



# St Joseph's News

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Newsletter 20

Friday 14 February 2014

*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:34-35*

## School Procedures and Protocols

As we look forward to the half-term break, parents are reminded of some school rules and protocols to avoid any issues being raised when we return to school. Please support us so we can focus all our resources on teaching and learning matters.

- The school does not permit children to have haircuts that could serve as a distraction to other children. Pupils should not wear extreme hair fashions, these include dyed or streaked hair, close shaved hair and styles such as spikes, tufts, high tops, flat tops, Mohican haircuts and images or lines cut into the hair or eyebrows. Girls and boys who have shoulder length or long hair must have it tied back.
- All term-time leave (holidays, family celebrations etc) are banned so please ensure your child attends every school day. Education Penalty Notices (£60 per parent) will be issued for unauthorised absences. If your child cannot attend school owing to personal illness, please call before 9.00am on every day of absence and provide a written explanation when your child returns to school. Reason For Absence forms are available from the office or via the school website.
- Parents are expected to behave in a dignified and respectful manner at all times. You will be challenged if your behaviour or language is not in line with the Catholic ethos of the school. Action will be taken to protect children, parents and staff from exposure to offensive, impertinent and provocative behaviours.

## Unicef - Day For Change

Thank you to all our children, parents and families for supporting the Unicef campaign. Together we have raised £1,258 which we will be sending immediately to Unicef so it gets to those who need it as soon as possible. Your generosity will make a difference to a number of lives, so once again, THANK YOU!

## We Are Taking Part In The Big Pedal 2014!

The Big Pedal is a giant inter-school cycling competition happening in schools all across the UK from 03 to 14 March 2014. It's powered by UK charity Sustrans ([www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)) and funded by the Bike Hub ([www.bikehub.co.uk](http://www.bikehub.co.uk)). It's totally FREE to enter and we would love parents, pupils and staff to all get involved!

The Big Pedal works a bit like the Tour de France. Each day is a new stage taking pupils who cycle or scoot their usual journey to and from school on an imaginary route all around the UK. Schools record how many pupils, parents and staff cycle and scoot to school each day and the more that do, the faster their time will be for that stage. The winning school is the school that completes the whole race in the fastest overall time.

**Let's all get involved:** The more of us that take part, the better we will do in the competition and the higher our chances of winning some brilliant prizes, not to mention the health benefits for everyone. Another bonus will be less congestion around the school gates during rush hour!

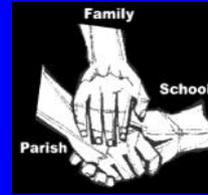
**What to do:** The best thing you can do is encourage your child(ren) to cycle or scoot to school every day during the race, and to join them in doing so.

**Why we are taking part:** We think it's a fantastic way to promote healthy travel in our school and to get more pupils riding their bikes. What's more it's a fun, sociable way to start the day and we'll be competing to become one of the UK's top cycling schools!

The best school in Brent could win places at BMX workshops and the top class at St Joseph's will get a free local bicycle ride. Please support each other in this competition so we can demonstrate our commitment to sustainable travel for the whole school community.

# From Lent to Easter

*Linking School, Parish and Home*



## Religious Education

### Key Idea: People of Prayer

This unit is intended as the second for the Spring Term in the academic year 2013/2014. The season of Easter celebrates the most basic belief of our Christian faith: the resurrection of Jesus. Although Easter Sunday is not taught in this framework, the season and events that lead to it are presented to pupils.

### Unit Content

This framework explores the **Season of Lent** and the events of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Good Friday, as we find them in both Scripture and the liturgy of the Church. Scripture passages are all taken from the Gospel of Matthew.

### Attitudes and Spiritual Dispositions

It is hoped that this framework helps pupils develop:

- An openness to the story of the Passion of Jesus
- An appreciation of the liturgy (especially of the major actions of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday and Good Friday) in deepening a relationship with God
- Reflectiveness in prayer

### 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 higher if you and the school are engaged in talking about the same ideas and beliefs. Help your child by trying one or more of these activities while this unit is being taught:

- Lent begins on March 5. Talk with your children about the ways in which your family lives the Lenten practises of giving alms (giving to charity especially), prayer and fasting.
- Give alms: collect for a charity – food, clothing or money.
- Pray: In the last framework pupils learned the Our Father. Pray prayers of thanks recognising that we have what we need: food, safety, people who love us.
- Fast: Make an area of 'fasting' your goal: 'fast' on criticism, intolerance, greed and gossip this Lent. Remember the Bishops requirement for fasting and abstinence for those between 18 and 60

### An idea for prayer at home



#### Prayer Activity

See above

### Attendance

Classes 3A, 3F, 4O and 5R all achieved 100% attendance this week.

Classes RG, 3A, 3F, 4O, 5D and 5R received NO late marks this week.

As Year 3 to Year 6 children may arrive from 8.30am and Year 1 to Year 2 can arrive from 8.45am, there is no excuse for regular lateness. Please respect your children's right to learn by getting them to school on time.

**Parents who choose to take their child out of school during term time will be issued with a £60 Education Penalty Notice Fine**