



St Joseph's News

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School
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Executive Headmistress: Mrs D Titus

Newsletter 11

Monday 04 December 2017

If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping.
What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!' **Mark 13:36-37**

Catholic Life of the School

On Sunday, we heard the message from Mark's Gospel in relation to waiting and expectancy. During the period of Advent, we are not waiting idly but preparing for the celebration of the birth of Christ. The Gospel reading tells us to be on guard as we do not know when the Son of Man will return.

Pope Francis tells us:

"Advent is a time to prepare our hearts to receive Jesus"

In your family prayer time this week, you may wish to think of ways you can prepare well at this important time of the year. We read many stories in the bible that remind us about drawing near to God and living our lives so we are more Christ-like in our thoughts, words and deeds.



Advent is also an ideal time to reflect on how others may need to see the love of God in their lives. So we must remember vulnerable people in our prayers at this time of year - the poor, the elderly, the homeless - and think of ways in which we can help including charitable giving.

Give something however small, to the one on need. For it is not small to one who has nothing.

St Gregory Nazianzus

How marvellous it would be if, at the end of the day, each one of us could say:

'Today, I have performed an act of charity towards others'.

Pope Francis

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Attendance

- ★ In week beginning 27 November 2017, Class 3K had the best attendance but all the Year 2 classes were very close behind!
- ★ The 100% Termly Attendance prize draw takes place on Thursday 21 December. Currently, 242 children are in contention! We will draw the name of one girl and one boy to each receive a very special prize at the end of term assembly.
- ★ All children may arrive from 8.30am at their designated gates. Please take full advantage of this early arrival as it not only helps your child to prepare for their learning day but also eases congestion.
- ★ ***Parents who choose to take their child out of school during term time will each be referred to Brent Education Welfare and may be issued with a £120 Education Penalty Notice Fine per child (reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days of issue date)***
- ★ *Please remember that if your child is absent from school, and we have not already been informed in advance, parents must telephone the school by 9.00am on every day of absence. This is a very important safeguarding measure to ensure we know the whereabouts of every child.*
- ★ *If a child's whereabouts are unknown or unclear, the school will contact Brent's Children Missing In Education team so they can carry out an investigation.*

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Last day of school is Thursday 21 December 2017
Children return to school on Tuesday 9 January 2018

Christmas Fair

Thank you to all the children and parents who joined us last Friday for the special Christmas Fair!

It was wonderful to see our families together; having fun and enjoying some Christmas cheer.

Congratulations to all our prize winners and a very big thank you to everyone who made a purchase or supported the event in some other way.

It is the generosity of our school community that makes these events a great success so we are very appreciative of your support and kindness.



Merit of the Week Award

The following children have received Merit Certificates in our whole school assembly for demonstrating excellent standards in their learning and behaviour:

Rainon 2F, Rafael 2H, Hayden 2S, Ivie 3K, Sophie 3G, Harriette 3M,
Kairo 4C, Janelle 4M, Natalia 5K, Adam 5S, Stephen 6D, Gabrielle 6M and Alberta 6W

Student of the Week Award

2F Tiago

For having a positive attitude throughout the school day

3M Abel

For perseverance and a positive attitude with Mathematics

4C Colin

For leading by example in class, consistent effort and positive approach

Early Years Nativity Performances

This week, the children from Early Years will be presenting their performances about the birth of Jesus. The Nativity is always an exciting event to look forward to as our youngest children take to the stage for the first time at St Joseph's to act, sing and dance their way through the greatest story ever told! Please remember that admission to the performances on Tuesday and Thursday will be by ticket only.



Dates For Diary

Tuesday 5 December	EYFS M and EYFS W Nativity at 9.30am in school hall - <i>(Ticket Only)</i>
Thursday 7 December	EYFS G and EYFS S Nativity at 9.30am in school hall - <i>(Ticket Only)</i>
Thursday 14 December	KS1 Nativity Service - 10.00am at Our Lady of Willesden Church
Friday 15 December	INSET NO SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN
Tuesday 19 December	Year 3 Nativity at 9.30am in school hall for parents Class 3G <i>(Ticket Only)</i>
Wednesday 20 December	KS2 Christmas Mass - 10.00am at Our Lady of Willesden Church Christmas Woolly Jumper Day (Collection for St Luke's Hospice) Christmas Lunch
Thursday 21 December	Year 3 Nativity at 9.30am in school hall for parents Classes 3K and 3M <i>(Ticket Only)</i> Class Christmas parties in afternoon LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
Tuesday 9 January	Children return to school

St Joseph's Mission Statement

At St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School we strive to create a stimulating environment so that by learning, playing and working together, we openly follow Christ's teachings. We seek to offer every person the opportunity to be a unique and valued individual, sharing and developing our belief in the teachings of Jesus through everyday relationships and mutual respect in our dealings with one another.

Our School Mission is as follows:

- We stand on holy ground
- We will always open our doors in welcome
- We will always love and care for each other as Jesus taught us
- We will always place the Word of God at the heart of our school
- We will always be witnesses to our faith by following in the footsteps of Christ

Parents - please do not leave scooters or bicycles on the school premises. With the current restrictions, we are not able to accommodate this equipment safely or securely.

Safeguarding

St Joseph's treats seriously its responsibility to ensure children are safe and well.

Where there is information causing a level of concern, the matter is discussed between the Executive Headmistress and Education Support Manager to determine if other agencies, such as Social Services, should be informed of the matter.

Where appropriate, parents are informed if the school decides to make a referral to Social Services. In line with their own procedures, Social Services may instruct the school that parents should not be informed in particular cases.

The school follows Social Services guidance with regards to referrals and information sharing to ensure our approach is child-centred.

The school frequently reviews processes to ensure we are doing all we can to minimise risk and keep children safe.

Please be reminded of the following expectations to support safeguarding at St Joseph's:

- When you bring your child to school in the morning and when you collect your child in the afternoon, please move off the premises promptly to ease congestion and to support the staff in dismissing the children to other parents.
- While term time leave is banned, we know there will be emergencies when children need to travel with their parents. In these situations, regardless of whether the leave will be authorised, please provide the school with a copy of the outgoing and return travel documents. This is a very important safeguarding measure.

Early Help

The school works with a number of agencies including health and Social Services to ensure that our children and families receive all the help they need at the earliest opportunity.

We therefore encourage parents to approach the school if they are unsure where to access help and support with any issues relating to family life. Please make an appointment to see Mrs Studd, Education Support Manager, to discuss any worries and we will help directly or signpost you to the most appropriate service.

Positive Parenting

The NSPCC has published a document to support parents with the challenges and demands of family life.

The document includes useful information and guidance about setting boundaries, rewards, sanctions and building relationships.

Please [click here](#) to view the NSPCC Positive Parenting document which is available to download from the Safeguarding page on the school website.



Online Safety

Schools, police, social services and other agencies are concerned at the ever-increasing volume of offences being committed against children through online devices.

Children are also being exposed to activities which are completely inappropriate for their age.

From class discussions, phase assemblies and e-safety learning, it seems that a significant number of children access the internet from their bedrooms without parental controls or monitoring.

Parents are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure their children are involved in age appropriate online activities and to keep their children safe when they are using mobile phones, tablets, laptops, games consoles etc.

Please visit St Joseph's [E-Safety webpage](#) for further information.

Brent Educational Psychology Service 'Drop-In'

Please see below a poster advertising a community psychology initiative led by Brent Educational Psychology Service.

The service is offering a limited number of **voluntary** drop-in sessions for parents at various educational venues throughout this academic year. The first drop-in session will be taking place at Fawood Children's Centre on 23 November, 9.00am to 12.00pm. Future dates and venues will be as follows:

23 January at Curzon Crescent
13 March at Malorees Junior School
15 May at Manor School
12 June at Kilburn Grange School
10 July – venue to be confirmed

Brent Educational Psychology Service

Parent Drop-In Sessions with an Educational Psychologist (EP)

Venue: Fawood Children's Centre, Fawood Avenue

Date: Thursday 23rd November 2017

Book a 45 minute session* between 9.00am and 12pm

*sessions must be booked in advance



The EP parent drop-in sessions are offered to any parent or carer who would like to have some time to discuss any concern with an educational psychologist (examples may include: your child's emotional well-being, challenging behaviours, learning progress, your relationship with your child or some of your own worries). The sessions aim to be supportive, confidential and informal. Each session is up to 45 minutes.

To book a session contact the Brent EPS on 0208 937 3200 or email : eps@brent.gov.uk

There are limited spaces and sessions are allocated on a first book first offered basis

From Advent to Christmas Year B

Linking School, Parish and Home



Religious Education

Key Idea: From Advent to Christmas

This topic is intended for the second in the academic year 2017/2018. As the days shorten and winter comes upon us we are invited to consider the light of Christ who came into the world at Christmas. As the Gospel of Mark has no story of the birth of Jesus, this topic looks at who Christians around the world celebrate the coming of God into the world.

Attitudes and Spiritual Dispositions

Spiritual Outcomes: It is hoped that pupils will develop:

- A sense of the importance of prayer
- A willingness to pray
- An attitude of respect for the many traditions of Christmas
- Appreciation for the gift of God at Christmas

Activities to try at home

You are the first educator of your child in faith. Your child's learning in religious education will be much greater if you and the school are engaged in talking about the same ideas and beliefs. Help your child by trying this activity while this topic is being taught:

- This topic focuses on how different cultural groups celebrate Christmas. Talk to your pupils about any particular practices you and your family might have, particularly if, and how, your culture might be evident in what you do. If you can, encourage your pupils to share your cultural customs with their peers at school.

An idea for prayer at home



Prayer Activity

Loving God, you created people full of dignity still more wonderfully restored our dignity when we failed. At this time of Advent help us remember Jesus who humbled himself to live like us, so that we might be able to share his divinity. We ask this through Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Adapted from the Opening Prayer of Christmas Day Liturgy.