love others as you love us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Welcome!

We have had a great start to the new academic year, albeit under extraordinary circumstances. Thank you for all the support you have given thus far; and for all that you will do over the next 11 months to ensure that your child reaches their full potential! The recipe for success involves us all working together to make sure that children: arrive on time, work hard, complete homework and enjoy a stress free time both in and out of school.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the guidance given by the Welsh Government. If you have at least one of the Covid-19 symptoms (however mild);

**a new continuous cough,
a high temperature,
loss of or change to sense of smell or taste**

you must **self-isolate** at home and **arrange** to have a **PCR test**. Lateral flow tests should be taken twice weekly in order to prevent asymptomatic transmission in school.

The evidence remains clear that the most effective way to protect yourself and others from infection is to follow social distancing rules, avoid touching surfaces and your face, and wash your hands regularly. Please ensure your child has a face covering in their bag (unless exempt).

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Mr Wilkinson

Parking at 3.30pm

We are experiencing problems with traffic congestion on Erddig Road after school. Cars parked around the back of the school are blocking the road, making it impossible for buses to come through. We are also very conscious of the effect this will have on the residents who live in Green Park, Longueville and Maes Tomos. Please avoid parking on Erddig Road if you pick pupils up after school. By avoiding the immediate vicinity of the school you will not only help others, but will avoid the traffic yourself!

Mr Wilkinson

Clubs and Extra-Curricular

Whilst we are able to operate normally at the moment, we are able to begin our mid-day and after-school clubs. Our music clubs e.g. Choir began this week and more will be advertised over the coming days.

Music Tuition

We are in the process of recommencing our peripatetic instrumental lessons. If your child already has an instrument and is continuing their tuition you should receive details in the coming week. Mr Sammons will be advertising instrumental tuition to our new intake over the coming weeks. There are subsidiaries available to assist those pupils on Free School Meals.

Planners

Please use the school planner as the primary contact method for home and school. Pupils will start to receive homework and this should be recorded in their planner. Form Tutors will check and sign planners once a week, we would ask parents/carers to do the same. Many thanks in advance for your support.

Label Everything! (and Lost Property)

We are already finding items of uniform around the school site. In most cases items have no name on them. I know that you will have spent significant amounts of money on school uniform/kit. We can help return items if they contain the pupils name. I would recommend labelling everything – it's amazing what gets left behind! Any items of lost property are collected and made available each half term for parents/carers to look through. Pupils can do this daily by asking at reception.

School Busses / Transport

One of our school bus operators has been issuing masks to those getting on the bus. This will not happen from next week. Please ensure that your child knows to keep their mask on for the whole journey! Failure to wear a mask will result in their ability to travel being withdrawn.

Cycle to School

It is fantastic that so many pupils are able to take the opportunity to cycle to school – this year we seem to have more than ever! I am trying to secure cycling proficiency training for pupils (probably outside the normal school day) – look out for more information in due course. However, please discuss safe cycling with your child, especially around the immediate school area, as mentioned above the traffic is extremely congested at the start and end of the day. It is also important that pupils wear a helmet on their journey to and from school.

PE Kit

I know that many of you have purchased the new additional items of PE kit from RAM Leisure. I visited RAM this week and am confident that some items that have been unavailable will soon be ready for purchase/collection. At the moment, PE kit should only be worn during PE lessons. Pupils should ensure their PE kit is carried in a suitable bag.

School (Council) Senedd

Congratulations to the School Council form reps of 2021/2022! The first meeting of the School Senedd took place today. There are two reps from each form class, and they were in fine form this morning as they contributed to the life and decision making of the school. Many thanks to Mrs Woodward for facilitating their meeting. We wish them all the best for their term of office!

Trips

Year 7 – Retreat Day

Next week the Year 7s will have a retreat day at school. The retreat is a fun, relaxing way to welcome the pupils to St. Joseph's and introduce them to the spiritual life of the school. Please note that it is a *non-uniform day* on the day of their retreat. Forms Devereux, Kolbe, and King will be on Tuesday the 14th and Cassidy and Romero will be on Wednesday the 15th.

Year 9 – Chester Zoo

Year 9 will be out of school on Tuesday 14th where they will be visiting Chester Zoo along with their Geography teachers. Whilst at the Zoo, pupils will be looking at and learning about Palm Oil and Sustainability.

Year 11 – GCSE River and Field trip

On Thursday 16th the pupils studying GCSE Geography are going on a River Clywedog field trip and will be looking at the changes in the river over time. The work carried out on the trip will count towards the pupils NEA.

Attendance Matters

This week's whole school attendance is **90.6%** which is below our stretch target of 96.5%. Congratulations to Year 7 who have had a great start to the year, and also 10 Cassidy who have achieved 100% attendance- your headteacher's reward is on its way to you. It is disappointing to see the attendance figures for Years 9, 10 and 11 during these all important school years – improvements need to be made immediately – especially Year 11.

Mrs Ellis

Year	Cassidy	Devereux	King	Kolbe	Romero	Year Average
7	98.2	99.2	98.3	99.3☺☺	97.7	98.5☺
8	99.6☺	99.6☺☺	98.8☺	98.2	95.7	98.4
9	89.3	92.7	98.5☺	97.1	97.6	95.0
10	100☺☺☺	93.7	88.2	94.2	95.5	94.3
11	89.8	92.9	94.1	92.1	98.1☺☺	93.4
Family Average	95.4	95.6	95.6	96.2	96.9☺	

Don't forget the school's website stjosephs.wales ~ Download the app NOW!

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Changes to contact tracing and self-isolation from this September

As we return to school, there are some new arrangements in place when someone tests positive for COVID-19. These changes have been made possible by the vaccination programme and the significant reduction in numbers being hospitalised and suffering severe illness due to COVID-19 over recent months.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 using a PCR test, NHS Test, Trace, Protect (TTP) will contact you, using the details provided when the PCR test was ordered. They will ask questions designed to identify recent close contacts of your child, and for contact details - if you know them - of the individual or their parent/guardian. TTP will then get in touch with these close contacts to provide instructions or advice.

Those who are under 18 or fully vaccinated are no longer required to self-isolate if they are identified as close contacts. But they will be contacted to let them know that they've been in close contact with someone who has tested positive. They will also be offered two PCR tests and provided with information and advice on how to minimise the risks of onward spread. If your child is identified as a close contact, they can still attend school unless they develop symptoms or are advised otherwise by TTP. Please continue to let us know if your child tests positive.

If a child tests positive, only a minority of their classmates will be identified as close contacts. But if there is a pattern of cases TTP may ask us to update you on the situation and remind you of key steps, including advising you to keep an eye out for new symptoms your child may develop, and to stay away from vulnerable family and friends in the short-term.

We do expect that there will be cases of COVID-19 across our community over the coming weeks, but this does not mean that COVID-19 is spreading within the school. Please continue to be vigilant for symptoms. If you are in any doubt, order a PCR test for your child at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by calling 119.

Anyone with symptoms - a new continuous cough, fever or high temperature or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste - should remain in self-isolation until the test result is known. You can find the latest information on self-isolation arrangements at www.gov.wales/self-isolation.

We recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that all families have had to make. Thank you for everything you have done to support your child and our school.