

7th December 2015

Dear Parents

Christmas Fair

Many thanks for the support of the PTA and staff at the Christmas Fair on Friday 4th December. It was wonderful to see so many people there and a good festive buzz in the two halls.

Updates and news items

We are looking forward to our Christmas activities, nativities and carol service. Please note the following information and times:

1. Thursday 10th December @ 9:45am – Nursery Parents only -Infant School Hall
2. Friday 11th December @ 9:45am – Reception parents only – Infant School Hall
3. Tuesday 15th December @ 9:45am – Class E and O
4. Tuesday 15th December @ 2pm – Class S and J
5. Junior Carol Service - Thursday 17th December at 9.30pm for years 3 and 4 and Friday 18th December at 9.30am for years 5 and 6. Carol services are in the Junior School Hall.
6. Christmas Dinner Day –Wednesday 16th December – Children can wear home clothes.

This year the Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Nativities will be filmed and copies of the CD will be sold for £3. We hope parents will find this useful as they can now enjoy the performance and not worry about filming it.

Update on Academy Status

As you know we completed the consultation process for conversion to academy status. It is still the schools' intention to change status and join the Croydon Catholic Schools Umbrella Trust. We have however delayed the process and will wait until the junior school have had its next OFSTED inspection which is due this academic year. We will of course keep you updated on the developments.

Admissions: Reception and Nursery 2016

Please note the closing date for applications for Nursery and Reception for September 2016 is **Friday 15th January 2015.**

Uniform

Please can reception classes have spare uniform, pants and socks – girls and boys. They are desperate so please help!

Other news and sports news

We came 5th in the Catholic Cross County Competition on 12th November. We were very proud of our children and were especially pleased with some of the individual successes. The year 3 and 4 teams were particularly strong and it was noticeable how all the children worked as a team.

On Friday 20th Year 5 and 6 took part in the school Games Sports Hall Athletics' completion our team came 2nd overall. Well done to the team, Mrs Mangan and Mr Kavanagh.

School Website

Many of you I hope will have now visited and looked around our new website. Please do go on and sign up for electronic letters and news feeds. Please do follow us on Twitter and Facebook too.

www.stjosephsfederation.co.uk

Infants & Nursery

Crown Dale, London SE19 3NX
T: 020 8670 2385 F: 020 8670 0420
E: amcleary@st-josephs-inf.croydon.sch.uk

Juniors

Woodend, London SE19 3NU
T: 020 8653 7195 F: 020 8653 0807
E: office@stjosephsjun.co.uk

Parents' evenings, workshops and information.

It was good to see a 100% turn out for our parents' meetings and this year we welcomed Year 5 and Year 6 pupils to take an active part in the discussions. You will be aware from your discussions with teachers that we are now assessing pupils at working at, below or above age related expectations. Our parental workshops which we are running throughout the year are designed to support parents in their understanding of curriculum expectations and how we are adapting our teaching approaches to meet the changing picture particularly in maths. The Talk for Writing workshop focused on teaching of writing was well received by the 28 parents in total (morning and evening sessions). Please do look on the website for information relating to all aspects of the curriculum. Posters advertising events are posted on the school gates and text messages are sent out. The school calendar is also updated on the website.

Parental questionnaire

Thank you for completing the questionnaires which we have analysed and would like to comment on the following. As always we are looking to improve; it was good to have comments from parents acknowledging and seeing improvements. We need to work in partnership with you and by seeking your views that will enable a productive working relationship. We expect parents to be more involved with reading with their child at home and ensuring homework tasks are completed to a high standard.

- School is developing its curriculum by adopting the Singapore maths approach and Talk for Writing. Information on these changes are on our school website and included in the parental engagement workshops we have running over this academic year.
- Our new website is fully operational and has a wealth of information. www.stjosephsfederation.co.uk. You can follow us on Twitter and Facebook.
- The school seeks parental views through an annual questionnaire and discussions at parents' evenings, curriculum information mornings and parental engagement workshops.
- We currently run a wide range of clubs; there are more clubs in the juniors than the infants. Information on clubs is sent out at the beginning of each term.
- Staffing changes were mentioned by parents in Year 2 and Year 3. This is an area that we don't have complete control over as teachers are able to resign during an academic year. Changes of teacher are managed well and it is always our intention to ensure that new teachers are fully briefed and spend time in school prior to them taking on the class. Letters are always sent to parents informing them of any changes. Please make sure that you do check your child's bag for letters.
- Health and safety matters – Please ensure that gates are closed behind you to keep the site safe and secure. Infant children should not be standing on the steps before the door is opened in the morning; children need to wait at the bottom of the steps to avoid any accidents. The improvement to the path at the entrance of the school was long overdue but has made a big difference.

Follow up points for action

- Improvements to homework in Year 1 and Year 2
- Establish a parent's forum – a representative discussion group of parents to gauge parental views.
- Look at the club offer in the infants and cost of clubs in the juniors.
- Introduce a reading challenge to encourage more home reading.

Hope you all enjoy the end of term and the run up to Christmas; I look forward to seeing you all at the nativities and carol services.

Yours sincerely

Mrs T Lawlor and staff

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Newsletter

Headteacher: Mrs Tamsyn Lawlor
The Federation of St. Joseph's Catholic Junior,
Infant and Nursery Schools



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