



St Joseph's News

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

Newsletter 30

Friday 19 May 2017

This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. **John 15:17**

Catholic Life of the School

At Mass on Sunday, the Gospel reading refers to Jesus' promise to the disciples that when he returns to the Father, the Holy Spirit will be their helper. God the Father loves us so much that he gives the gift of the Holy Spirit to anyone who wishes to be filled with love, truth, happiness and peace.

Jesus says that the Holy Spirit will abide in us. In biblical language, abide means to remain, to continue and to persevere. This helps us understand how important the Holy Spirit is; it is a beautiful gift from God to help us continue to live as Jesus taught us.

In your prayer time this week, remember to ask the Holy Spirit to support you in saying and doing the right things. The Holy Spirit can also help us with things that we find difficult or do not fully understand.



We often pray to Jesus; we pray to the Father, especially in the 'Our Father'; but not often to the Holy Spirit....Pray often to the Holy Spirit so that He may help us, give us the strength, give us the inspiration and lead us forward.

(Pope Francis)

Merit of the Week Award

The following children have received Merit Certificates in our whole school assembly for demonstrating excellent standards in their learning and behaviour:

Amelia 2F, Eva 2O, Kian 2S, Jayden 3K, Micaela 3M, Marcela 4G, Isabella 4O,
Lara Mae 5K, Leonardo 5M, Patryk 5S, Gabrielle 6L and Georgine 6R

Student of the Week Award

- 3K Dasha** For a great effort in developing her writing skills
- 5M Jennifer** For persistence and a tremendous effort in all areas of learning
- 6R Shauna** For a great approach with exams revision

Attendance

Last week, Classes 2F and 6L had 100% attendance. The Classes with the best attendance for the year so far are 2S, 4O, 6L and 6R.

Children from Reception to Year 6 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.

Holy Communion

Many of our Year 3 and Year 4 children will soon be making their First Holy Communion.

We would love to share your photographs of this special time on the school website. Please email your photographs to Mrs Studd at info@stjo.brent.sch.uk with the subject 'Communion'.

It is helpful for photographs to be in the landscape style if you would like them to be considered for the school website.



Dates for the Diary

- Year 2 formal assessments will take place during **week beginning 22 May**
- School will be closed to pupils **week beginning 29 May** for the half-term break
- School will be closed to pupils on **Thursday 8 June** as the school will be used as a Polling Station
- Year 1 formal Phonics assessments will take place during **week beginning 12 June**

Phonics Meeting

Thank you to all the Year 1 parents who attended the Year 1 Phonics Screening information presentation.

The Year 1 teachers explained how the assessments are carried out and how parents can support and prepare their children for the Phonics Screening.

We trust that parents will have enjoyed the presentation and have a good understanding of the process. However, if you any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.



Handwriting Competition

In our recent assembly, we celebrated the achievements of four pupils who received awards for their entries in a national handwriting competition.

The competition was organised by Cambridge University Press and SATIPS so it is a high accolade to have handwriting judged as meeting their high expectations.

Congratulations to Marcus (4G), Julia (4G), Nela (3M) and Ella (1B) for this fantastic achievement with their handwriting.

The entries from Marcus and Julia were 'highly commended'. Nela's entry was 'runner-up' within her age category and Ella achieved third place in this national competition.



School Council

The School Council have continued to meet regularly to look at issues including the school environment, outdoor activities and recycling.

The latest meeting was held jointly with the Mini Vinnies to discuss issues that are important for both groups and which they are planning to work on together. We will share more news on this in future newsletters!

The School Council and the Mini Vinnies are working hard to ensure St Joseph's continues to be a happy and safe environment where children feel valued and make an important contribution to the whole school community.



Online Safety

Schools are reporting an increased number of incidents they are having to deal with which relate to arguments and abuse which has occurred outside school on digital devices.

It is apparent that a number of primary age children have access to '18 rated' games such as GTA and Call of Duty. These games have an adult rating as they contain a level of violent and explicit themes which are not suitable for children.

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.

Uniform Reminder

With a small number of children presenting at school with incorrect items of uniform, please be reminded about these key points:

- One single or one pair of small, discrete plain gold or silver coloured round studs in pierced ears are permissible. Do not allow your child to wear any other type of earring.
- Please ensure that uniform fits your child well and is in good repair. Skirts should be knee length.
- Children do not need to wear their jumper during the summer term but must continue to wear their blazers. During warmer days, the Executive Headmistress will let the children know if they may remove their blazers.

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.

Behaviour

At St Joseph's, we have the highest expectations for standards of behaviour. Therefore, if any child is placed on 'Restart', parents will be informed.

Children will be held to account if their behaviour disrupts the learning experience for themselves or others. Parents are expected to fully support this policy in line with their agreement to follow all school procedures when they accepted a place for their child to attend St Joseph's.

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 belief in the teachings of Jesus through everyday relationships and mutual respect in our dealings with one another.

In order to achieve our mission:

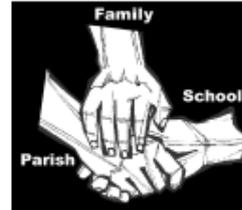
- We stand on holy ground
- We will always open our doors in welcome
- We will always love and care for each other as Jesus taught us
- We will always place the Word of God at the heart of our school
- We will always be witnesses to our faith by following in the footsteps of Christ

***Please remember that school will be closed week beginning
29 May 2017 for the half-term break***

Children will return to school on Monday 5 June 2017

From Easter to Pentecost

Linking School, Parish and Home



Religious Education

Key Idea: From Easter to Pentecost

This framework of learning is intended as the first for the Summer Term in the academic year 2016/2017. This framework explores the period from Easter Sunday to Pentecost.

Attitudes and Spiritual Dispositions

Spiritual Outcomes:

It is hoped that pupils will develop:

- A sense of openness and wonder about the resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit
- An appreciation of the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives
- An ability to wonder about questions that are difficult to answer
- 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:

- We celebrate the gift of life in this world and in death in the resurrection. Life is full of resurrection moments, when we are so glad to be alive! Write down some of these and use them in pray at mealtimes or bedtimes.
- Pentecost is on June 4 this year. This framework teaches Pope Francis as a person led and guided by the Spirit. Talk to your children about people you think are led by the Spirit. What do they do?

An idea for prayer at home

Prayer Activity



Pray for those who have died.

We remember (say name, light candle) who has gone to their eternal rest.

Tell them, God, how much we love them, how much we miss them. Tell them we carry their stories in our lives.

Today we rejoice that Jesus lived and died and is risen. Today we trust you, Jesus, that there is life after death and that you will always be with us, loving us and leading us home.

Glory be to God; Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit.

Amen