



St Joseph's News

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School
Goodson Road, Willesden, London, NW10 9LS
Tel: 020 8965 5651 E-mail: admin@stjo.brent.sch.uk
www.stjosephsrc.co.uk

Newsletter 21

Friday 20 March 2015

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' **John 8:12**

Year 6 Marathon

On Sunday 15 March, eleven of our Year 6 pupils took part in the North London Half Marathon.

The race started in the Allianz stadium and headed towards Wembley Stadium before finishing back inside the Allianz stadium.

Over 6,000 runners competed and schools from all areas of London participated. The Year 6 pupils had a great day, especially with meeting Mo Farah! Hopefully this is the start of their running careers and many more marathons await them in the future.



Lent Collection Boxes

Thank you to all the families who have supported the Lenten charitable appeal by encouraging their children to raise money for the Catholic Children's Society through sacrificial giving and donations.

Please return the boxes early next week so we can arrange for the funds to be sent to the charity before the Easter Holidays to help the most vulnerable children and families.

Full Time Nursery Places

In September 2015, we will have 60 full time places at St Joseph's Nursery. Please pass this information to your friends and family who are seeking full time places for their 3 year old children from September. If you have already made an application for a part time place, we will be offering your child a full time place if you meet all the usual admissions criteria.

Attendance

This week Classes 4D and 6K achieved 100% attendance.

CHILDREN MUST BE IN SCHOOL BY 8.55am. Year 1 and Year 2 children can arrive from 8.40am and children in Years 3 to 6 can arrive from 8.30am so there is no excuse for persistent lateness. Please support your child's educational progress by ensuring they arrive in plenty of time.

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)

Solar Eclipse

On Friday 20 March 2015, the children from Years 3 to 6 gathered in the playground at around 9.30am to experience the unusual event of a solar eclipse.

While it was unfortunate that a complete eclipse could not be seen owing to the cloud coverage, this was a unique experience for the children and reinforced their recent learning on this topic.

The children were very sensible in wearing their special glasses as the sun was still very strong at this time and we could also feel the moment of the eclipse as the temperature dropped considerably.

In Year 5, the children have been discovering superstitions about the sun and solar eclipses as part of their current learning on the theme of 'Myths & Legends'. The classes have looked at the importance of the sun in ancient and modern history including the ancient Greeks, Inuit people, Oriental cultures and African tribes.

Did you know ...

- * In Vietnam, people believed that a giant frog was eating the sun during a solar eclipse
- * In Hindu mythology, it was believed a solar eclipse was caused by the head of the demon Rahu flying across the sky to eat the sun
- * Korean folklore tells of the sun being eaten by mythical dogs
- * Ancient Greeks believed a solar eclipse was a sign that their gods were angry
- * In Italy, some people believe that flowers planted during a solar eclipse will be brighter and more colourful
- * The Batamaliba people of Togo and Benin believed that the sun and moon were fighting during an eclipse

Today, we are more aware of the scientific reasons for the solar eclipse which adds to our understanding about God's creation. In our Catholic faith, we believe God's Word as recorded in the Bible and this starts with the book of Genesis:

*And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. **Genesis 1:14-18***

So we can be confident that God created the sun and moon as part of his perfect plan to make a wonderful earth for us to dwell in. The sun is vital to sustain human life and also to help plants grow all around the world so we can enjoy the beauty of God's creation and have food to eat.

