

# Newsletter

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



July 2017

We have reached the last week of term and I'm sure we are looking forward to a well-deserved break. However there are always mixed feelings as we say goodbye to some staff members and Y6. We were extremely proud of all the academic achievements of all our pupils. We are delighted by the many opportunities we get to meet and invite parents in for assemblies, productions, workshops, information meetings as well as casual chats on the gate in the morning or at the classroom doors. It is a good community at St Joseph's and we have a lot to feel proud about and celebrate.

This year we have enjoyed 'Joseph's Amazing Technicoloured Dream Coat' presented to us by our Y2 children. It was a wonderful production and the children did an 'amazing' job of bringing the story alive. On Tuesday evening the Y6 children entertained us with their production of 'Mystery at Magpie Manor' it was an incredible performance and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The audience were particularly impressed by the children's clear delivery of their lines and the comic characters they portrayed. It was a great evening, thank you to the children, Mrs McGrath, Miss Long and all the Y6 team for such a wonderful end to a fantastic year.

## Masses

Thank you to Mrs Carter (assistant headteacher and RE lead) for planning and preparing the Y2 moving on mass, Y3 First Holy Communion celebration mass and the Year 6 leavers mass. Leavers mass is always an emotional occasion, but once again the children did us proud! Thank you to the PTA for providing a lovely cake and refreshments for the children and their families. Thank you to Fr Anthony for celebrating these masses with us in school. We hope to see as many of you as possible at the end of year Thanksgiving Mass which will be held at Virgo Fidelis Parish Church on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm. After mass the PTA will provide some drinks and snacks in the infant hall, please do try and find the time to attend. Thank you in advance to Father James for celebrating mass for us.

## Governors

This time of year it is important to say thank you to many groups of people who have worked together to strengthen St Joseph's Junior, Infant and Nursery Schools.

I would like to thank the governing body of St Joseph's for their support of the work of the whole community. We are truly blessed to have such a committed and able group of governors shaping the school and helping it to improve. We look forward to sustaining our improvements and working in partnership to make our school an even better place to be.

The governors have spent a large amount of time working with the school to achieve a well staffed school with a good mix of experienced and newly qualified teachers. It has also scrutinised budgets and school spending to ensure that the school is in a balanced position. This is a difficult task as generally school budgets are under so much strain. Financial stability has been a big priority as well as setting up systems to carefully monitor the budget as the financial year moves on. The donations we receive from parents as well as additional income from Pupil Premium Funding, PTA donations and lettings are essential to maintaining a stable and strong income stream to support our schools and pupils. The governors have recruited a School Business Manager (SBM) who takes up the role from September. Mrs Charlene Whyte will be joining the staff for 3 days a week. Her role will be to work with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of the school and the governors to manage the school's finances as well as look at additional ways in which we can boost our income and generate savings. It will be a crucial role in terms of moving the school forward and we are delighted to be welcoming her on board.

The standards in our school continue to rise and we are very proud of the successful results we have achieved for phonics testing in Y1 and Y2, Year 2 teacher assessments and Year 6 SATs tests results. The results are above national expectations and will put the school in a strong position with OFSTED and subsequent inspections. As a school senior leadership team and governors we spend a lot of time monitoring and evaluating teachers' assessments over the academic year to ensure that every pupil is individually tracked and given the best chance to achieve to their maximum.

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The schools are busy places but it is essential that we maintain the catholic ethos of our schools. The children are taught RE well; they prove themselves time and time again to be caring, spiritual and well behaved. We are very proud of our children.

Thank you - although it doesn't seem enough in terms of recognising all the hard work the PTA put into making the summer fair a great success. A huge amount of support came in the way of donations, manning and organising stalls as well as the actual support on the day. There was a lot to do and it was great to see pupils past and present having a nice time and enjoying the sunshine. It is a big undertaking in a very short space of time and I wish to thank the PTA committee on behalf of us all.

#### PTA - Parent, Teacher Association

Many thanks to, the parents and PTA for organising and paying for the end of year discos and the magician. The children had a great time and it is greatly appreciated.

Our current Chair Miss Victoria Slayford will be stepping down in September. She will be a huge loss to our school and the PTA. Victoria has a busy job working as a children's nurse and she has managed to fit so many things in at school she is an inspiration. We will be thanking her officially in September but wanted people to know that there is a vacancy! She is supported by a group of mums from the school but they are always on the look out for extra help and people to step up and take on officer roles.

#### Parishes

Thank you to Fr James from Virgo Fidelis Church , Upper Norwood and Fr Anthony from St Matthew's, West Norwood for their frequent visits to the school and the pastoral care they provide to pupils and staff. Fr Len, Margaret Clitherow, Dulwich will be leaving the parish in July and we will be welcoming Fr Chris Keen. I would like to thank Fr Len for his support of our schools over the past two years and wish him well at St Andrew's.

Finally to the entire staff of St Joseph's - I wish to personally thank them for their support, hard work and collegiate spirit. A team approach is appreciated by all staff. It has been a hugely successful year in many ways none of which would have been possible without the hard work, commitment and dedication of our staff! I hope they all have a good break and enjoy some much needed quality time with their families and friends.

#### Outcomes for our pupils this academic year 2016- 2017

#### Phonics

80% of pupils in Year 1 met the required standard in phonics this year. Congratulations to the Y1 children.

#### KS1 - Teacher assessment results:

	% achieving expected standard	% achieved standard in greater depth
<b>Reading</b>	89%	32%
<b>Writing</b>	79%	23%
<b>Maths</b>	79%	25%

**KS2 -SATs test scores 2017. Results are provisional until the autumn term.**

		% achieving expected standard
<b>Reading</b>	St Joseph's	88%
	National 2017	71%
<b>Writing</b>	St Joseph's	90%
	National 2017	76%
<b>Maths</b>	St Joseph's	86%
	National 2017	75%
<b>GPS</b>	St Joseph's	88%
	National 2017	77%
<b>Combined Reading, Writing and Maths</b>	St Joseph's	82%
	National 2017	61%

We are delighted with the good standards of achievement across the school this year. Congratulations to our pupils and staff for their hard work.

**Sport**

I think we have done the best ever this year! The football team won the 5 a-side Catholic Competition in May; we came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the BTG (Emma Wallace Cup) combined netball/football event in July. One of our biggest highlights was winning the Catholic Athletics on the 7<sup>th</sup> July, the first time since 2011. We had 4 teams enter the London Youth Games on the 6<sup>th</sup> July, we represented the borough of Croydon in 4 separate disciplines, Sportshall Athletics (12<sup>th</sup> overall out of 32 boroughs), gymnastics Yr3/4 (8<sup>th</sup> overall out of 32 boroughs), gymnastics Yr5/6 (2<sup>th</sup> overall out of 32 boroughs) basketball (17<sup>th</sup> overall out of 32 boroughs). We have only ever been to the School Games once before in Yr5/6 gymnastics and that was 3 years ago so an amazing achievement this year to get 4 teams there. Tommy's boy's football team won the football league, a highly competitive competition in the borough and a great achievement. Last but not by no means least our Infants achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Catholic Infant Athletic Competition and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the KS1 gymnastics. Wow what a year of sport and achievement at St Joseph's. All of this could not be possible without Mrs Mangan, Mr Kavanagh and Mr Az Asmerom. I can not stress enough how dedicated and hard working our sports teachers are, we are very lucky to have the drive and ambition from Mrs Mangan and Mr Kavanagh. They are truly an inspiration to the children and I can't thank them enough!

## Music

The music this year has been of a very high standard, with several children passing their grade 1 exams. The choir performed beautifully for the Remembrance Day Service, and again on St Joseph's Day. It was on this day that we heard the first performance of our School Creed, composed by Mr Abbs. The term finished with two impressive concerts: The first, on 11<sup>th</sup> July, featured the choir, the junior and senior orchestras, as well as several children performing their exam pieces. The second concert was given by our pianists on 14<sup>th</sup> July, which again included some children performing their exam pieces. In all, nearly ninety children took part in the concerts. We would like to remind you that we now offer private lessons in violin, cello, flute, clarinet, saxophone and piano. We also have a mini double bass! If you would like your child to take lessons on any of these instruments, please pick up a leaflet from the school office. Thank you to all our music teachers for their work and to Mrs McMillan for her organisation of instrumental tuition at our school.

## Library Challenge.

Please do join the library and take part in the summer reading challenge which is happening across London this summer- it is free to do the challenge, so pop along and have some fun in the summer with the local libraries - any public library close to where you live. The Summer Reading Challenge will be running in Lambeth Libraries from 15th July until 17th September. The theme this year is Animal Agents. The children need to read 6 books as part of the challenge and will receive a certificate and medal for completing it.

## Good bye and Good Luck

### **Year 6**

Congratulations to our children in year 6. I wish to thank them for the contributions they have made individually and collectively to St Joseph's. We are proud to see them go on to secondary school and wish them well. I am sure they will continue to be excellent ambassadors for our school.

They move onto:

**Bishop Thomas Grant School  
St Philomena's  
St Joseph's College  
The John Fisher School  
La Retraite  
Coloma Convent Girls School  
Kingsdale Foundation School  
Elm Green School  
Harris Academy South Norwood  
Harris Academy Crystal Palace  
Old Palace  
Graveney  
Lilian Baylis Technology College  
Ursuline High School  
City Heights  
Norbury Manor Business and Enterprise College**

## Summer work

Thank you in advance to Peter McEvoy who will oversee the school sites over the summer break and ensure things are ready and clean for the start of the new term.

## Class and staff allocations 2016-2017

You will have all received information on staffing by now. I would like to once again record my thanks and best wishes to Mrs Oruc, Mrs O'Brien and Miss Thomas -Bohl We wish them all a very happy and successful future. We will of course miss them at St Joseph's and thank them again for their contributions to the school over the years.

## New staff

A warm welcome to: Miss Orlaith McVeigh (Year 5) and Mrs Maria Tope (Nursery /Reception). I hope our new staff will have a happy and long association with St Joseph's. We look forward to getting to know them next term.

## Website

Our web site includes up to date information. We would welcome more subscribers to the site and more followers on Facebook and Twitter. Please do also follow the PTA Facebook page which has lots of useful information about local events as well as school events and photographs.

[www.stjosephsfederation.co.uk](http://www.stjosephsfederation.co.uk)

## Holidays and Absences from school

Please note by way of a reminder we are not 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. 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. Please ensure you are back on the first day of term 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017

## Class assemblies

Many thanks to: reception for the last assemblies of this academic year. All our class assemblies have been well attended by parents this year. We look forward to the next round starting in the autumn term.

## Forthcoming events

21<sup>st</sup> July - Leavers BBQ 1.30pm - School field (Y6 parents and children)

## September 2017

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017 - two INSET days for staff

6<sup>th</sup> September 2017 - children back Reception - Y6

7<sup>th</sup> September - Secondary transfer meeting and Y6 curriculum

**Thank you for the generous gifts, good wishes and cards we have received.  
Wishing you all a happy summer holiday - see you in September!**

