ST JOSEPH'S
Catholic Primary Academy

'Grow, Discover, Achieve' in the image of Christ.

10th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school! I hope that you have all had a good break away, enjoyed the wonderful weather we have had and managed to spend some quality time together. We welcome our new Reception children into school as well as Mrs Gulfraz who will be teaching Year 3 on a Wednesday and Year 6 on a Thursday. A huge thank you to Mr Sykes and the cleaning team who have worked tirelessly over the Summer to get the school ready for the new term; the school looks amazing!

We have had a fantastic first few days back at school and we are all excited to get another academic year underway! The children have settled back into school life really quickly and smoothly. Walking around school, it has been lovely to see everyone focused on their learning and enjoying catching up with friends. The children's behaviour has been exemplary. We are blessed in so many ways here at St. Joseph's with wonderful children, families and an amazing staff team. This new academic year promises to be better than ever and I hope that you are as excited as I am about the weeks and months ahead as we 'Grow, Discover and Achieve in the image of Christ'.

Our Virtue of the Month:

Our Virtue of the Month for September is **Love of Learning.** If you have a love of learning, you are a lifelong learner with a desire for knowledge and always strive to deepen your understanding. You are open minded, give time to learning and seek the truth. During our Virtues assemblies, we will be exploring what this means and how showing Love of Learning can help us during difficult times of our lives.

Reading Cafés:

We are looking forward to starting up our reading cafés again after our successful sessions last year. For those of you who are new to school, this is a chance for you to share a book with your child with a hot drink and a biscuit. Reading is such a life-long skill but our busy lives can sometimes stop us from enjoying a book. This is a great opportunity for you to take some time out of your busy day to read a book and enjoy a story with your child. All reading café sessions will run between 9am-9:45am.

The dates for the reading cafes are:

Tuesday 22nd September – Reception class
Tuesday 29th September – Year 1
Tuesday 6th October – Year 2
Tuesday 13th October – Year 3
Tuesday 3rd November – Year 4
Tuesday 10th November – Year 5
Tuesday 17th November – Year

Roald Dahl day and our new reading scheme:

We are looking forward to a day of whizzpopping words, marvellous stories and wonderful characters as we celebrate Roald Dahl Day on Friday 11th September 2026! Children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite Roald Dahl character and join us in celebrating the magic of reading. Although the day is inspired by Roald Dahl, we will also be using it as an opportunity to celebrate all authors and the amazing stories they create**.** We are particularly excited to be launching our new reading scheme for pupils who have graduated from our Read Write Inc. (RWI) phonics programme. This new scheme will provide children with exciting, high-quality books to support them as they continue to develop their reading skills and, most importantly, their love of reading. More information about our new reading scheme will be shared with families in the coming days, so watch this space!

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The Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Academy Trust

National Fitness day:

On Wednesday 23rd September 2026, we will be celebrating National Fitness Day! This is a great opportunity to remind ourselves how important it is to look after both our bodies and our minds. Being active helps us to stay healthy, feel happier, have more energy and supports our mental wellbeing too. Throughout the day, we will be encouraging the children to get moving, have fun and celebrate the benefits of being active. Children can come to school wearing their PE kits on this day so that they are ready to get involved!

Great British Weather:

We have had a variety of weather so far this term with rain, sunshine and wind. Please ensure that your child brings a coat into school as we will always try to let them enjoy the fresh air and play together during playtimes and lunchtimes - even if it is a little rainy! Please also send a sun hat if the weather is sunny. We have already accrued a pile of lost property so please make sure that your child's name is clearly marked on the label inside their uniform and coat (not just initials as we have many children with the same initials). Also, children should always bring a bottle of plain, still water to school with them. It is particularly important during the warmer weather to keep them hydrated with lots of water during the day.

Allergy Awareness and Benedict's Law

We are proud to be an allergy-aware school and are implementing the requirements of Benedict's Law**,** effective in schools from 1 September 2026**.** The new requirements include the introduction of a whole-school Allergy Safety Policy, mandatory allergy awareness and emergency response training for staff, and ensuring that schools have emergency adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) available for use when required. We have pupils within our school community who live with anaphylaxis and may require an AAI in an emergency, so it is particularly important that we all work together to help keep them safe. We ask parents and carers to support us by taking extra care with packed lunches, snacks, treats and any food items sent into school**,** avoiding items that may pose a risk to pupils with severe allergies. Our school kitchen is compliant with allergy procedures, and we ask families to help us maintain the same high standards. Together, we can create an inclusive environment where every child can feel safe. We are also registered with Allergy Schools**,** which provides us with valuable resources, training and guidance to help us manage allergies safely and effectively within school. You may wish to have a look on the site yourselves.

Upcoming events in school:

Please take note of the upcoming events happening in school over the coming weeks, a more detailed set of the diary dates will be sent out alongside this newsletter.

Friday 11th September – Roald Dahl day: children can come dressed up as their favourite character
W/C 21st September – Scholastic book fair: Books will be on sale after school each day this week in the hall
Tuesday 22nd September 9:00am – Reception Reading Café
Wednesday 23rd September – National Fitness day: children to come dressed in their PE kits
Friday 25th September – Macmillan Coffee fundraising event: children can come dressed in 'comfy' clothes for a donation
Tuesday 29th September 9:00am – Year 1 Reading Café
Tuesday 6th October 9:00am – Year 2 Reading Café
Tuesday 6th October – Harvest festival: children to bring non-perishable food donations
Tuesday 13th October 9:00am – Year 3 Reading Café
Friday 23rd October – School breaks up for half term
Friday 4th December – Year 4 trip: More details to follow shortly!

There will be more information for some of the above events coming soon so please ensure that you regularly check ClassDojo and SchoolPing.

Thank you for your continued support,
Mrs Bulloch
Headteacher