



St Joseph's News

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

Newsletter 35

Friday 30 June 2017

Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. **Matthew 10:40**

Catholic Life of the School

In the Gospel reading from Matthew on Sunday, we will hear Jesus instructing the disciples to be selfless; to put him first in their lives over everything else.

This message is for us too and it may seem a bit difficult at first - can we always put Jesus first? One of the reasons we are called to put Jesus first is so we can always be guided and looked after by Christ.

St Teresa of Calcutta reminds us, "We will be the happiest people in the world if we belong to God, if we place ourselves at his disposal, if we let him use us as he pleases."

In your family prayer time, you may wish to share with each other something which you need to limit or completely stop so that Jesus comes first in your life. You can pray for the Holy Spirit to strengthen you as you move closer to living for Jesus.



Love God, serve God: Everything is in that
(St Clare of Assisi)

Grenfell Tower Appeal

Thank you very much to the parents and children who helped the school raise £901.24 for the Grenfell Tower Appeal.

Your generosity will make a big difference to those who are living in very difficult circumstances.

The funds will be sent straight to the Diocese so they can put together the collections from all the schools and present one donation to the official fund.

Fr Gerard Skinner, Parish Priest of St Francis of Assisi Church near Grenfell Tower, has published an article on the Diocesan website which you may find helpful as you continue to pray for this situation.

Fr Gerard says: ***Every morning priests pray a prayer that encompasses so much of our human frailty and our need for our Saviour, Jesus Christ. This prayer concludes, 'He will give light to those in darkness, those who dwell in the shadow of death, and guide us into the way of peace.'***

Attendance

In the week beginning 19 June 2017, Classes 2S and 6L had 100% attendance. The classes leading with the best attendance for the year so far are 2S, 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.

Year 6 Trip To France

Last week, the Year 6 children enjoyed a wonderful residential trip to Normandy in northern France.

The children enjoyed various excursions such as a traditional market, soaking up the French atmosphere and trying out their French on the locals.

They also visited The Mont St Michel, the 'Eighth Wonder of the World', the streets of which are said to be the inspiration for JK Rowling's Diagon Alley in the Harry Potter books and films.

The Fougere Castle, the biggest medieval castle in Europe was another excellent excursion and the group also had a wonderful day at the seaside town of St Malo.

In addition, the children were given the opportunity to take part in different workshops such as climbing, archery, zip wire and fencing. A great way to practise French while having fun!

We know that this trip will remain in the memories of the children and staff for many years to come and it is a wonderful way to end their time at St Joseph's.

We hope that you enjoy these quotes from the children:

The food was amazing!

We had lots of fun, especially with the rock climbing and zip wire activities.

We had to speak French when choosing our food.

An experience in French history, language and culture. The best trip ever!

The best week I have ever had!

The staff at Chateau Beaumont were very polite and very helpful.

A fantastic opportunity.

I feel very fortunate to have been on this trip.



Year 1 Sports Morning

Year 1 had a wonderful morning of sports and games activities on Tuesday.

Thank you to all the parents who joined us to watch the children celebrate their sporting talents. We hope that you enjoy the photos below.



First Holy Communion Mass

On Thursday, children from Years 3 to 6 attended Mass at The Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden to remember St Peter and St Paul on their Feast Day and to celebrate with the children who had recently made their First Holy Communion.

Fr Stephen asked "Who are your heroes?" and the children replied that heroes are people we admire, people who are inspiring and people we would like to follow. Fr Stephen reminded us that St Peter and St Paul were heroes because they defended their faith.

We also learned that both saints had many different aspects to their life and character but they were also similar in many ways too. One thing they share is that Jesus changed both of their original names! Peter was originally known as Simon and Paul was previously called Saul.

Fr Stephen told us that Jesus built his church on Peter 'the rock' and Jesus converted Paul from a persecutor of Christians to one of the most famous messengers of the Gospel. They both journeyed away from Jerusalem and eventually met each other in Rome.

Those who choose to receive Jesus through Holy Communion have also made a commitment to journey with Christ. We celebrate and pray for the children who are now growing closer to God through the love and sacrifice of His son Jesus Christ.



Year 4 Trip to Gunnersbury

On Wednesday of this week, Year 4 attended Gunnersbury Triangle Nature Reserve to investigate a woodland habitat and a pond habitat which links closely to their Science topic 'Who Am I?' which focuses on habitats and animals.

The children were given the opportunity to see, hold and search for a range of different insects in the 'Mini-beasts' workshop. In addition, they all had a go at pond-dipping and managed to find tadpoles and newts. We even all got a glance at the friendly fox who casually strolls around the reserve and the children particularly enjoyed seeing him!

Please speak to your children about this very important learning experience.



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 our events.**

All activities are listed here:

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

International Food Festival

We are holding an International Food Summer Festival at St Joseph's on Friday 14 July from 2.00pm to 4.30pm. This will be a fun-filled afternoon for our families!

Stalls include International Food, BBQ, Tombola, Nail Painting, Penalty Shootout, Basketball, Skittles, Tennis Ball Bounce, Table Tennis and Face Painting.

This will be a fundraising event to raise money for our fabulous Stained Glass Window Appeal. Only the parents and children of St Joseph's may attend. The entrance fees are £1 per adult and 50p for children under 12.

We will be closing school early to set up for this school community event and there will be no After School Clubs on this day. Please ensure you collect your children at the following times on Friday 14 July:

Nursery	11.30am
Reception	11.40am
Years 1 and 2	11.50am
Years 3, 4, 5 and 6	12.00pm

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.

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.

St Joseph's Mission Statement

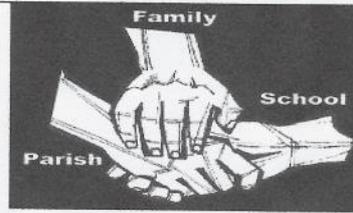
At St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School we strive to create a stimulating environment so that by learning, playing and working together, we openly follow Christ's teachings. We seek to offer every person the opportunity to be a unique and valued individual, sharing and developing belief in the teachings 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 Kingdom of God

Linking School, Parish and Home



Religious Education

Key Idea: The Kingdom of God

This framework of learning is intended as the second in the Summer Term and the final in the academic year 2016/2017. Concluding study of Matthew's gospel, this work focuses on the parables of the Kingdom as found in Chapter 13.

Attitudes and Spiritual Dispositions

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- A sense of the relationship between learning about faith and living faith-filled lives
- Respect for those who actively seek the kingdom of God

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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. Help your child by trying this activity while this topic is being taught:

- Working to build the kingdom of God is the obligation of all Christians. Talk to your children about their learning and plan to do something extra in God's kingdom!

An idea for prayer at home

Prayer Activity



God our King,

In the morning when we rise give us your eyes to see the world as you dreamed it.

In the day as we learn give us your mind to think of the potential of life as you imagined it.

In the evening when we rest give us your heart to love the kingdom as you wanted it.

May we be builders for your kingdom, now and forever. Amen.