Welcome

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of this new world we are all starting to come to terms with. Although we won’t see each other for the next few weeks, we don’t have to physically be together in order to be part of a family. The school community will continue but in different ways. Sharing news is a good way to know that we are still connected.

First of all, a massive well done to everyone at home who has been working through the activities and ideas on Class Dojo. Thank you for all the photos you have already sent in; we love seeing you at home. Please continue to send any work including photos back to us through your Class Dojo Portfolio.

Teachers will continue to add suggested activities to the Class Dojo pages for you to try at home. A word of warning for parents/carers; we want to help our children to have some normality as well as things to do to fill up their day. What we don’t want to do is to create more stress for families; there is no expectation that all or any of these activities are completed. If all your child does over the next few weeks is to read regularly, they will be doing enough.

Secondly, a big thank you to all the staff at school who have worked so hard to look after the children in school and support children working at home. Staff are being very brave and have posted videos of themselves reading stories on our YouTube channel. Links to these videos are being shared on our Class Dojo page when they become available. We hope our attempts will help reassure children that they have not been forgotten by their teachers.

Mrs McLaughlin

“Don’t let what you can’t do stop you from doing what you can do.”
– John Wooden

Sometimes we make things more complicated than they really are.
Sometimes we focus on all the wrong things.
Focus on what you can do, right now, where you are.
Reading for Pleasure

Teachers make their internet debut...

Teachers in school and at home have been warming up their vocal chords and making sure they look presentable ready for story time.

Mrs Smith created a YouTube channel called Rawmarsh St Josephs and the teachers are uploading their latest chapter from their favourite children’s books and sharing their much-loved picture books for you to enjoy at home.

Guest appearances have included Floss the dog, who has listened intently to stories including Aliens in Underpants Save the World. Mrs Beckett is now concerned that the story may have given Floss some ideas as she found her routing through the washing basket later that day.

Follow this link to find us on YouTube and subscribe to our channel for updates of new stories: https://youtu.be/K2SNdRh5ts

Home Schooling

There is some good advice about home schooling in the following article:

Let your kids get bored': emergency advice from teachers on schooling at home

Internet Safety

A message from Mrs Glossop

Children are accessing technology and the internet at a younger age than ever before. It’s never too early to talk to your child about what they do online and who to tell if they come across anything online that makes them feel worried, scared or sad.

*Jessie & Friends* is a series of three animations that follow the adventures of Jessie, Tia and Mo as they begin to navigate the online world, watching videos, sharing pictures and playing games. There’s also a storybook for each episode, to help you and your child keep the conversation going. Please follow the link [https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/jessie-and-friends/](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/jessie-and-friends/) to access these videos and resources.

The key message throughout Jessie and Friends is that if a child is ever worried by anything online, they should tell a grown-up they trust, who will help them.

How you can use *Jessie & Friends* to help keep your child safer online

Before you watch *Jessie & Friends* with your child, here are a few things you can do:

- **Explore together:** Ask your child to show you their favourite websites and apps and what they do on them. Listen and show interest and encourage them to teach you the basics of the site or app.

- **Initiate (and continue) conversations about online safety:** Ask them if anything ever bothers or worries them while they’re online. You could use examples of events from the animations and ask if they’ve experienced anything similar. Reinforce the key message: if anything happens online which makes them feel worried, scared or sad, the best thing to do is talk to you or another adult who they trust.

- **Help your child identify adults who can help:** Help your child identify trusted adults from different areas of their life such as at home or at school.

- **Be non-judgemental:** Explain that you would never blame them for anything that might happen online, and you will always give them calm and loving support.

- **Supervise your child while they’re online:** Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as in the living room or kitchen where an appropriate adult is able to supervise. It is not safe for 4-7 year olds to access the internet unsupervised in private spaces, such as alone in a bedroom or bathroom.

- **Talk to your child about how their online actions can affect others:** If your child is engaging with others online remind them to consider how someone else might feel before they post or share something. If they are considering sharing a photo or video of somebody else, they should always ask permission first.
• **SafeSearch:** The use of ‘SafeSearch’ is highly recommended for use with young children. Most web search engines will have a ‘SafeSearch’ function, which will allow you to limit the content your child is exposed to whilst online. Look out for the ‘Settings’ button on your web browser homepage (often shaped like a small cog).

• **Parental controls:** Make use of the parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet-enabled device in your home. You can learn more by reading our article on using parental controls.

**Tips for parents**

First of all, remember you are doing a great job of looking after your children, helping them learn and perhaps going to work as well. Don’t get them out of bed too early to start school work. Enjoy the peace, although, younger ones may be up at the crack of dawn! Get them to help you make a work & fun timetable. If they have a voice in this, they may keep to it. Be firm but friendly. Set boundaries and consequences. Plan breaks where they have free time to watch TV or play games, but allow them to choose.

If the COVID word comes up be honest with your answers but answer at their level. Keep it simple. DONT tell them not to worry, that doesn’t answer their questions and you’re not acknowledging their fears. It’s better just to allow them to talk, listen to them and answer as best you can.

**Time to Learn a New Skill**

*St Joseph’s staff have been getting ‘crafty’ during social distancing.*

It’s really important during this period of social distancing that we take time to do things that we enjoy. Learn a new skill, read a book, do some crafting or even learn a new language. In-between the uploading of work to Class Dojo, writing school reports and catching up with admin, the staff at St Joseph’s have been busy taking some time to do what they love (or will learn to love...eventually). We’ll keep you posted with what we’ve been up to and would love to hear from you with what you have been up to too. Maybe you set about the Lego challenge and built a space ship, or learnt some sign language and wish to send a video through Class Dojo.

I have tried (and I’m yet to succeed) to make a dog coat for Floss. She was not amused when draped in the offending item. I am not sure whether that was due to the sizing issue or the flamingo fabric. Either way, I will not be defeated and the coat shall be altered and made to fit!
Mrs Chadfield has been busy with her knitting needles making cute outfits. This is one that she has knitted for a friend’s teddy bear.

Mrs Hague has been very busy in her garden. The glorious sunshine that we have had has got everything growing and will certainly keep her busy in the weeks to come.

Mrs Holden and her family have been extremely busy making the most of the good weather. They are working together to learn new skills and are currently building an almighty tree house. The finished den will include swings and even a climbing wall. I think we’ll all be hiring the Holden’s to come around and build us a magical den when this is all over!

Mrs Owen and her family are taking on the scientific approach and have got their hands on some caterpillars. They are keeping a diary of the lifecycle of the caterpillar. This is from day 1 to day 4. They have life!
We’ve loved seeing your home learning...

Please keep sending us updates from home. We love to see what you are doing, whether it is the activities that we have set or something fun you have discovered yourself.

Freya from Class 1, has been very busy designing and making her very own Pokémon comic book.

Thank you so much for all your hard work and effort. We really do love seeing what you are keeping busy with. I think I will be popping into Class 4 when we are all back to see what tasty treats they’ve brought with them as it looks like we have some chefs in that class.

Sorry if you have not featured this week. Please be assured that all your contributions are valued and watch this space for next week!😊
Important Updates from Mrs Briggs

Dear Parent/Carers

I hope you and your family are all keeping safe and well. I would just like to pass on my thanks to you all for becoming part of our virtual school so quickly, Class dojo is ensuring we all stay in contact with each other, which is so important, I have loved watching the videos and reading the work the children have produced. I would also like to send a message of thanks to all the staff who are embracing these new challenges by providing work, videos, activities and are on hand to answer queries and questions, it really has been a team effort and I am very proud of each and every one of them. Our new format newsletter is being produced by Mrs Beckett and Mr Searson. I hope you enjoy it. If you would like to be featured in next week’s edition let your class teacher know.

Best wishes,
Mrs Briggs

Easter Week

School will be closed for the Easter Holidays from Thursday 9th April and re-open on Monday 20th April for key workers and vulnerable children as outlined in the DFE policy. During the Easter holidays teachers will not be providing work and will not be contactable on class Dojo. Work and teacher availability will re-commence from Monday 20th April.

If during this school closure you are a key worker and require child care, arrangements have been made for you to attend our partnership school at Wath, Our Lady and St Joseph's. If you do need this facility then please email the school so I will be able to arrange this for you. The school email address is: school@rawmarshstjosephs.co.uk.

Please do not leave it to the last minute as I will need to arrange a member of our staff to go in and support your children.

FS2 - daily tasks via Class Dojo
Class 1 and Class 2 - daily tasks on class dojo - requested work packs available on Wednesday
Class 3 - daily tasks via Class Dojo - packs if requested available on Monday
Class 4 - daily tasks via Class Dojo - packs if requested available on Tuesday
Class 5 - daily tasks via Class Dojo - packs if requested available on Thursday

Free School Meal (FSM) Grab Bags

Grab bags will be available for collection Monday to Thursday of next week 6th to 9th April at the usual time of 12:30 to 1pm.

There will be no grab bags available during the Easter Holiday in line with normal school holidays for children receiving free school meals.

School should be in a position to issue vouchers from week commencing 20th April - information will be sent to these parents individually.

As you can see, Mrs Briggs has been busy with her knitting needles and has found some time to pick up a project she started in October. A lovely snuggly cardigan. Let’s hope it’s finished for Winter! ☺
Palm Sunday

Virtual children's liturgy from CAFOD

Join Bronagh, Eileen and Martin at 10am this Sunday for our next virtual children's liturgy. Once you have registered you will be signed up for the next 12 sessions. If you can't join us live, a recording will be available to watch afterwards. [https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy](https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy)

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter that begins the Holy Week. It is the day that we remember and celebrate the day Jesus entered into Jerusalem as Saviour and King. As Jesus rode a donkey into the town of Jerusalem a large crowd gathered and laid palm branches and their cloaks across the road, giving Jesus royal treatment. The hundreds of people shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

A message from Pope Francis

_Tonight, before falling asleep think about when we will return to the street. When we hug again, when all the shopping together will seem like a party. Let’s think about when the coffee will return to the bar, the small talk, the photos close to each other. We think about when it will be all a memory but normality will seem an unexpected and beautiful gift. We will love everything that has so far seemed futile to us. Every second will be precious. Swims at the sea, the sun until late sunsets, toasts, laughter. We will go back to laughter together. Strength and courage._

See you soon,

_Pope Francis._