



Newsletter

30 November 2018

Catholic Life of the School

This Sunday we will begin to celebrate the season of Advent with a focus on 'hope'.

During Lent, we often give up something or take on something positive. Advent is another opportunity to be spiritually refreshed and make fresh starts where needed.

In the Gospel reading from Luke, Jesus explains to his disciples the signs of his return to earth. We are told to 'watch and pray'.

Our hope in Jesus gives us strength; the same hope and strength that sustained our community in the three years period after the school fire.

In your family prayer time this week, you may wish to reflect on the hope we have in Jesus.



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

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**.

Useful Contacts:

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

Brent Social Services:
020 8937 4300

Community Dates

30 Nov St Andrew's Day

03 Dec Hanukkah
(Judaism)

06 Dec St Nicholas' Day

08 Dec Feast of the
Immaculate
Conception

St Joseph's Roman Catholic
Primary School

Telephone: 020 8965 5651

Email: admin@stjo.brent.sch.uk

www.stjosephsrc.co.uk

**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



Christmas Breakfast

Parents are invited to join us for a special breakfast on Friday 7 December from 8.45am.

You will be treated to a full English breakfast! We will also enjoy children singing carols and seasonal songs to get us into the Christmas Spirit!

We are asking parents to purchase a ticket at a price of £6.50 each. Proceeds will be put towards the Stained Glass Window Appeal.

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

Attendance

The classes with the best attendance so far this year are: 1F, 2H, 3W, 4G, 4M, 5M 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.

Music at St Joseph's

Music is a very important part of our daily life at St Joseph's. It is taught in every year group from the Early Years to Year 6.

Having a dedicated music teacher, Mr McCourt, the children at our school have the opportunity to sing, play instruments and perform regularly with an emphasis on mastery.

*Mr McCourt is also an alumni of the prestigious Guildhall School of Music and Drama and teaches at the **Centre for Young Musicians - A division of the Guildhall School.***

We maintain excellent links with the institution and our children have access to join the Saturday School and see senior projects such as the London Schools Symphony Orchestra performing at The Barbican. The next concert is being held on 7 January 2019.

In Year 1, all children learn the Zoltan Kodaly techniques for singing, memorising and performing an instrument. The musical elements of Melody, Pitch, Timbre, Tempo, Dynamics, Structure, Melody and Harmony are taught in the context of listening to and appraising the best in the musical canon. In the Spring term, children are introduced to the glockenspiel and learn how to play melodies and ensemble pieces.

In Year 2, every child learns to play the recorder, using a popular graded method book as a scheme of work. Building on what they learned in Year 1, Year 2 children continue to expand their knowledge of the musical elements and repertoire through playing instruments and performing.

In Year 3, all children learn to play the ukulele for a whole year which serves as an excellent starting point to go on to learn other stringed instruments, as well as learning self-accompanying techniques and combining singing and playing together in small groups and large ensembles.

In Year 4, all children learn percussion instruments such as the African Djembe and the Djun Djun drum as well as basic drum kit patterns. By exploring the history of African music and rhythmic patterns in this way, children learn how pop and rock music is built up and how it can be used in song-writing and composition.

In Year 5, all children learn to play the guitar. Building on what they have learned in Year 3 on the ukulele and in Year 4 on African Percussion, children start at a beginner level and quickly progress to Initial/Preparatory Grade. The Year 5 guitarists learn a range of techniques and styles of music and have the opportunity to perform regularly in concerts and assemblies.

In Year 6, children learn traditional Brazilian Samba Band instruments such as Surdos, Repenique, Caixa, Ganza, Agogo Bells, Reko-reko and Tambourims. By Year 6, all children can play a number of musical instruments learned in previous years and the Samba Band is a fantastic opportunity to draw upon these skills and add guitars, bass guitars, ukuleles and keyboards to enhance the ensemble. The Samba Band often has the opportunity to

perform at concerts, assemblies and the Notting Hill Carnival.

Throughout the school, music theory, notation, history and the music of the great composers is taught and embedded into lesson plans so that children receive a wide and varied musical experience listening to and studying the very best in the musical canon.

Guitar and Keyboard are also taught in small tuition groups for Years 4, 5 and 6. This year, we hope to expand this provision to orchestral instruments such as strings, brass and woodwind. We also have visiting peripatetic teachers coming in from Brent Music Service to teach flute and clarinet.



Our most exciting project at the moment is a partnership with Eastside Educational Trust delivering a 17-week programme called Disney Musicals in Schools. At the end of the programme, the children will put on their very own version of Disney's The Lion King.

Our Year 3 teacher Miss Green has worked very hard to win the initiative for the school - one of only five schools in the UK!

Look out for tickets for the performance in March 2019!

Christmas Dates

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

4 Dec: EYFS Nativity in school hall at 9.30am for Nursery parents

6 Dec: EYFS Nativity in school hall at 9.30am for Reception parents

12 Dec: KS1 parents to attend 10.00am Nativity at Our Lady of Willesden

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



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.

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.

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.

Christmas Cards

Post boxes will be placed by the Nursery classrooms and by the main school office next week.

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.

Luxury Christmas Hamper

We are putting the final touches to a fabulous Luxury Christmas Hamper which will be raffled at the end of term.

Tickets will be on sale next week at a cost of £3 per strip.