



St Joseph's News

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School
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Newsletter 17

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When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain;
and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. **Matthew 5:1**

Catholic Life of the School

God is the reason for our hope and the source of our happiness (Pope Francis)

At Mass this Sunday, we will learn more about the Beatitudes which are taken from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. These important words help us to lead fulfilled lives and they also sustain us with the promise of eternal life in heaven.

The Sermon was not just for those listening to Jesus on the hill that day. Those words are for all of us now, and in the future, as we transform our lives to be more Christ-like. Many have been inspired by the 'Sermon' including the great leader Sir Winston Churchill who commented, "The more closely we follow the Sermon on the Mount, the more likely we are to succeed in our endeavours". St Augustine stated that "anyone who piously and earnestly ponders the Sermon on the Mount... I believe he will find therein ... the perfect standard of the Christian Life."

Through our churches and by reading God's Word, we can find wonderful instructions to help us find real joy and peace. The Beatitudes are one example of Jesus teaching us about how to find the true happiness for which we were created.

In your family prayer time this week, you may find it helpful to pray through the Beatitudes together from Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 5, Verses 3-12. Take time to listen to God as he may lead you to focus on a particular part of this very important teaching.



Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

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

The Gingerbread Man

This week, the Nursery and Reception classes had a special treat when they watched a wonderful performance of 'The Gingerbread Man' at St Joseph's.

This interactive performance was presented by the Aesop's Theatre Company. The children joined in parts of the story-telling and really enjoyed playing the roles of the characters.

Please speak to your children about this great experience and ask them about the characters in the story and what part they played.



Term Time Leave

The school policy on term time leave has been made very clear in the Attendance & Punctuality Policy and reminders on this are published in the newsletter every week. Yet, a number of parents continue to take their children out of school for family holidays and celebrations during the school term time.

Please be reminded that the school is obliged to refer all cases of term time leave to Brent's Education Welfare Service. They will then decide if an offence has been committed under the Education Act.

Of more concern, is the impact of absence on children's learning. Clearly, when a child is seriously unwell, they must stay at home until they are well enough to return to school. This type of absence is completely unavoidable and, in cases of long-term sickness absence, we will prepare resources so your child can continue with their learning.

However, when children miss school unnecessarily, this is an unacceptable interruption to their learning. There are 14 weeks of school breaks and a number of bank holidays when parents can arrange family events and vacations. Please adhere to the policy on school attendance at all times.

Attendance

★ **Classes 2F, 3M, and 4G** have won the Attendance Cup this week for achieving 100% attendance all week. We now have some new classes in contention for the Best Class Attendance reward trip to Chessington!

★ Punctuality still needs improvement. Please remember that all 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.*

People of Prayer - Year A

Linking School, Parish and Home



Religious Education

Key Idea:

This framework of learning is intended as the first in the Spring Term in the academic year 2016/2017. At this time of year the resource always looks at the prayer life of the Church. This resource studies the **Feast of the Epiphany** and two prayers found in **Matthew's Gospel: the Beatitudes and the Lord's Prayer**. It asks pupils to consider the people they think are Beatitudes People, including St Teresa of Calcutta.

Attitudes and Spiritual Dispositions

Spiritual Outcomes: *It is hoped that pupils will develop:*

- A willingness to pray
- An openness to people of other faith traditions

- An appreciation of the role of prayer in deepening a relationship with God
- A sense of wonder about different styles of 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 greater if you and the school are engaged in talking about the same ideas and beliefs.

- Pray the Lord's Prayer with your child each night at bedtime. Find a copy of it online and print it out as a mini poster for their room or the fridge.

An idea for prayer at home



Prayer Activity

Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
Amen

ST JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL VALENTINE'S COFFEE MORNING



STAINED GLASS WINDOW FUNDRAISING EVENT

As our school refurbishment is getting under way, we are trying to raise funds to pay for a large stained glass window for the main hall of the school building. This will be a lasting legacy for the whole school community from generation to generation.



Please come along, bring cakes, and have a cup of tea/coffee in the Junior Hall (Northcote Road entrance).

**Friday 10th February 2017
8.30am - 9.30am**

All donations will be greatly appreciated.