

March 2017

We are now in the season of Lent and the children have been encouraged to be reflective and active during this time. Fr Anthony led an Ash Wednesday service with the children and started us off on our journey through Lent. The junior children will be given opportunities to see either Father James or Father Anthony for reconciliation. The Infant children will engage with Lenten activities and prayer in their respective classes.

We are enjoying a wonderful book week in the Infant and Junior schools; the children are engaging with a range of activities including a teacher dash, dress up day, guess the teacher's favourite book as well as many other class based activities around the story of 'Tuesday' by David Weiser and 'The Rhyming Rabbit' by Julia Donaldson. My thanks to the children, staff and parents for making book week 2017 so enjoyable. My thanks to Mrs Stylianou for her organisation of the book fair. The fair always provides us with commission money which enables us to replenish our class reading areas.

This half term is slightly longer than some schools as we took the decision to have the Easter holiday to include Holy Week and the week after the Easter weekend. - **Our holiday dates are from Monday 10th April until Friday 21st April. The children will be back in school on Monday 24th April 2017. School will finish on Friday 7th April at 2pm. Please ensure you have added the correct dates onto your calendars.**

How can you get involved...?

Just before half term we had a very successful computing week. Thank you to parents who attended our workshop on safer internet day and took part in the Purple Mash activity with their children. Thank you to Mrs Hamilton for preparing the activities and leading on the workshop. We have had some response to our coffee mornings held in the garden hall (next one 5th April 2017). Thank you to the parents who have been coming along and helping to make resources for the school. You are all invited and we hope to see new faces in April.

School Dinners

Children in the infant school are entitled to free school dinners until Year 2. From Y3 meals have to be paid for and as of 1st April 2017 the cost of meals will be going up from £2:10 per day to £2.20. We haven't had a price increase since 2012. With costs going up all the time we have to make the increase. Our school meals are still good value and the children are guaranteed to get a good well balanced meal at lunchtime.

Toddler Group

The Toddler group for under fives has reformed and will be up and running every Tuesday in the garden hall

Under 5's Toddler Group

Welcoming parishioners and friends of: St Joseph's, Virgo Fidelis,
St. Matthew's and St. Margaret Clitherow.

The group is run by parents for parents and is very friendly so please pop in and see us. You and your little one/s will be very welcome! We organise a variety of fun activities for you and your toddler to enjoy.

The group provides an ideal opportunity for children and parents to familiarise themselves with the school, the staff and each other. Please feel free to invite friends and make it a social occasion.

Newsletter

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



Opening Times: every Tuesday 9:30am - 11:30am

Venue: The Garden Hall

Cost: Each session costs £2:00 per child/£3:00 per family to cover the cost of refreshments and resources. No appointment necessary - just turn up and have fun!

RE week

The week beginning 13th March will be RE week. During the week we will be visiting places of worship: Reception - Virgo Fidelis Church. Year 1 - St Matthew's Church. Year 2 - Margaret Clitherow Church. Year 3 - St George's Cathedral Year 4 - Westminster Cathedral, Year 5 will be visiting a Jewish Museum and Year 6 will be visiting Aylesford Priory. This year Fr Anthony will be accompanying Y6L to Aylesford Priory.

St Joseph's Day (19th March 2017). We will be celebrating our feast day on Thursday 16th March 2017 this year during RE week. Of course we won't be forgetting St Patrick on the 17th March!

Year 4 - Hindleap Trip

The children in Y4 will be on their residential trip on Thursday 6th April 2017 and return to school on Friday 7th April 2017.

Attendance

Our overall attendance percentage has been very good all year and it is currently at 95%. Please work with us to make sure that our attendance figures remain high.

Please note that the doors are open from 8:45am and the registers are taken at 8:55am. If you arrive after 9am you will be recorded as being late. The infant school have launched an initiative to improve their attendance to 97%. - a weekly star is given to the class with the best attendance - Congratulations to Class O for winning the first star! We have already seen great improvements - congratulations to all and keep it up.

Croydon Schools Festival of Dance

The Infant and Junior dance clubs will be participating in this annual event on Monday 20th March at Trinity School Croydon. My thanks to: Mrs Laura Willis for overseeing the festival this year and managing the change of venue. We will be looking forward to the performances. Congratulations children I am sure we will be very proud on the night.

Parents' evenings

You will receive information about the forthcoming parents' evenings on the 14th and 16th March 2017. Please ensure you book an appointment slot with the class teacher. We hope you will see improvements that have been made since the last meetings in November.

Please remember that the children are no longer 'levelled'. We will be looking to see that children are meeting age related expectations by the end of the school year. That they are currently on track (making sufficient progress) to be meeting Age Related Expectations (ARE) for their year group.

Website

Please do subscribe to receive updates on events and new items! The website has a lot of curriculum information available which will be useful for parents particularly for parents with children in year 2 and year 6.

Uniform

I am noticing a number of non uniform coats being worn to school. Please remember that the maroon school coat is a compulsory item of school wear. We are always getting comments from visitors on how smart our children are, please help to maintain these high standards.

After Easter children should be in their summer uniform. I am aware that the weather is usually still a little unseasonal so will allow some flexibility. Girls are to wear summer dresses - they must be pink and white striped and must be worn with socks. School shoes need to be worn, no open toed sandals. Boys in year YR - Y5 should be wearing grey shorts during the summer months.

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.

Forthcoming events

13 th March	RE week
14 th March and 16 th March	Parents' evenings (YR-Y6)
16 th March	St Joseph's Day
20 th March	Year 5 - Shakespeare Week
20 th March	Dance Festival at Trinity School (infant and junior dance clubs)
21 st March	Class E assembly - 9:15am - Infant hall
31 st March	Class 5B assembly - 9:15am - Junior Hall
4 th April	Class S Easter assembly - 9:15am - Infant Hall
5 th April	Stations of the Cross (TBA)
6 th and 7 th April	Year 4 away on residential: Hindleap Warren
7 th April	School closes for Easter Holiday at 2pm