

# ST. JOSEPH'S R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

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Headteacher: Mr P Harland BA (Hons), PGCE, MA

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! I hope that you and your family enjoyed a restful and relaxing Christmas holiday. The time seems to have flown by as it always does but it's good to see the children back in school this morning - some of them were even running down the lane to get here!

I thought I would take this opportunity to let you know the dates for the class assemblies this term. Unlike last term, these will be assemblies based around the work the children are doing in class, which might be on anything from Dinosaurs, Superheroes or the Egyptians! They will be held in the school hall on Friday morning at 9.05am and parents are welcome to remain behind at the end to congratulate their children. The dates are on the reverse of this letter.

Following consultation with the teaching staff, we have decided to make a few adjustments from today to the timings of our school day, initially just on a six week trial basis. This is being done to increase the length of continuous teaching time in the morning that is available for English and Maths, as research shows that children are often more alert at this time and a longer lesson length may well improve the learning that takes place. The new timings will be the same for all children and are as follows:

- 8.55am -11.00am - First session
- 11.00am - 11.15am - Breaktime for all children (length of break is as before)
- 11.15am - 12.10pm - Second session
- 12.10pm - 13.15pm - Lunch
- 13.15pm - 15.15pm - Third session (no change here)

As this is just a trial we will review whether it has had a positive impact as we get closer to half term and then decide whether to make this a permanent change or whether to revert back to the previous arrangement, depending on what is best for the children and the feedback we receive.



I am intending to spend more time out on the playground this term, so that I can get to know you all better, so please do come up and have a chat at any time about this or any other school matter.

With very best wishes

Patrick Harland

### **Assembly Dates**

**Year 6 - Friday 22nd January**

**Year 5 - Friday 29th January**

**Year 4 - Friday 5th February**

**Year 3 - Friday 12th February**

**Year 2 - Friday 26th February**

**Year 1/2 - Friday 4th March**

**Rec/Year 1 - Friday 11th March**

**Reception - Friday 18th March**