



St Joseph's News

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School
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Executive Headmistress: Mrs D Titus

Newsletter 13

Thursday 21 December 2017

He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.
The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. **John 1:8-9**

Catholic Life of the School

On Sunday, the reading from John's Gospel offered an opportunity to reflect on John the Baptist's ministry to prepare the people for the coming Messiah.

At school over the last few weeks, we too have been busy with preparations for Christmas and taking opportunities to reflect on the birth of Christ as well as looking forward to His return.

The themes we explore deeper during Advent are hope, peace, joy and love but these are themes that should always be present in our lives and in our relationships with each other.

At times, we can all struggle with being able to always maintain a positive approach, and this is when we can turn to Jesus in prayer and ask for his help in all situations.

This Nativity Prayer by St Augustine can help us to give thanks for God's greatest gift; the Christ-child who became the Saviour of the world:

- Let the just rejoice, for their justifier is born.*
- Let the sick and infirm rejoice, for their saviour is born.*
- Let the captives rejoice, for their Redeemer is born.*
- Let slaves rejoice, for their Master is born.*
- Let free men rejoice, for their Liberator is born.*
- Let All Christians rejoice, For Jesus Christ is born. Amen.*



A very happy Christmas to all our families from Mrs Titus and all the staff

Attendance

In week beginning 11 December 2017, Classes 2F, 3G and 6D had the best attendance.

The 100% Termly Attendance prize draw will now take place during week beginning 8 January 2018. Currently, over 200 children are in contention! We will draw the name of one girl and one boy to each receive a very special prize at the end of term assembly.

All children may arrive from 8.30am at their designated gates. Please take full advantage of this early arrival as it not only helps your child to prepare for their learning day but also eases congestion.

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

Please remember that if your child is absent from school, and we have not already been informed in advance, parents must telephone the school by 9.00am on every day of absence. This is a very important safeguarding measure to ensure we know the whereabouts of every child.

If a child's whereabouts are unknown or unclear, the school will contact Brent's Children Missing In Education team so they can carry out an investigation.

**Last day of school is Thursday 21 December 2017
Children return to school on Tuesday 9 January 2018**

Christmas Mass

On Wednesday 20 December, the children enjoyed Christmas Mass at The Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden, wearing their lovely Christmas woolly jumpers.



Fundraising

There have been a number of fundraising events this term for the Stained Glass Window Appeal. The amounts raised recently are as follows:

Fright-tastic Friday	£ 434
Coffee Morning	£ 167
Christams Fair & Raffle	£ 4,265
Nativity	£ 508

The current total raised so far for the Stained Glass Window Appeal is just over £15,000!!

This is a fantastic achievement which has been made possible by the whole school community. We will continue to fundraise for the Appeal next term so we can move into the restored school building with a legacy and symbol of the love that the whole community has for St Joseph's.

Football Team

This term, the football team has been training hard to ensure they perform to their best ability in various competitions.

In November, the boys team had an absolutely brilliant tournament considering it was their first time playing matches together. They also beat last years winning team in the last 16 knockout round.

St Joseph's had a good game in the quarter finals against Sinai School, but they lost 4-0 and left the competition at that stage. However, this really was a great achievement for their first major tournament of the season and Mr Tier was very pleased with the boys' hard work, commitment to 'fair play' and always showing a great team spirit.



Christmas Mass

Fr Stephen has confirmed the following Mass times at The Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden:

Christmas Eve: Family Vigil Mass at 5.30pm, Brazilian Mass at 7.30pm, Christmas Carols & Readings at 11.30pm leading into Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day: Said Mass at 9.00am, Traditional Latin Mass at 10.00am, Solemn Mass with Carols at 11.15am



Year 4 Visit to Roman Museum

On Thursday 7 December, Year 4 visited the Roman Verulamium Museum in St Albans.

The children explored some Roman ruins of a villa which included a mosaic tile floor and the hypocaust system. They then had a 'Market Day' activity where we dressed up as a Roman and explored the different foods, pottery, and clothes that the Romans would have worn. Finally, the children explored some Roman artefacts in the museum.

Please speak with your children about this wonderful and interactive learning experience.



Pantomime

Last week, children from Years 2, 4, 5 and 6 attended a fantastic pantomime performance of Alice in Wonderland at the Brahma Kumaris Centre in Pound Lane, Willesden.

*The stage was beautiful, bright and colourful. I was so fascinated; I couldn't take my eyes off the stage. **Stephanie 2S***

*The part I enjoyed most was when Alice was falling because it had a sense of trepidation of where she would land and the acting was really funny!! I also like the way in which the characters were dressed because they were not 'everyday' costumes but especially made for the pantomime. I had a really great time!! **Julia 5K***

*The pantomime was excellent because the actors were outstanding and quite realistic. **Yanni 2S***

*On 12 December we went on a trip to the Alice in Wonderland pantomime. My favourite part was when the queen went back in time with Alice to her most precious moment which was when she was crowned queen. My favourite characters were the Hare, the Hatter and the Dormouse. **Hezron 5K***

*The costumes were gorgeous and I really enjoyed this experience. **Nyah 2S***



Parents - please do not leave scooters or bicycles on the school premises. With the current restrictions, we are not able to accommodate this equipment safely or securely.

Keep On Running!

We have been contacted by **Phenomenal Fitness**, a local fitness company that deliver free fitness classes and gym sessions for the local community.

Their primary aims are to tackle social exclusion, promote health and well-being, and mental well-being. They are trying to promote this around our local community to show people the importance of exercise and to help people keep fit.

Phenomenal Fitness invites the parents of St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary school to join a new running club from Monday 15 January 2018. The club will meet every Monday and Wednesday, opposite the Goodson Road school gates, at 8.50am.

The 'school run' is for all levels of fitness starting with a 20 minute jog / walk to the local park where participants will then undertake some fun fitness activities.

The sessions are totally free of charge and you may attend as often as you wish. If you require any more information regarding the 'school runs', then please contact **Phenomenal Fitness** directly on 07951 499301.

Please note that the school has agreed to promote this service but it is in no way affiliated with the school. Any communication must be directed to the organisation.



Dates For Diary

Tuesday 19 December	Year 3 Nativity at 9.30am in school hall for parents Class 3G <i>(Ticket Only)</i>
Wednesday 20 December	KS2 Christmas Mass - 10.00am at Our Lady of Willesden Church Christmas Woolly Jumper Day (Collection for St Luke's Hospice) Christmas Lunch
Thursday 21 December	Year 3 Nativity at 9.30am in school hall for parents Classes 3K and 3M <i>(Ticket Only)</i> Class Christmas parties in afternoon LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
Tuesday 9 January	Children return to school

St Joseph's Mission Statement

At St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School we strive to create a stimulating environment so that by learning, playing and working together, we openly follow Christ's teachings. We seek to offer every person the opportunity to be a unique and valued individual, sharing and developing our belief in the teachings of Jesus through everyday relationships and mutual respect in our dealings with one another.

Our School Mission is as follows:

- We stand on holy ground
- We will always open our doors in welcome
- We will always love and care for each other as Jesus taught us
- We will always place the Word of God at the heart of our school
- We will always be witnesses to our faith by following in the footsteps of Christ

St Luke's Hospice

The school has been collecting funds for the St Luke's Hospice Appeal during December.

We are delighted to inform our families that the total amount raised was £390.59!

These funds will be very much appreciated and put to good and immediate use by the charity.

If you want to find out more about their wonderful work in our community, please visit their website:

<https://www.stlukes-hospice.org/>

Safeguarding

St Joseph's treats seriously its responsibility to ensure children are safe and well.

Where there is information causing a level of concern, the matter is discussed between the Executive Headmistress and Education Support Manager to determine if other agencies, such as Social Services, should be informed of the matter.

Where appropriate, parents are informed if the school decides to make a referral to Social Services. In line with their own procedures, Social Services may instruct the school that parents should not be informed in particular cases.

The school follows Social Services guidance with regards to referrals and information sharing to ensure our approach is child-centred.

The school frequently reviews processes to ensure we are doing all we can to minimise risk and keep children safe.

Please be reminded of the following expectations to support safeguarding at St Joseph's:

- When you bring your child to school in the morning and when you collect your child in the afternoon, please move off the premises promptly to ease congestion and to support the staff in dismissing the children to other parents.
- While term time leave is banned, we know there will be emergencies when children need to travel with their parents. In these situations, regardless of whether the leave will be authorised, please provide the school with a copy of the outgoing and return travel documents. This is a very important safeguarding measure.

Early Help

The school works with a number of agencies including health and Social Services to ensure that our children and families receive all the help they need at the earliest opportunity.

We therefore encourage parents to approach the school if they are unsure where to access help and support with any issues relating to family life. Please make an appointment to see Mrs Studd, Education Support Manager, to discuss any worries and we will help directly or signpost you to the most appropriate service.

Positive Parenting

The NSPCC has published a document to support parents with the challenges and demands of family life.

The document includes useful information and guidance about setting boundaries, rewards, sanctions and building relationships.

Please [click here](#) to view the NSPCC Positive Parenting document which is available to download from the Safeguarding page on the school website.



Online Safety

Schools, police, social services and other agencies are concerned at the ever-increasing volume of offences being committed against children through online devices.

Children are also being exposed to activities which are completely inappropriate for their age.

From class discussions, phase assemblies and e-safety learning, it seems that a significant number of children access the internet from their bedrooms without parental controls or monitoring.

Parents are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure their children are involved in age appropriate online activities and to keep their children safe when they are using mobile phones, tablets, laptops, games consoles etc.

Please visit St Joseph's [E-Safety webpage](#) for further information.

Brent Educational Psychology Service 'Drop-In'

Please see below a poster advertising a community psychology initiative led by Brent Educational Psychology Service.

The service is offering a limited number of **voluntary** drop-in sessions for parents at various educational venues throughout this academic year. The first drop-in session will be taking place at Fawood Children's Centre on 23 November, 9.00am to 12.00pm. Future dates and venues will be as follows:

23 January at Curzon Crescent
13 March at Malorees Junior School
15 May at Manor School
12 June at Kilburn Grange School
10 July – venue to be confirmed

Brent Educational Psychology Service

Parent Drop-In Sessions with an Educational Psychologist (EP)

Venue: Fawood Children's Centre, Fawood Avenue

Date: Thursday 23rd November 2017

Book a 45 minute session* between 9.00am and 12pm

*sessions must be booked in advance



The EP parent drop-in sessions are offered to any parent or carer who would like to have some time to discuss any concern with an educational psychologist (examples may include: your child's emotional well-being, challenging behaviours, learning progress, your relationship with your child or some of your own worries). The sessions aim to be supportive, confidential and informal. Each session is up to 45 minutes.

To book a session contact the Brent EPS on 0208 937 3200 or email : eps@brent.gov.uk

There are limited spaces and sessions are allocated on a first book first offered basis

From Advent to Christmas Year B

Linking School, Parish and Home



Religious Education

Key Idea: From Advent to Christmas

This topic is intended for the second in the academic year 2017/2018. As the days shorten and winter comes upon us we are invited to consider the light of Christ who came into the world at Christmas. As the Gospel of Mark has no story of the birth of Jesus, this topic looks at who Christians around the world celebrate the coming of God into the world.

Attitudes and Spiritual Dispositions

Spiritual Outcomes: It is hoped that pupils will develop:

- A sense of the importance of prayer
- A willingness to pray
- An attitude of respect for the many traditions of Christmas
- Appreciation for the gift of God at 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. Help your child by trying this activity while this topic is being taught:

- This topic focuses on how different cultural groups celebrate Christmas. Talk to your pupils about any particular practices you and your family might have, particularly if, and how, your culture might be evident in what you do. If you can, encourage your pupils to share your cultural customs with their peers at school.

An idea for prayer at home



Prayer Activity

Loving God, you created people full of dignity still more wonderfully restored our dignity when we failed. At this time of Advent help us remember Jesus who humbled himself to live like us, so that we might be able to share his divinity. We ask this through Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Adapted from the Opening Prayer of Christmas Day Liturgy.