



# St Joseph's News

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Newsletter 27

Friday 27 April 2012

*Take to heart these words which I command you today. Keep repeating them to your children. Recite them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 6:6-7*

## Message From The Headteacher

Welcome back to all our families after the wonderful Easter holiday. I hope that you all had a good break during this very holy and spiritual season.

The summer term is always very busy with SATs, school trips and preparations for the transition to the new classes and new schools. We are looking forward to enjoying our last term with Year 6 who are working very hard to prepare for their end of KS2 tests which will take place soon. We ask parents to continue to support us with helping the children reach their full potential by ensuring they complete all their homework.

Finally, I would like to encourage parents and guardians to consider joining the '**Friends Of St Joseph's**' parents and staff association. This is an ideal forum to proactively support your child's school so please contact Mrs Little through the school office if you would like to make a positive contribution to school life.

**God Bless,  
Mrs Titus**

## Attendance Issues / Late Arrival At School

Following the introduction of the updated punctuality procedures on 27 February 2012, we are delighted to announce that there has been a significant reduction in the number of children arriving late for school.

The vast majority of parents are supporting the school by ensuring their children arrive on time every day. Most parents are also adhering to the policy by contacting the school when they know their child will be late for school. This helps us to know the whereabouts of every child and to know when to expect their arrival.

Unfortunately, a small number of children still have persistent lateness and this is being reported to the Education Welfare Service so they can instigate appropriate legal proceedings.

Attendance and punctuality issues are very high on the Government's agenda. You may have heard about a recent report prepared by the Government Adviser, Mr Charlie Taylor, in which he makes a number of recommendations to support schools in managing poor attendance and lateness. The report made headline news as one of the recommendations is unpaid fines issued for poor attendance are recovered through child benefit. It is very interesting to note that St Joseph's attendance procedures and policies already reflect the general ethos of the report as we have always recognised that a day of missing school is a day of missed learning opportunities.

Should you have any problems with getting your children to school and/or ensuring they arrive on time, please make an appointment to see Mrs Studd our Education Support Manager.

## Reception Parents - Coffee Morning

All Reception class parents are invited to join us at school on Tuesday 1 May at 9.15am. We will be sharing information on how you can support your children with their reading and writing learning and development. Please wait in the junior playground before the event to avoid overcrowding in the main reception area.

## Attendance

During the week beginning 02 April, 310 children from Years 1 to 6 came to school every day. The best class attendance was awarded to Class RJ, Class 1G and Class 4D. Well done to Class 3A who had no late marks recorded during week beginning 02 April.

## School Dates

Please note the following dates for the summer term:

**Saturday School**  
**28 April and 12 May**

Year 4 and Year 6. NO Saturday school on 5 May owing to the bank holiday weekend.

**Polling Day**  
**Thursday 3 May**

St Joseph's closed to pupils as the school is being used as a polling station for the mayoral elections.

**Bank Holiday**  
**Monday 7 May**

St Joseph's will be closed for the bank holiday. Children return to school on Tuesday 8 May.

**Half Term**  
**4 June to 8 June**

School will be closed all week for the half term break. Children return to school on Monday 11 June.

**Last Day of School**  
**Friday 20 July**

Children return to school on Wednesday 5 September 2012.  
Please do not book holidays which conflict with the school dates.

## International Food Day - Year 3

On Thursday, the children from Year 3 brought in delicious snacks and dishes from their home countries. The children and staff enjoyed sampling foods from all over the world including Spain, Ireland, Poland, Jamaica, the Philippines, Italy, Grenada, Turkey, Sierra Leone, India and Portugal. We would like to say a very big thank you to all the parents who supported the children's learning by taking the time and effort to provide all the wonderful food.



## Merit And Student Of The Week Certificates

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

Daisy 2B, Camille 2M, Gabriel 3F, Hosanna 3M, Henrique 3A, Giovanni 4O, Shaun 4K, Paris 4D, Sherelle 5NW, Sia 5M, Jerrel 5E, Nicholas 6K, Lucy 6D, Samrawit 6F

**Student Of The Week Certificates** were issued to:

**Ronnie 2M** - for making a great effort with his work

**Nya 3A** - for setting a fantastic example of mature behaviour to her peers

**Yenka 6D** - for significantly improving her mental maths skills

## Year 1 Visit To the Farm

On Thursday, Year 1 enjoyed a wonderful visit to Willows Farm in St Albans. Despite the rainy weather, the children had a great time learning about farm life. We will bring you a more detailed report in the newsletter next week.