



8th September 2010

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new academic year, we trust that you have had a good holiday.

Many thanks for the lovely cards and presents that we received at the end of last term.

We are very happy to welcome Miss Grice to our school family and are sure that she will soon feel part of all that goes on.

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Hood on the safe arrival of Marcus James and also to Mr and Mrs Clayton on the safe arrival of Ella Rose.

Our focus for this academic year for our displays and some assembly topics is our International Schools theme and Mr Dawes has been busy during the holidays contacting schools across the world for us to link with. We are always happy to receive news of your travels and would love Barnaby Bear to get "out and about" and come back with some photos. Do see Mr Dawes if you would like to take Barnaby out.

By the end of the week your child (not Nursery and Reception) should have a school diary; this includes a school Calendar and your child's academic timetable. Nursery and Reception will have this information separately. Please take a moment to note the information here and sign diaries to confirm that you have seen this.

The term dates and school menus are available on the school web-site.

Please note that the Easter holiday is three weeks, this is to accommodate a very late Easter which runs into the May Day Bank holiday. No school days are lost as we finish the year on 15th July in 2011.

Please could you take time to discuss the menus with your child, particularly the Reception children so that they have some idea of what they like and dislike.

Peripatetic music staff are available as are Speech and Drama lessons. Mrs Cooper also has a few remaining spaces if your child would like to take singing lessons. Please contact Mrs Pickford for more details.

A reminder please about uniform, please ensure that children are in correct uniform. Hats and caps are part of the uniform for the Nursery up to the end of the Pre Prep Department.

Please ensure that all items of clothing are marked clearly with your child's name so that we can reunite any lost items. Stitched labels are best as marker pens fade.

Mr Ferris will be informing you by letter of exactly what kit is required and when.

I am aware that some uniform is not available at Clive Mark School Wear, particularly tracksuit bottoms. Please let Mrs Edwards or myself know if you have difficulties with this.

I do operate an "Open Door" policy and am happy to discuss any concerns, problems or indeed words of praise with you as soon as I can. I do have a teaching commitment but on these days Mrs Pickford will endeavour to make a mutually agreeable appointment.

I will update you when I have more information with regard to Parking. Please note that no parents or other family members or friends are permitted to park on the Staff Car Park except those who and have a formal Disability Permit and have been issued with a Parking Permit by our Governing Body.

We are a busy school and the beginning of term is no exception but please do bear with us as sometimes things do need to change.

We are now on "Parent Mail" which means that we can send you a message to keep you updated as things occur. Please ensure that all telephone numbers / e-mail addresses are clearly written when returning your child's forms.

Our charity for this year is the Meningitis Trust.

Mrs Trevor will be contacting you with regard to the PTA activities for this year, please do support her. You are all automatically members and we do hope to welcome you to future P.T.A. Meetings and Events.

May I also remind you that dogs are not permitted on the school premises; this is for Health and Safety reasons.

Individual and Family Group Photographs are scheduled for **Wednesday 15th September.**

Swimming commences on Thursday 23rd Sept for Prep 5 / Prep 6 only. Children will require a plain black swimsuit / Swim Trunks (no long swim shorts please) and either a black or red swim cap.

All Prep children require a Hymn Book, these are priced at £7.00 and an Art Pad priced at £2.50 and can be purchased from the school office or via your child's form teacher.

We will be continuing to promote our Eco School concerns e.g. saving electricity, gas, and water and recycling of plastics, paper and cardboard. We do have a large blue paper-recycling bin at the end of the drive, which you are welcome to use. Your child will also be sent home shortly with a recycling bag for empty ink cartridges or unused mobile phones. Just pop the item(s) into the plastic envelope seal and send off in the post. If you need any additional bags, please speak to your child's form teacher or collect from school office.

As part of our Eco Schools Status St. Joseph's Preparatory School would really like to promote sustainability, and to that end would appreciate it if as many people as possible would sign up to receiving letters on-line rather than a paper copy. We are now 'paper-free' with school reports too; by 2012 all schools are required to be 'paper-free'.

We will be running our Fair Trade Stalls again on a Friday morning break time for the children and after school for parents. Children from Reception Class upwards can bring a small amount of money in a named envelope / purse to spend on a Fair Trade snack at break time. We were grateful for all your support last year.

St. Joseph's Preparatory School are keen collectors of all incoming tokens, for example, Sainsbury's Active Kids, Tesco Sports / Computers, Flora Cooking for Schools, Nestle Box Tops and Ryman (Formally Partners) Stationery for Teachers Credit Rewards. Please help in this area if you are able.

Amendment to School Diary

You will see in your child's school diary that at the end of each term it states that there is no Joe's Club. Unfortunately, our new diaries had already gone to print in March when the decision to open was implemented. Joe's Club **will** therefore run on the last day of each term.

The Swimming Gala at Denstone College for PP2 – P6 children will not take place on 27th May 2011. We await notification of a new date.

The school family will be praying for the Papal visit commencing 16th September. You can follow the visit on www.thepapalvisit.org.uk

And finally, do keep the school and the whole school family in your prayers as we begin the new academic year.

Yours sincerely,

S. D. Hutchinson

Mrs S. D. Hutchinson BEd
Headteacher

Catholic Prayer for our children as they start the new academic year

Father of all mercies
We ask that you would bless
the youngest and littlest of learners,
the most helpless and powerless of persons,
with Your infinite and loving mercy,
granting them the strength to learn, concentrate,
and act appropriately towards
their teachers and fellow students.
We also ask that You would watch over them,
at home and at school
and grant them proper direction
so that they may learn
of Your wonderful virtues.
We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen

David Bennett