



St Joseph's News

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

Newsletter 5

Friday 13 October 2017

So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find. **Matthew 22:9**

Catholic Life of the School

This Sunday, the Gospel message continues to reveal more about the Kingdom of God.

In this reading, Jesus uses another parable to explain how a wonderful celebration has been prepared in Heaven for those who wish to accept God's invitation. Jesus is telling us that everyone is invited to enjoy eternity in His Kingdom; the banquet starts the moment we accept God's invitation and continues forever.

Jesus often uses weddings and other celebratory feasts to help us understand God's generosity and His desire to help us enjoy our time together here on earth and in Heaven.

In the prayer Jesus taught us, we say, ***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*** In your family prayer time this week, you may wish to think about the wonderful celebration we will enjoy in Heaven and how can we celebrate our life in Jesus right now on this earth?



I would like to say to anyone who feels far away from God and the Church, the Lord invites you to be part of this people. Pope Francis

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

Attendance

In the week beginning 09 October 2017, Classes 3K, 5K and 5S 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.

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.

Prevent Strategy

In line with safeguarding procedures, the school is keeping up to date with the latest guidance from the Government in relation to anti-radicalisation and extremism.

All staff receive frequent safeguarding training and updates throughout the year and we refer to the latest advice from reputable sources including Brent Social Services and the Department for Education.

The Educate Against Hate website contains useful information and has a specific section for parents

<http://educateagainsthate.com/parents/>

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.

Fundraising at St Joseph's

Last Friday, our parents joined us for a wonderful coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Your generosity helped raise £657.65 which will be sent to Macmillan immediately.

The funds raised will help fund the work of this fantastic charity that do so much to help families through very difficult times.



**'IT'S ABOUT
HELPING PEOPLE
TO LIVE
THEIR LIVES.'**



We also held a used uniform sale last Friday which raised £220! These funds will be allocated to the Stained Glass Window Appeal in the restored school building.

Year 4 Science

Year 4 have been learning about the digestive system. They have had lots of fun learning about how our bodies break down food and the importance of our digestive organs and teeth in this process.

The children have completed investigations to explore the importance of saliva and stomach acid in the digestive process, and enjoyed the opportunity to practically investigate how food is broken down using crackers, bananas, orange juice and water!

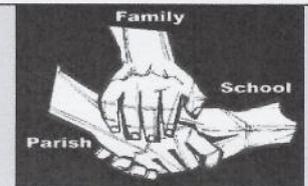
"The digestive system lesson was a really fun experiment because everybody took part. I think the best bit was when I crushed the food in the 'stomach bag', but it was a little bit disgusting when we squeezed the food into the tights!! It was really enjoyable though!" **Nela 4C**



**Please remember that school will be closed to pupils during the October half-term break
The children's last day will be Friday 20 October
Children return on Tuesday 31 October**

Beginning with the Church

Linking School, Parish and Home



Religious Education

Key Idea: Beginning with the Church

This topic is intended for the first of the academic year 2017/2018. As we welcome new and returning members to our schools community, we learn about how the Church formally welcomes new members in study of the sacraments of Initiation. This topic is the last in our study of the Year of Matthew.

Attitudes and Spiritual Dispositions

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sense of the importance of the sacramental life of the Church • A commitment to celebrating their faith | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An openness to the presence of God in the Sacraments • Reflectiveness in prayer |
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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:

- Welcoming people into our homes, workplaces and communities is part of life. Talk with your pupils about how you welcome new friends and family and why. Making people welcome is the first moment when we say to them you matter to us – you are important and valuable to us...and to God.

An idea for prayer at home



Prayer Activity

Loving God, as we gather as a family today/tonight, may we remember your great love for us. You call us your daughters and sons, making us all members of one family. This day and tomorrow might we remember to welcome and show our love and appreciation for those around us: old friends and new. Make us people who welcome as you did – inviting others to be part of your family, your home. Amen.