



St Joseph's News

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School
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Newsletter 11

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*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13*

Advent

During this Advent season, the children at St Joseph's will be developing their prayer life with **Lectio Divina** which encourages us to use scripture readings to help us to focus. We LISTEN to the Word of God, we MEDITATE on this, we SPEAK to God from our heart and then we CONTEMPLATE our response.

Please talk to your children about how helpful this has been in their prayer life. You may wish to look at some scripture together as a family. Alternatively, you may enjoy the Advent resources produced by **CAFOD** which encourages thoughts and prayers for others who need our love and support.



Children from Years 3 to 6 will be attending 10.00am mass at Our Lady Of Willesden on Wednesday 17 December. Family members are welcome to join us for this annual St Joseph's Christmas Mass.

Charitable Fundraising

In addition to the CAFOD Appeal, we are also asking for your donations to support Acton Homeless Concern and the Salvation Army.

Acton Homeless Concern are based locally at Emmaus House and they feed over 1,000 people from our community every week. Please donate toiletries and non-perishable foods to support this charity during the festive period. Items should be brought to the main school office.

The Salvation Army are asking for donations of new and unused items that can be given to children as Christmas presents. If you can help with this appeal, bring your gifts (unwrapped) to the main school office.

Just a few small donations from every St Joseph's family will make a significant difference to many people so please check the list of suggested items on the **Letters** page of the school website and help in any way you can.

CAFOD Appeal

From 24 November to 17 December, children are encouraged to raise money for CAFOD by undertaking small chores under parental supervision. Alternatively, you may choose to 'reward' your child for acts of kindness or exceptional behaviour.

We suggest that children receive 20p per task with the aim of them 'earning' around £1 a week. Children should then bring in the money **every Thursday** so every class can see the collective donation growing every week.

Attendance

Classes 3F and 6R achieved 100% attendance this week.

The gates close at 8.55am so all children must be in school by this time. Late arrivals cause disruption for the school and it is also embarrassing for the child. Please note that weather conditions are not considered to be an acceptable excuse for lateness.

While we enjoy celebrating excellent attendance, we must remember the long term benefits of your child being in school every day - they will access all aspects of the curriculum and reach their full potential. Please arrange routine appointments out of school hours and remember that holidays are banned.

Parents who choose to take their child out of school during term time will each be issued with a £120 Education Penalty Notice Fine per child (reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days of issue date)

Bling Up Your Christmas Bike!

It is time to bling up our bicycles and scooters again! The date of the next event is:

Wednesday 17 December

This time, we are inviting children to use the theme of Christmas so you may wish to use materials such as tinsel, glitter and gift wrapping paper. Please ensure that the bikes and scooters are still safe to use.

Reception Nativity Performances

This week, the children from Classes RG, RO and RS presented their Nativity performances for their families to enjoy.

This was a wonderful way to start our preparations to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. The Nativity performances served as a reminder that Christmas starts with 'Christ'!

We have published photographs of the children on the [school website](#) and you can see a sample of these below.



Merit And Student Of The Week Certificates

In our Monday morning assembly, the following children received **Merit Certificates** in recognition of their effort last week:

Julia 2M, Avin 2O, Donnell 3C, Lara 3A, Xavier 3F, David 4D, Natalia 4O, Rafaela 5M, Nas 5O, Daisy 5Q, Jericka 6R, Jaime 6M and Millena 6K

Student Of The Week Certificates were issued to:

Leonardo 3F for a massive improvement in concentration and for higher standards of work

Lukas 4D for fantastic presentation and work rate

Alezandra 6R for beautiful handwriting in all her work

Message From Father Stephen

As is usual practice at Our Lady of Willesden, parents should see Father Stephen after the 11.00am mass on Sundays to make appointments for the 2015 Reception Class application interviews.

Please check the weekly parish newsletter for further information and updates.

During this colder weather, please ensure that your child is wearing their school coat every day and brings their school hat and scarf. Please also provide your child with plain navy or black gloves. All uniform items should be clearly labelled so they can be returned to their owner promptly if lost and found.