



# 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 09

Friday 04 December 2015

*He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God. John 1:11-12*

## Advent

In this time of Advent, there is one word that comes to the mind of many of us: Christmas. Yet, the gospel this Sunday could not be further from that lowly, hidden coming of Jesus in a stable in Bethlehem; no shepherds or singing angels in some silent night.

That is because Advent is not just about preparing to welcome Baby Jesus. The first weeks of Advent make us look, not backward, but towards the future and the final coming of Jesus at the end of time. St Bernard of Clairvaux speaks of three comings of Jesus: the first was his lowly coming at Bethlehem, to be with us, to give witness to the truth; 'he came to his own and his own knew him not, but to those who received him he gave them power to be children of God.' (John 1:11-12). This is the coming we remember and celebrate at Christmas and which we start preparing for in the second half of Advent.

The third coming of Jesus, of which we are reminded and encouraged during the first time of Advent, is about the coming of the glorified Jesus, this time not to be ignored, rejected, ill treated and handed over to be crucified, but to bring salvation to his people, putting a final end to evil, violence and sin, to wipe every tear from our cheek. That is why the readings are so strong in advising us not to have anything to do with evil and sin, for these are destined to destruction. What about the Second coming then? We hear sometimes in our Penitential Rite at the beginning of the Mass:

'You come in Word and in Sacrament to strengthen us and make us Holy;' Jesus comes among us as he promised he would, where two or three are gathered in his name. In being with Jesus we are fed by his words from Scripture, which consoles, strengthens, defends, heals, corrects, admonishes, and then becomes flesh as we receive Jesus in the Eucharist and are empowered to carry out what we hear from his word.

## Important Dates

**Friday 11 December** INSET Day - no school for children on this day

**Wednesday 16 December** KS1 Christmas Mass at 9.30am  
KS2 Christmas Mass at 10.45am

*(Parents are welcome to meet us at The Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden to share in the celebration and excitement of the birth of Jesus.)*

**Wednesday 16 December** Christmas Jumper Day - £1 donation

**Wednesday 16 December** School Christmas Lunch

**Friday 18 December** Last day of school

**Tuesday 05 January** Children return to school

## Attendance

Please ensure that your child aims for 100% attendance this year. Every lesson counts so your child can benefit from the excellent learning opportunities at St Joseph's.

Children must also arrive on time every day to ensure they access the full curriculum. Poor punctuality affects your child's learning, the learning of others and is very inconsiderate.

**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)**

## Charitable Giving

***Please remember to make your charitable donations next week***

**Acton Homeless Concern** is based in Acton at Emmaus House. Each week, this charity feeds over 1,000 homeless people from the local area. They also have shower facilities for those who do not have access to them. In order to help Acton Homeless Centre during the festive period we are asking each child in the school to donate non-perishable goods and toiletries. Please see [this letter](#) for a list of the appropriate items to donate.

The **Salvation Army** have also launched their Christmas appeal and are desperate for donations to help families who are in poverty. To support those families, we are asking for donations for gifts that can be given to children on Christmas Day. Please note that these items must be new and not have been used already.

St Joseph's has supported the **Catholic Children's Society** for a number of years as they "***aspire to a world in which the material, emotional, psychological and spiritual needs of the young are recognised, respected and met***". These values echo those of our school and we were extremely grateful when they responded so promptly to our situation in September by donating £10,000 towards the replacement of the children's uniforms. If you feel that you would like to give something back to this wonderful organisation, please send in a financial contribution to the school office in an envelope clearly marked **Catholic Children's Society**.

All donations should be handed in at the School Office by Thursday 10 December 2015.

## Woolly Jumper Day

All children are invited to wear a Christmas woolly jumper to school on **Wednesday 16 December**. The rest of the school uniform is to be worn as usual.

We would like children to make a contribution of **£1.00** towards this privilege. The funds raised will be used to purchase play equipment and resources.

**A prize will be awarded for the most creative woolly jumper!**



## Back To School!

It is a joy to be back on our school site and to have all the children from Years 1 to 6 with us. The children have settled back in their routines and have continued with their learning.

It has been really helpful to have the vast majority of children arriving between 8.30am and 8.55am. With the different layout and with some parts of the site having restricted access, it supports our health & safety and safeguarding procedures to have all gates locked at 8.55am.

Please also remember to collect your children at the correct times and from the right gates to speed up the collection process at the end of the school day.

Unfortunately, we do not currently have the capacity to store scooters and bicycles so please do not leave them on the school premises.

I am very pleased that I have been able to secure a date for the Nursery and Reception children to move into their lovely new classrooms at St Joseph's. I am very aware of the difficulties some parents have with children on two different sites so I have worked with the building contractors to get this provision ready before the Christmas break.

The Nursery and Reception children will start back at our St Joseph's site on **Tuesday 15 December**. There is already an **Inset Day** planned for **Friday 11 December** so there is no school for the children on that day and, in order to facilitate the move back to St Joseph's, there will be no school for the Nursery and Reception children on **Monday 14 December**. I am sure you will appreciate that there is a huge amount of work to be done by the staff in preparation for the children's return.