

November 2016

The season of Advent is upon us and plans and preparations are underway. You will have all received a letter outlining the many events and celebrations happening in school over the next four weeks.

Please do check the website calendar to make sure you know what is coming up. October was a huge success with the I Love ❤️ St Joseph's campaign. The initiative has resulted in the PTA being able to donate to the school a defibrillator (a portable device that can be used to restart a human heart). It was wonderful to see the whole school community get behind the project. We even had a family in the nursery do some fundraising amongst their family at home, they made a contribution of £280. November has been a busy month. We celebrated Remembrance Day on the 11th November in both schools. The junior school was observed by the section 48 inspection team who were truly moved by the experience. The junior house captains laid poppy wreaths at the foot of the World War 1 memorial (a plaque with a roll of honour, located outside the junior office) the children showed great warmth and understanding of the significance of the day. Year 2 led a wonderful assembly on Tuesday 8th November they also provided us with a lot of information about Armistice Day.

It was good to see and talk to a number of parents at the two parents' evenings. The meetings were very positive and there was a good buzz in the school. Thank you to parents for supporting the book sales.

Section 48 inspection Friday 11th November

The junior school had a Section 48 Inspection on Friday 11th November. It was a very full day which included lesson observations, a walk around the school looking at the RE displays and prayer corners, a look at RE books across the school, interviews with children, governors and parents. We are not able to discuss the overall grade at this point as we are awaiting the final grade and report from the Diocese. However we feel the inspection went very well and the children really did make us feel very proud. The full report will follow soon. Thank you to Mrs Carter who put a lot of work into leading and managing the inspection. Mrs Carter as you know was appointed to the role of RE lead after Miss Frost's retirement. Her leadership of RE was praised by the inspection team.

Follow up to OFSTED April 2016

We are still awaiting a visit from HMI (Her Majesty's Inspectorate) by way of a follow up to the OFSTED judgement received by the junior school in April 2016. As you know the Year 6 results have been exceptionally good this year and the school is above national averages in both attainment and progress. However the school is aware that it must sustain those improvements and work continues to be put into improving the school at all levels. We are still expecting a visit from HMI to validate the improvements made since the last inspection however we won't know when that will be. I should imagine it will be some time this academic year.

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Juniors

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Governors

As you are aware the governors have launched a school fund. All parents will have received a letter and a form to complete. The form is asking for a voluntary contribution of £40 per year per family.

The funds raised will be used to maintain the provision we offer here at St Joseph's. We have already received a very positive response from parents and for those of you who haven't had a chance to read the letter from Mrs Guest (our Chair of Governors) I hope that you will do so. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support of our school.

Condolences

Sadly the month of November has seen many members of our school community bereaved. We pray for all our families, staff and their families; may their loved ones rest in peace.

Uniform

A polite and firm reminder that children must be in the correct school uniform at all times which includes: School maroon coat and school tie Y1 - Y6. We currently have an array of different coats and hats. The school hat isn't compulsory however it is recommended. Alternative hats should be suitable for school use.

Christmas dinner day

This year Christmas dinner day is on Wednesday 14th December 2016. We hope and encourage all children to have a full traditional Christmas dinner!

Website

Please do keep up with news and items on the school website. It enables you to be updated more regularly on events and trips undertaken by the children.

PTA

The PTA have been busy preparing for the Christmas Fair which is to be held in school on **Saturday 10th December**. Please do put the date in your diary and come along and support them on the day. Thursday 24th November is a mufti day for bottle collections. The bottles will be put on the bottle tombola. A big thank you to our PTA who are very active around the school and were even in school on Sunday wrapping presents. Looking forward to the Christmas Fair.

Please note that school finishes at 2pm on Friday 16th December and will reopen on Wednesday 4th January 2017

Tammy Lawlor and staff

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