



St Joseph's News

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School
Goodson Road, Willesden, London, NW10 9LS
Tel: 020 8965 5651 E-mail: admin@stjo.brent.sch.uk
www.stjosephsrc.co.uk

Headmistress: Mrs D Titus

Newsletter 23

Thursday 29 March 2018

Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. **John 20:8**

Catholic Life of the School

This week, we will be attending Masses and services to help us reflect on the death and resurrection of Jesus. We will have the opportunity to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross on Good Friday and we will gather to celebrate the risen Christ on Easter Sunday.

Most of us will be meeting up with friends and family on Sunday afternoon to share a special lunch and exchange Easter eggs! Traditionally, Christians have viewed eggs as a symbol of rebirth and new life, and we can see signs of new life around us at this time of year as leaves start to grow again on the trees and flowers are ready to bloom in gardens and parks.

New life, rebirth and the season of Spring are all positive things that enrich our lives but it is in Christ that we have hope and assurance of eternal life; bringing meaning and purpose to every day.

In your family prayer time this week, you may wish to reflect on how our hope in Christ helps us when we are struggling with sadness or worries. Jesus promises us a future of joy for all eternity.

Happy Easter! May you bring to all the joy and hope of the Risen Christ!

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 19 March 2018, Classes 1B and 6M 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.

School is closed for the Easter Holidays from Friday 30 March 2018

Children return to school on Monday 16 April 2018

Year 4 Passion / Stations of the Cross

On Wednesday morning, the Year 4 children presented a very moving drama about the last days of Christ.

The children took us through the events of Holy Week using the Stations of the Cross as a focus.

We were very pleased to see so many family members in attendance so we could reflect together on this very important event.



Year 6 News

SATs

The children have been working really hard to ensure they are fully prepared for their assessments in May. Please support your children with their learning over Easter but do make sure you enjoy plenty of family fun times too!

E-SAFETY

At a recent meeting, the School Council felt that pupils needed to be aware of the dangers associated with the internet. This includes using social media accounts safely and protecting yourself and others from cyberbullying. The recent Year 6 assembly on these themes allowed pupils to discuss different scenarios and to reflect on what actions they would take in particular situations.

E-Safety is an issue for all age groups so please follow the lead of Year 6 by ensuring children are safe online and that they know who to tell if they see anything that worries them.

CCS Badges

During the Lenten season, the Catholic Children's Society (CCS) delivered a presentation on almsgiving. This provided an opportunity to reflect on what we can do to help others and how to give back to our local community.

As part of this project, a child has been selected weekly from each year group as an excellent example of modelling our Catholic values. The children are chosen by their teachers for acts of kindness towards their peers, supporting others and modelling exemplary behaviour. The children who are recognised in this way receive a special CCS badge!

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.

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

Lent to Easter - Year B

Linking School, Parish and Home



Religious Education

Key Idea: Lent to Easter

This topic is intended for the Spring Term and as the conclusion to the previous resource. Having been presented with the story of the Exodus and within it, the Passover, pupils are now taught how it acts as foundation for our own Eucharist. As this is the Year of Mark, pupils will focus on Mark's account of the Last Supper of Jesus.

This resources also teaches the Examen, the Jesuit prayer form, as part of preparation during Lent.

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 sacred presence of God in life • An appreciation of/for Jewish ancestry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An openness to learning from other faiths • A willingness to pray |
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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.

- Make mealtimes a time of celebration and ritual. Be more conscious of sitting at the table, of saying grace and of talking together about your shared, family story.
- Ask your children to talk to you about the class Drawer of Life!

An idea for prayer at home



Prayer Activity

Pray at bedtime with your children:

God of our day. Thank you for all those who have brought us your love, kindness and care. May tomorrow be filled with a sense of your presence and may we be for others the God you are for us!
Amen.