Saint Joseph's
CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Inspire each other – Grow together

Advent 1 Newsletter

9th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new academic year. I hope you all managed to get some precious family time together over the holidays. The children have come back into school super smart and ready for learning. Thank you for ensuring the children have the correct uniform, if there are any issues with uniform, please do email into the office to let class teachers know.

We have started the new term with a Mission week which has allowed the children time to explore the mission statement "For nothing is impossible with God" and also familiarise themselves with new class routines and values. On Monday, we launched the new house point token system with the children. They will earn house points for Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Safe. These house points will be counted each half term by the Year 6 House Captains and results announced. Please do talk to your children about the new system and see how they are getting on.

Miss Firth has now started as SENDCo and has begun communicating with parents and I have added her newsletter at the end of this one. She led part of the Inset day with teachers because we are looking at improving the way we record and assess pupil's SEND plans so hopefully you will be shown this at your next meeting with class teachers.

A few reminders from the final newsletter last half term:

School dinner increase

As School dinners will increase to £3.50 from 7th September. If you do believe that you may be eligible for Free School Meals, please do contact the office for more details or take a look at the Free School Meal information on Derbyshire County Council websites.

Communication from September

From September the school will no longer be using Class Dojo for various reasons which include reducing workload for staff and ensuring important messages aren't missed.

- Letters and key messages from school will be sent via Arbor so please do ensure that you have the app on your phone.
- Any messages for teachers should be sent to enquiries@joe.srscmat.co.uk and staff will reply within 2 working days. If the message is urgent, please ring the office with any message.
- If a child is absent from school, you need to let school know by 9am at the latest by ringing school. Please make sure it is clear why your child is not attending school so we can record the absence correctly.

Nursery will be using Tapestry and Miss Montgomery will be in touch in September with the details of this.

PE days 2026/27

PE days are as follows. Please ensure the children come in correct PE uniform at the beginning of the day.

5/6 - Tuesday and Wednesday

3/4- Monday and Wednesday

1/2- Tuesday and Thursday

Reception - Monday

Thank you for your continued support, I am really looking forward to a wonderful Advent season in our school community.

"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God."

Romans 8:28

Mrs Ellis

Executive Headteacher