



# St Joseph's News

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

Newsletter 37

Friday 21 July 2017

The servants said, "Do you want us to go and gather them?" But (the owner) replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them".

**Matthew 13:28b-29**

### Message from the Executive Headmistress

At this time of year, there are mixed emotions as we say farewell to Year 6 and to our staff leavers. We are of course happy for those who are moving on to the next stage in their education, professional career or to another phase in their life. However, we also know that we will miss the individual and special presence that these people bring to our school family.

In the Gospel reading on Sunday, Jesus uses an example from nature to explain the Kingdom of Heaven. Good seed is sown in the field but the enemy plants weeds among the good wheat. The servants ask if they should pull up the weeds but the owner asks them to wait until the harvest to prevent the good wheat being pulled out with the weeds.

This parable also describes our community today. As members of the Catholic church, we are growing in the Kingdom of God, but there will be 'weeds' sown around us. This is why community is important; we are called to support each other and grow stronger together. By loving and following God we will be the 'wheat', growing stronger until the harvest comes and we will be gathered into his Kingdom.

So, as some of our children and staff move on, we pray they continue to grow in God's community and feel supported by those around them. We also look forward to welcoming those who will be joining the school family in September and we will continue to grow together.

***We cannot grow up by ourselves; rather, we journey and grow in a community, in a family***  
(Pope Francis)

I wish all our families and staff a very happy and safe summer break and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

God bless,

**Mrs Titus**

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**Attendance**

★ Over 100 children have been invited to the Chessington reward trip in September to celebrate achieving  
★ 100% attendance in 2016-17. All children from **Class 2S** will also be in attendance as they achieved  
★ **Best Class Attendance** this academic year.

★ Unfortunately, we have recently made referrals to Brent Education Welfare as a small number of parents  
★ have taken their children out of school during term time for unauthorised leave.

★ **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.  
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### Musical Showcase

On Wednesday of this week, our Year 1 children took part in a musical showcase at the Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College.

The children joined other schools in performing a song using both their voices and body percussion! The school steel band group also performed at this special event.



### International Food Festival

Children and parents had a wonderful time of fun and celebration at St Joseph's International Food Summer Festival last Friday.

Your generosity and support has raised over £5,000 for our Stained Glass Window Appeal. Thank you so much for your contribution to this significant part of the school building renovation.



We also had very generous support from the wider community who donated fantastic prizes for the school raffle. The winners are:

**32" TV** Clodagh (2F), **£100 cash** Sofia (RW), **Epson Printer** Stephanie (1O),  
**Luxury Hamper** Madeleine (1M), **Mini Hamper** Audrey (NM), **4-piece Patio Set** Cristian (NG),  
**Royal Oak Dinner** Klaudiusz (3K), **Park Kitchen Meal** Richard (4G), **Leap Pad 2** Dikembe (3K),  
**Chicago Rib Shack Meal** Mrs Forde, **MP Moran £50 Voucher** Romy (RS),  
**MP Moran £50 Voucher** Gabriel (1O), **Harte's Meat Voucher** Xavier (5S)

Congratulations to Julia (5M) who won the 'Number of Sweets' competition and to Lily-Grace (RS) for winning the 'Name the Teddy' competition.



## Year 5 Residential

During week beginning 3 July, the Year 5 children enjoyed a wonderful learning experience at the Gordon Brown Outdoor Educational Centre.

We hope that you enjoy these testimonies from the children:

**Nina:** I took part in many activities such as archery, pond-dipping, mini-beast hunting and rock-climbing. We fed animals including pigs, chickens, rabbits and goats!

**Santiago:** I had lots of fun with activities including power fan and the high wall. The campfire on Thursday evening was great; we drank hot chocolate!

**Harry:** I enjoyed orienteering, shelter building and the 'mega bowl'.

**Nyra:** I took part in many activities but my favourite thing was being with the animals. Rupert the rabbit is cute and cuddly! I would love to go back to Gordon Brown Centre.

**Richmond:** I enjoyed the high ropes activity the most because it helped people be more confident about heights.

**Natalia:** This was a great experience. I will remember our visit to the World War II bomb shelter.

**Alexander:** This was a breath-taking experience! I would highly recommend this trip.





## Reception Trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum

The Reception children had a wonderful day out on their recent trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum.

Both classes experienced two fantastic workshops based on the Three Little Pigs and Goldilocks and the Three Bears stories. The children had the opportunity to build houses in the forest, create masks and make scary clay faces!

The workshop leaders commented that we were the best school they had ever had and said that we are welcome back any time!



## Celebrations of Achievement

We have held a number of special celebratory events for the children who have supported the life of the school this academic year.

Our Peer Mentors, School Council, Eco Warriors, and Mini-Vinnies have made such a positive difference by helping to care for the environment around us and by helping children to make new friends and to be involved in organised activities.

We have also been celebrating the wonderful activities which have taken place this year at After School Club and saying 'goodbye' to those who are now moving on.

The Year 6 Mass on Wednesday brought another opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the journey these children have been on so far and to look forward to all that is yet to come.

Over 100 children are attending the Chessington reward trip in September in recognition of achieving 100% attendance for the whole of 2016-17. We have also had our inaugural termly prize draw for 100% termly attendance. Over 230 children were also entered in the Summer Term draw with **Daniel (5K)** and **Chetachi (20)** each winning a Kindle for their achievement.



## Year 2 Trip to the Zoo

The Year 2 children recently enjoyed a wonderful trip to London Zoo. This had been organised to support their current learning on 'India' and the natural world.

The children were really excited to see some of the animals they have been learning about and were quite surprised at how big some of the animals are!



## Brent Libraries' Summer Reading Challenge 2017

Brent Libraries are running the Summer Reading Challenge for the seventeenth year. The theme is 'Animal Agents' and we want your children to solve some mysteries that have been happening in our libraries!

From the case of the graffiti writing to the strange case of a missing lunch, children will join in the fun with the Animal Agents by reading along. As children read library books on the Summer Reading Challenge, they will receive a host of stickers, some with mysterious smells. By collecting these clues in their detective folder, young readers will help the Animal Agents find out what's really been going on behind the scenes!

This fantastic programme includes Animal Agent story-telling, art and craft workshops and fun learning activities. It's all about stimulating the imagination, children gaining confidence, and discovering new talents and skills.

The challenge begins on Saturday 1 July and runs until Monday 4 September. The challenge is aimed at children aged 4 – 12 years. Brent are also providing a whole series of events at all of their libraries to which the children are invited. All events are free but you may have to book in advance and **all children will need to borrow 2 books to join in with the events.**

**All activities are listed here:**

**<https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/libraries/events-in-brent-libraries/>**

## Parental Expectations

Parents are reminded that in accepting a place for their child at St Joseph's, they agreed to support all policies and procedures.

We do understand that parents may, from time to time, wish to discuss a matter which is causing them or their child a concern. We have always asked parents to arrange meetings appropriately to discuss matters about their children.

If the matter relates to your child's day to day learning or routines at school, you are invited to make an appointment to see the class teacher in the first instance. If you wish to discuss another matter, you will need to give brief details at the school office so an appointment can be made for you with the most appropriate person.

The school will not enter into individual email correspondence or respond to letters from representatives of parents. We do expect that parents with concerns will raise them individually and respectfully using the appointment system.

**Last day of school is Friday 21 July**

**All children return to school on Thursday 7 September**

## 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

## 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 round studs in pierced ears are permissible. Do not allow your child to wear any other type of earring.
- Long hair must be tied back as a health and safety measure. Please also ensure that your child's hairstyle does not obscure their vision.
- 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.

## 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.

## 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 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.***

## 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.