



St Joseph's News

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

Newsletter 18

Friday 09 February 2018

At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. **Mark 1:12-13**

Catholic Life of the School

During the half term break, the season of Lent will start with Ash Wednesday on 14 February.

Lent is a very special time when we can draw closer to God through a promise to change an aspect of our lives. Some people choose to give up something such as sweets while others make a commitment to start or improve on something positive such as charitable giving or spending more time with loved ones.

Whatever you decide to do during the Lenten period, it is the intention in our hearts that is most important to God. He also loves to be in relationship with us and all relationships grow stronger when we make the time and commitment to care for each other.

Remember to take the time to pray to God during the half term break and to make a new commitment to draw you closer to him.

I hope that we all will live Lent well, following Jesus and carrying within us a ray of his love for all those we meet

(Pope Francis)

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 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 29 January 2018, Classes EYFS M, 1O and 2F had the best 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.

**School will be closed for the half-term break from
Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February**

British Values

In their latest assembly on the theme of British Values, Year 2 took time to look at 'democracy'.



Democracy means that our country is ruled by the people. In the United Kingdom, we hold an election to choose someone to represent us.

Yanni 2S

Everyone has rights but people need to have respect for the law and others.

Joshua 2H

At St Joseph's we have a school council which is run by children. They deal with issues that make a difference to all of us.

Amen 2F



Five of my favourite facts about autism

Chris Packham, fact fan, autistic man and ambassador for The National Autistic Society



- 1.** Satoshi Tajiki, the inventor of Pokémon, is autistic.



- 4.** There are as many autistic people in the UK as words in the first five Harry Potter books (700,000).



- 2.** Mozart, Einstein and Sir Isaac Newton had autistic characteristics and would probably be diagnosed with autism if they were alive today.



- 5.** World Autism Awareness Week is from 26 March to 2 April. Ask your teacher what your school is doing to celebrate it.



- 3.** 90% of autistic people have sensory issues. This means we experience the world really intensely but we sometimes find it too bright, loud and confusing.



autism.org.uk/waaw


The National
Autistic Society

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.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Unfortunately, there are uncomfortable issues that parents and school staff need to be aware of in order to protect our children from various types of abuse.

PACE (Parents Against Child Exploitation) offers guidance and support for parents that would like to understand more about how to protect their children and how to respond to any concerns.

"Child sexual exploitation is a hugely distressing, but fairly rare form of sexual, emotional and physical abuse of children. Knowing the signs and being aware of the support available can help to equip parents and carers with the knowledge and tools to act." (PACE)

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.

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

Jesus at Prayer - Year B

Linking School, Parish and Home



Religious Education

Key Idea: Jesus at Prayer

This topic is intended for the Spring Term of 2018. It presents pupils with the story of the Exodus and within it, the Passover. As a Jew, Jesus would have celebrated Passover with his family; in preparation for Easter this resource teaches pupils about the story that is the foundation for our own Eucharist.

Attitudes and Spiritual Dispositions

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

- A sense of the truths contained in Scripture.
- An appreciation of/for our connection to the Jewish people
- Respect for the faith and practices of the Jewish people
- An openness to learning from other faiths

Activities to try at home

You are the first educator of your pupil in faith. Your pupil's learning in religious education will be much greater if you and the school are engaged in talking about the same ideas and beliefs. This topic takes pupils on a journey back in time to the Exodus. Pupils will be invited to consider the symbolism of the journey the Israelites took and the ritual of Passover which continues to give thanks for the many blessings the people have received.

- Talk to your pupils about what they have: foster a sense of appreciation and thankfulness for the many blessings and privileges they enjoy.

An idea for prayer at home

Prayer Activity



Blessed are You, Lord our God, ruler of the universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us and enabled us to celebrate this joyous occasion.

May we remember all those who live in fear or oppression; help us to work towards their release and freedom.

Amen.

Adapted from the Haggadah, the prayer of the Passover meal.



stars

2017

Gold level Accreditation

This is to certify that

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School

has been awarded a Gold award in recognition of
achievement in active and safer travel initiatives

October 2017

Date

Will Norman
Walking and Cycling Commissioner
Transport for London



MAYOR OF LONDON

Transport for London

