



# St Joseph's News

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

Newsletter 30

Friday 08 June 2018

Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother. **Mark 3:35**

## Catholic Life of the School

The Gospel reading on Sunday from Matthew 3:20-35 ends with Jesus declaring that everyone around him is his brother, sister and mother as they are doing God's will.

This message tells us that we must be obedient to God to belong to his family. We are all children of God so we should live as brothers and sisters.

In your family prayer time, you may wish to reflect on how you can follow God's ways more closely. He has already adopted us into his family but we can always draw nearer to God and to each other.



***God, our Father, we are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son, one family, in the Spirit of your love. Make us patient and kind, gentle and generous, welcoming to those in need. Protect all families with your loving care. AMEN***

## Absence Reporting

If your child is not going to be in school please call the office on **020 8965 5651** or email the school at [admin@stjo.brent.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stjo.brent.sch.uk) Please do this before 9.00am on every day of absence.

Parents are reminded that in addition to making a telephone call by 9.00am on every day of absence, this must be followed up in writing. Parents may complete a Reason For Absence form (available from school office or school website) or you may write a letter to confirm the reason for the absence.

When you know in advance that your child will be absent, please inform the school in advance and provide the appropriate documentation such as the medical appointment letter.

Please remember that all school policies are in place for a reason with the main purpose being to ensure the safety, well-being and secure development of your child.

## Attendance

In week beginning 21 May 2018, Classes 1O, 4C and 6D had 100% attendance.

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.*

***Please remember that the last day of the Summer Term will be Friday 13 July  
Children return to school on Thursday 6 September***

## First Holy Communion

We are delighted to share some wonderful photographs of children who have recently received their First Holy Communion. We have also included photographs from the school mass on Thursday 7 June, celebrated by Fr Stephen for our First Holy Communion children.

This sacrament is very important to the Catholic community as we believe that through the Eucharist we are receiving Jesus in our bodies and souls.

Pope Francis says, "*The Eucharist is at the heart of 'Christian initiation', together with Baptism and Confirmation, and it constitutes the source of the Church's life itself. From this Sacrament of love, in fact, flows every authentic journey of faith, of communion, and of witness.*"

Communion is special every time we receive - we should be just as excited as when we received our First Holy Communion!

Please pray for our children as they continue on their individual faith journeys; that they may continue to learn more about what it means to follow Christ, love God, and love their neighbour.



## A Meeting With Pope Francis

Erin from Class 3G recently met Pope Francis at the Vatican when she accompanied her paternal grandfather who had been invited for a private audience with His Holiness.

Erin's paternal grandfather is currently Finland's Ambassador to Croatia and also Finland's representative Ambassador to the Holy See.

This visit was made even more special by the fact that Erin made her First Holy Communion recently so it was a particular blessing that Erin met the Pope at this important time in her faith journey.



## School Mass

This week, the children have taken part in two very special celebrations of Catholic life. Year 4 children attended the Deanery Mass at St Mary Magdalen Church and we also attended Mass at Our Lady of Willesden for our children that recently made their First Holy Communion.



## Early Years Sports Mornings

The Early Years children have enjoyed two wonderful mornings of sports activities in which they were able to show how well they are doing in co-ordination, balance, physical activity and teamwork.

Classes EY G and EY M held their activities on Friday 25 May and Classes EY K and EY S enjoyed their sports morning on Friday 8 June.

Thank you to all the parents that came along to encourage their children during these very special occasions. We hope that you enjoy the photographs below.



## Sports Day Dates

We will be holding a number of sports events during the Summer Term - weather permitting!

**Friday 15 June**

Year 1 from 9.30am to 10.20am

**Wednesday 20 June**

Year 3 from 9.30am to 10.30am

**Friday 22 June**

Year 2 from 9.30am to 10.30am

**Wednesday 27 June**

Year 4 from 9.30am to 10.30am

**Wednesday 4 July**

Year 5 from 9.30am to 10.30am

**Wednesday 11 July**

Year 6 from 9.30am to 10.30am

## Year 1 Visit to Roundwood Park

On Thursday 24 May, the Year 1 children went on an exciting trip to Roundwood Park as part of their current learning on seasonal changes.

The children compared what the park looked like now and what it looked like back in the autumn term. They noticed that the leaves are now green, the weather was warmer and flowers are beginning to grow.



## Message from Brent Libraries

### Brent Libraries FREE Events for Children

- All children are expected to be library members if they attend library events
- We hope all children will borrow books at events and keep reading during the holidays!

### **Kingsbury Library – Back by popular demand! 6 week writing and performance workshops**

11am – 1pm on Saturdays from 2 June – 7 July 2018

'Apples and Snakes' presents Telling Tales, a six week programme for 7 – 11 year olds to develop and create stories and poems with writer Simon Mole. At the end of the six weeks there will be a sharing for friends and families to come along to Kingsbury Library and listen!

Throughout the project the young people will work towards a Discover Arts Award.

[www.artsaward.org.uk](http://www.artsaward.org.uk)



## 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

## 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 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.

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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.

## Online Safety / Grooming

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.

## Net Aware

Net Aware is a very useful resource for parents that wish to find out more about the different platforms and apps that children use to communicate and socialise online.

This website offers advice and guidance relating to the most popular apps including SnapChat, YouTube, Minecraft, Instagram, Musical.ly, FIFA, WhatsApp and Fortnite which is the latest online game aimed at children.



Please visit <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> for information and parental support on all aspects of online safety.

# Discipleship - Year B

Linking School, Parish and Home



## Religious Education

### Key Idea: Discipleship

This framework of learning is intended as the final resource for the Summer Term in the academic year 2017/2018. It completes study of the Gospel of Mark by examining one of his strongest themes: discipleship. Building on the work of the previous unit, this resource picks up the actions of the disciples in Mark's Gospel as we identify what it is that Jesus asks of those who follow him.

### Attitudes and Spiritual Dispositions

**Spiritual Outcomes:** *It is hoped that pupils will develop:*

- An openness to following the life and teaching of Jesus
- An awareness of the way that people around them live as contemporary followers

- An attitude of hope in responding to the challenges of being a disciple

### 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.

- In the Gospels of Luke and Matthew the disciples ask Jesus to teach them a prayer. He responds by teaching them the Our Father. Pray the prayer of the disciples with your pupils.

### An idea for prayer at home



#### Prayer Activity

Pray the Our Father with your pupils before bed.