



Newsletter

21 December 2018

Christmas Message

At this time of year, there seems to be so much to celebrate, so much to remember, and some things that are difficult to think about.

As followers of Christ, we have much to celebrate in this season. What greater news is there than knowing that God sent his son to save us?

But following Christ is not just about the celebration that we remember through giving gifts and enjoying family meals. Jesus himself lived among the poor and had particular concern for the most vulnerable people in society.

Despite living in one of the richest nations in the world, the number of families in this country experiencing financial problems and housing issues causes deep concern.

As we quite rightly spend time with families and friends this Christmas, let's remember to keep in mind those who are struggling with money, housing or ill-health.

Let's also remember to pray for those who are 'poorer' because they do not know the 'reason for the season'.

During Advent, we have thought about Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Perhaps the best present we can give this year is to pray for others to know about Christ as the greatest gift ever given.

God Bless,

Mrs Titus

Jesus knows well the pain of not being welcomed.

May our hearts not be closed as were the houses in Bethlehem.

Pope Francis

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

www.stjosephsrc.co.uk

Community Dates

25 Dec Christmas Day

26 Dec St Stephen's Day

28 Dec Holy Innocents

30 Dec Holy Family

Stained Glass Window

We have received so many wonderful compliments about the beautiful stained glass window on the middle floor of the school building.



Fr Stephen and Fr Vincent were checking the work in progress and are as delighted with the final piece as we all are.

This week, we have taken some great photographs of the feature with parents, children and members of the School Council.



We do hope that you take the opportunity to view the window from the inside when you visit the school for meetings or assemblies.

100% Attendance

Congratulations to Benjamin (5H) and Lesley (6L) for being drawn from all the 100% attendance pupils this term.

Benjamin and Lesley each won a fantastic new Kindle!



Christmas Mass

Children from Year 3 to Year 6 attended a very special school Christmas Mass on Wednesday morning.

Fr Stephen celebrated the Mass and the children contributed beautifully through readings and songs.

We are very thankful to all the parents and family members that were able to join us for this special occasion.



Fr Stephen reminded us that Our Lady of Willesden is the only local parish holding a Family Mass on Christmas Eve so please ensure you attend that service at 6.00pm with your children. Other Mass times are:

Christmas Eve: Family Vigil Mass at 6.00pm, Missa Brasileiro at 7.30pm, Readings & Carols at 11.30pm followed by Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day: Mass at 9.00am, Tridentine Latin Mass at 10.00am in the Shrine Chapel and Solemn Mass at 11.15am

St Stephen's/Boxing Day: Sung Mass at 10.00am

Children return to school on Tuesday 8 January

Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday, the children enjoyed a fantastic Christmas lunch while wearing their beautiful Christmas jumpers!

We are very thankful to all the kitchen staff and lunch time staff for making the Christmas lunch a memorable and enjoyable experience for the children. We also say a special 'thank you' to the wonderful children helpers.



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:

Miles 2H, Helen 2S, Aiyana 3C, Amadeusz 3G, Mateusz 3W, Jade 4G, Enoch 4H, Norbert 4M, Nathan 5H, Alex 5M, Arissa 6L and Hannah 6M

Student of the Week Award

Tersharn 3W For fantastic effort with handwriting and quality of work
Lashana 4H For displaying a positive attitude towards learning
Michelle 5H For confidently sharing her learning ideas with others

Year 5 French Trip

On Thursday 13 December, Year 5 children enjoyed a visit to the French Institute in South Kensington and immersed themselves in French culture for a full day with linguistic and cultural activities.

The children entered the magical world of Christmas while discovering the key moments of a French Christmas celebration. The children also had a chance to practice their French vocabulary on the topic of Christmas in France through various games and activities.

The children also had the opportunity to watch a famous and much celebrated French cartoon called Ernest & Celestine en hiver (or Ernest & Celestine in Winter).



**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 1st September 2014 and 31st 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 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 1st September 2015 and 31st 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 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.*

Raffle Draw

*The raffle tickets were
drawn at Mass on
Wednesday.*

*The winners are the
parents of the
following children:*

*£100:
Maria (2H)*

*Hamper:
Rhian (RG)*

*Vodka & Sweets:
Giulia (NM)*

*Baileys & Sweets:
Keon (RG)*

*Prosecco & Sweets:
Scott (4H)*

*Wine & Sweets:
Scott (4H)*

*Teddy Bear & Sweets:
Kristina (6M)*



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.

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.

PE Kit

Children will be bringing home their PE kits this week. This is a good opportunity to check that everything, particularly the plimsolls, are still a good fit.

As the weather will still be mainly wet and cold, please that they bring their school PE tracksuit to school when they return on Tuesday 8 January.

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

From Advent to Christmas - Year C

Linking School, Parish and Home



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.

Attitudes and Spiritual Dispositions

Spiritual Outcomes:

It is hoped that pupils will develop:

- A sense of wonder about the coming of God into the world
- A disposition of prayer

- An openness to the mystery of God, incarnate
- An appreciation of the gift of Christmas

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?

An idea for prayer at home

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.