



# Newsletter

14 December 2018

## Catholic Life of the School

As we continue to reflect during this period of Advent, Sunday's Gospel reading provides more information about John the Baptist's ministry.

John prepares the crowds with instructions about how to conduct themselves; they must put people first by showing compassion and mercy.

John the Baptist also reminds the people that He is not the Christ. He says that he is preparing the way as someone more powerful is coming.

Advent is a good time for particular focus on asking God to forgive our sins through His grace and mercy. Remember to pray for help in becoming more compassionate towards others.

In life we all make many mistakes. Don't be afraid to ask God for forgiveness.

Pope Francis



## CAFOD 'World Gifts'

The School Council has decided that St Joseph's will fundraise for the CAFOD World Gifts project this Christmas.

Each class will decide on how they can raise funds to buy some World Gifts. Please look out for this information so you can support the children with their efforts.

If you would also like to support CAFOD directly, please visit their website: [www.cafod.org.uk/worldgifts](http://www.cafod.org.uk/worldgifts)

You will have the option to make purchases that will make a difference to communities across the world.



## Safeguarding

If you have any concerns for the safety and well-being of any child, please make an appointment to see Mrs Studd who is our Designated Safeguarding Lead.

In an emergency, please call the police without delay. To contact Brent Social Services, please call 020 8937 4300.

We can also help parents through Brent's Early Help Assessment process. If you are having difficulties with housing, finances or health, please speak with Mrs Studd who can signpost you to appropriate support and services.

[Click here](#) for information from the NSPCC on Positive Parenting

[Click here](#) for Brent Citizens Advice

## Useful Contacts:

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

Brent Social Services:  
020 8937 4300

St Joseph's Roman Catholic  
Primary School

Telephone: 020 8965 5651

Email: [admin@stjo.brent.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stjo.brent.sch.uk)

[www.stjosephsrc.co.uk](http://www.stjosephsrc.co.uk)

## Community Dates

18 Dec International  
Migrants Day

20 Dec International  
Human Solidarity  
Day

## *Stained Glass Window*

*We are delighted to inform parents that the stained glass window has now been completely installed.*

*The scene is based on the 'Presentation of Jesus at the Temple' as described in the Gospel of Luke, v21-40.*

*The artwork represents the Holy Family and provides a focus for our own thoughts on being adopted into God's family.*



*The design is absolutely breath-taking and reflects the Catholic nature of our school with Christ at the centre.*

*We are very grateful to everyone who made a contribution to this legacy project which will inspire many generations of learners.*

*The artwork and the installation was managed by Petri from Chapel Studio. We are very thankful for their support and hard work in making our vision a beautiful reality.*

## *KS1 Nativity*

*Year 1 and Year 2 children have been learning about Advent and Christmas over recent weeks in our Religious Education lessons. Children have learnt about the Advent wreath and why it is important, as well as other ways that we prepare for Christmas.*

*The children have listened to the stories of the Annunciation, the Visitation and of Jesus' birth according to Luke's Gospel. To reflect this, we have also been preparing a Nativity production that children performed in Our Lady of Willesden Church on Wednesday.*

*The children have really enjoyed acting the scenes of Christmas and learning songs about the events surrounding Jesus' birth.*



## *Christmas Dates*

*Please note the dates of the children's Christmas celebrations:*

*19 Dec: KS2 parents to attend 10.00am Mass at Our Lady of Willesden  
Woolly Jumper Day and Children's Christmas Lunch*



*Children finish school at 1.00pm on Friday 21 December  
Children return to school on Tuesday 8 January*

## *Best State Catholic Primary School*

*The great achievement of St. Joseph's being recognised as best Catholic primary school in the country (and the second best school overall!) has been widely reported in local and national media.*

*We do hope that you have had the opportunity to share this wonderful news with your friends and families.*

*Please click on the links below to read some of the reports:*



Diocese of Westminster

## *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:*

*Sophia 2H, Elisha 2S, Ireoluwa 3C, Angelena 3G, Lillian 3W, Nahom 4G, Caroline 4H, Stella 4M, Holly 5H, Micaela 5M, Simona 6L and Kristina 6M*

## *Student of the Week Award*

*Samuel 2H For working hard in lessons and displaying beautiful manners*  
*Richelia 3C For always setting a positive example*  
*Shadrach 6L For super behaviour and high quality work*

## *News From Former Pupil*

*It was wonderful to receive the email below from former pupil Daniel Curran:*

*I've just visited your website and memories of my time at St Joe's (1952-59) came flooding back.*

*Congratulations on the outstanding result in the National league tables. It's reassuring to see the school maintains it's reputation for excellence. It was a wonderful place 60 plus years ago and obviously still is.*

*My brothers Jim (now 76), Mick (74) and John (RIP) plus Mick's twin Mary also went to St Joe's.*

*After many years as a technical author, I've now retired and am living with my wife (and two labradors) in North Norfolk. Sadly some in the picture are no longer with us but they and St Joe's are often in my thoughts. Again, well done and God bless.*

*Please [click here](#) to see a beautiful photo that Daniel sent us of the St Joseph's 1955 Holy Communion Class. You will also enjoy the memories of others who have previously been in touch.*

**THE HEADMISTRESS, MRS TITUS, INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR  
THE TOP PERFORMING STATE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL IN ENGLAND**

**RECEPTION CLASS 2019-20**

Applications are invited for admission to Reception Class in St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School, Goodson Road, London, NW10 9LS for children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015. **Please contact the school for an application pack.**

Please be aware that in addition to the supplementary application form for the school you must also apply online at [www.eadmissions.org.uk](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk) This can also be accessed via the Brent School Admissions webpage.

**The closing date for both forms is 15 January 2019.**

**NURSERY CLASS 2019-20**

Applications are also invited for our Nursery Class for children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016.

**The closing date is 15 January 2019.**

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School  
plays a vital role in developing educational  
excellence within the Diocese of Westminster



*Attendance*

*The classes with the best attendance so far this year are:  
2H, 3W, 4G and 6M*

*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) before 9.00am on every day of  
absence.*

*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 / email 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  
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.*

*If we have any concerns about a child's absence, we  
may carry out a home visit. We may also contact Brent  
Education Welfare and Social Services.*

*Please remember term time leave for family holiday  
and celebrations are not permitted in line with our  
Attendance Policy. Unauthorised absences are referred  
to Brent Education Welfare who have the authority to  
issue Education Penalty Notices of £120 per child, per  
parent. This reduces by 50% if paid within 21 days.*

*Luxury Christmas  
Hamper*

*We have been selling  
tickets for the fabulous  
Christmas Hamper.*

*Tickets have been  
sent home with the  
children so if you wish  
to be in with a chance  
of winning the  
hamper, please return  
the tickets to school  
with £3 per strip.*

*The raffle draw will  
take place on Thursday  
20 December.*



## *Best School in Brent!*

*The DfE Performance Data for 2018 KS2 SATs has confirmed St Joseph's as the best school in Brent!*

*We are of course delighted for the Year 6 2017-18 cohort who have now moved on to their secondary education. As one local secondary teacher told us,*

*"I can always tell which children have come from St Joseph's, such high expectations and a desire to learn more."*

*This is a wonderful compliment about the children's continuing determination to achieve their best throughout their educational journey.*

*Below is an extract from the Evening Standard's presentation of the Brent results as published on their website 14 December 2018.\**

### **BRENT**

School	% Reading	% Writing	% Maths	% all 3
St Joseph's RC	97	100	97	95
Wykeham	98	91	98	89
Ark Academy	89	91	93	87
Our Lady of Grace RC Jr	87	93	95	87
Princess Frederica CofE	95	87	89	84
St Joseph RC Jr	94	88	97	84
St Margaret Clitherow RC	96	82	93	82
Oakington Manor	87	82	90	81
NW London Jewish Day	95	80	93	80
Northview Jr and Infant	83	86	83	79
Sinai Jewish	83	87	83	76
Byron Court	82	81	86	75
Malorees Jr	76	86	90	74
Oliver Goldsmith	77	80	89	74
Roe Green Jr	81	81	86	74
Chalkhill	81	75	88	73
Islamia	83	78	88	73
St Robert Southwell RC	80	82	88	73
Ark Franklin Academy	75	80	80	71

*\* <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/education/primary-school-league-tables-2018-find-out-how-your-state-school-compares-to-the-others-in-london-a4017441.html>*

**School Health Questionnaire**

Our colleagues from Brent's School Nursing Team are asking parents of Reception children to complete an online questionnaire.

Please [click here](#) to access the questionnaire.

Your response will help Brent School Nursing to prioritise their services.

**Christmas Cards**

Post boxes have been placed by the Nursery classrooms and by the main school office.

Children should ensure they write clearly on the envelope using their usual cursive script writing.

Remember to write on the envelope the name of each child and their class.

**Parent Communication**

Parents are reminded that it is very helpful for school to be kept informed of any factors that may impact on your child's learning or well-being.

This is to ensure that we are all doing everything we can to support your child and family. Please make an appointment to see our Education Support Manager, Mrs Studd, to discuss any matters that school should be aware of so we can make informed decisions together.

**Celebrations**

We are very happy to share news about the children's achievements outside of school.

Please email details and photos to:

[info@stjo.brent.sch.uk](mailto:info@stjo.brent.sch.uk)

# From Advent to Christmas

## - Year C

Linking School, Parish and Home



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**Religious Education**

This framework of learning is intended as the second in the Academic year 2018/19. As the resource which teaches both Advent and Christmas it begins the Liturgical cycle of Year C - the Year of Luke. As the name suggests the content of this resource is the season of Advent and the birth of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of Luke. It builds on the learning of the previous resource by further developing knowledge of God, in particular knowledge of the second person of the Trinity, Jesus the Christ.

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**Attitudes and Spiritual Dispositions**

<p><b>Spiritual Outcomes:</b> It is hoped that pupils will develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A sense of wonder about the coming of God into the world</li> <li>• A disposition of prayer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An openness to the mystery of God, incarnate</li> <li>• An appreciation of the gift of Christmas</li> </ul>
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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. This resource teaches the practices of Advent and Christmas. Your children will be asked to think about their own birth and how you prepare for the birth of Jesus. Talk to them about what you do: do your rituals and customs reflect your cultural background?

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**An idea for prayer at home**

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**Prayer Activity**

Prayer throughout Advent. Make an Advent wreath and pray for the coming of God in Jesus.  
 God of hope, who brought love into this world, be the love that dwells between us.  
 God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us.  
 God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us.  
 God of hope, the rock we stand upon, be the centre, the focus of our lives always and particularly this Advent time.

