

Newsletter

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



January 2017

Welcome back to the spring term and a very Happy New Year to you all. The Christmas holidays are somewhat in the past and the year is galloping on, nevertheless I hope you had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. We have had a good start to the term, the junior sports hall athletics team won their competitions and are now through to the London Youth Games. Well done to the team, Mrs Mangan and Mr Kavanagh! We will be meeting with parents again in March (14th and 17th March) at the next round of parents meetings and I hope you will take the opportunity to look at the progress being made in all subjects. As always we ask that parents have high expectations of their children and ensure homework and reading tasks are completed to a good standard. We have a large number of children from Y5 and Y6 attending Saturday morning booster groups. We are finding the additional tuition is impacting positively on the children's basic skills as well as their confidence and willingness to tackle more challenging and complex tasks.

Mrs Sheila Somogyi RIP

Many of you will remember Mrs Somogyi she was a midday supervisor in the juniors for 16 years and was also a parent of the school. Sadly Sheila lost a long battle with cancer on Christmas day. She will be missed by her family, friends and colleagues. Sheila's funeral takes place at Virgo Fidelis Church on Wednesday 18th January 2017 at 11am.

League Tables

Congratulations to the junior school for their recent acknowledgement in the Croydon league tables. The school was ranked 5th in the borough (there are 71 schools). We were delighted with the result and hope to continue with the good progress made by the school. As always your support in all aspects of school life enables success. Congratulations to all pupils, staff and governors!

Google expeditions and smart phones.

On Friday 9th January we had a visit from Google who ran workshops for all our pupils from Y1 - Y6. The children all had an opportunity to enter into virtual reality worlds using simple goggles and specific learning apps. The children learnt about and explored space and Egypt, they took a journey through different systems of the body e.g. circulatory system and enjoyed meeting and learning about different animals and insects. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We would like to be able to offer the experience again and plan to buy our own sets of goggles. We would very much appreciate donations of previously owned smart phones. It is a 'big ask' but if we had some we could use them for a variety of different ICT based learning. If you are upgrading your device and would like to donate your old smart phone we would be grateful. Please see Mrs Caron Hamilton- ICT lead. Many thanks to: Mrs McGrath for organising the day and to Mrs Hamilton and Mrs Carter for running the workshops.

PTA

The PTA is planning a get together on Thursday 19th January 2017 at 7pm in the junior hall. Please do come along and get involved. I know they have many plans for future events and would welcome help and support.

Basic Skills Award

As you know both schools in the federation hold the award. The junior school award is due to be reaccredited on 1st February 2017.

Data collection

Please ensure the schools hold up to date address and contact numbers for parents and emergency contact. In an event of an emergency we would need to contact parents and therefore its is essential that we have the correct phone numbers on the school system. Please contact the school offices to update numbers if necessary.

Permission Slips

Many letters and permission slips go out from school for trips and sporting events. Please would you ensure that permission slips are filled in correctly and returned to school as soon as possible. Please don't just sign the slip - make sure the information is clear and that we know if the child can or cannot attend. It's imperative that we have all the information so that arrangements can be made, risk assessments written and registers drawn up.

Sainsbury - Active Kids

Sainsbury's have started their active kids campaign again (25th January 2017) and as always we will be participating with the scheme. Please could you make sure vouchers are brought into school. Many thanks in advance for your support of this worthwhile initiative. We are aiming for each class to collect 2000 vouchers each and hope to have a competition! The winning classes will be able to select the equipment for the playgrounds.

Reading 'Pets as Therapy' Dog

On Friday we had a visit from 'Buster' the dog and his owner Anita. We are involved with a new reading approach called Pets as Therapy (PAT). The idea is that 'Buster' comes in and spends time with the children while they read. 'Buster' will be in every Thursday and will be located in the infant reading area. We will be selecting a group of children to read with 'Buster'. Initially we will be targeting year 1 and year 5 children.

Applications for Nursery Classes September 2016

Please note we are still accepting applications for Nursery for September. We accept children from age 3, the term after they turn 3. Please check with Mrs McLeary in the infant office and request an application form.

Weather

The weather has turned cold and we have already seen the first lot of snow for this winter. We will update the school website from 7am in the event that the school is closed because of bad weather.

Holidays and Absences from school

Please note that we are no longer able to authorise any holidays during term time. We could use some sort of discretion in the past, this is no longer the case. Any holidays will be marked down as unauthorised and you could be subject to a fine. Please do not ask because you will be offended when your request is turned down. Prolonged illness and regular illness will need to be supported by a doctor's note/letter.

Diary dates

Please take note of the following dates and the dates that are on the calendar option on the school website.

Date	Event	Additional information
Wednesday 1 st February	Junior - Basic Skills award day	Mrs Phillips to lead
Friday 10 th February	School closed for INSET	
February 13 th - 17 th	Half Term	
Monday February 20 th	School opens	