

# Newsletter

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



December 2017

As the autumn term draws to a close we once again reflect on the many success we have enjoyed this term. Our children are certainly very talented and have once again ensured that St Joseph's is the best school. On the 9<sup>th</sup> November the junior cross country team competed at the Catholic Schools competition in Purley. This year our team came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall which is the best result in many years. Jeremiah in Y4 came in second out of all the Y3 and Y4 boys! Congratulations to all the children who took part. Our Infant gymnastics team came first in the Catholic schools gymnastic competition on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November - they were very worthy winners! Congratulations to the infant team. This half term the children have enjoyed trips to the cinema. A group of children sang Christmas carols and songs at the Age UK Croydon seasonal gathering at Scatchely Hall and were very well received. We have also had children go out to the Museum of Childhood (Y4) and attend a pantomime at the Brits School (Y1 and Y2).

Our finest moment this half term was to win the highest accolade of Croydon Primary School of the Year 2017. Mrs Kelly and I were very pleased and proud to receive the award on behalf of the whole school community at a rather nice evening awards ceremony at the Hilton Hotel. The certificate and trophy is on display in the junior school. Congratulations to everyone!

The Infant children have been busy getting into the Christmas spirit and have performed beautiful and heart-warming nativities. Thank you to all the parents for attending the nativity plays as it helps to make it a wonderful occasion for all. Thank you to the teachers, Mrs Leggett and Ms Bruna for their preparation of the children. The singing was particularly strong this year!

The junior Carol service was truly outstanding and I was blown away by the high standard of singing and reading from all the children. I want to thank Mrs Leggett and Ms Bruna for their time and energy in preparing the children and to Mrs Carter for her direction and organisation. It was a wonderful occasion and one I shall not forget!

## Farewell message

As you know I won't be returning to the schools in January. It will feel very strange not to be part of the St Joseph's community after 10 years of being the headteacher. I will certainly miss you all! I have been honoured and privileged to lead such a wonderful school and community. Thank you to you all for the enormous amount of generous gifts and good wishes I have received. I have been extremely spoilt and truly very grateful to you all. I would like to wish all the children and families of the school a wonderful Christmas and a successful and happy 2018.

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Mrs Kelly will be the acting headteacher from January 2018 and I would like to wish her well in her new post. Mrs Kelly and I have worked closely over the past 8 years and we have a fantastic working relationship! She is my right hand person and I would not be able to do my job without her. I wish to thank her for her friendship and strong leadership over the years. I will very much miss working with her. I know you will all be very supportive of Mrs Kelly's headship at St Joseph's.

Thank you to the wonderful staff of St Joseph's past and present. Their hard work and dedication has made St Joseph's the school it is today! It has been amazing working with such a magnificent team and I wish them all well for the future! I hope they have a wonderful Christmas and a well-deserved break with their families.

Finally to the children of St Joseph's. Their talent, charm, enthusiasm and vibrancy is unique to this school. I shall miss them dearly and look forward to finding out how they develop and progress in the future. Keep up the good work children and remember to face all challenges with a smile on your face!

## PTA - Christmas Fair

Many thanks to the whole committee for their work in planning the Christmas Fair which took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. There was a lot of support for the event and a lovely atmosphere in the hall. Well done to everyone and thank you for the hard work in continuing to raise funds for the school, particularly the infant playground. The PTA donated £10,000 in the summer and with additional funds raised recently the infant play area should be ready very soon.

Thank you to the PTA for arranging Fr Christmas' visit to St Joseph's as well as the junior discos and snacks. It was very much appreciated by the children and really made their Christmas dinner day a wonderful celebration. A record amount of Christmas jumpers were worn this year!

Thank you for the PTA's contribution and organisation of the refreshments after the Christmas Carol Service on Monday.

## Weather updates

The weather this time of year is very unpredictable. Please do use our website and the open check link on our website to check for updates in the event of extreme bad weather.

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## Reception admissions September 2018

Please remember that the application round for Reception class September 2018 closes on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Please ensure that all forms are received by the school office and your home local authority by the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Nursery applications are also being received and the closing date is the 15<sup>th</sup> January as well. If you are unsure please contact the infant school office for advice and information.

## Uniform reminders

Thank you again for your attention and co-operation with regard to uniform. New parents visiting the school remarked on how smart the children look!

1. We do allow girls to wear small 'stud' earrings; 'studs' are the ones you get when your ears are first pierced. No other variation of a small stud earring should be worn. I am seeing small hoops and novelty earrings. Please ensure that if your child does wear earrings that they are correct. I know the majority of parents are getting this right so please ask each other if you are not sure.
2. **Haircuts and hair styles.** Please note that boys haircuts need to be an even cut and not too short. Haircuts must be conventional and suitable for school. Girls must not wear beads in their hair. We discourage hair extensions however I know that sometimes it is unavoidable - long hair must be tied up for health and safety reasons.
3. **School coats** must be worn by all children. It is a compulsory item of school uniform.

## Safeguarding

Please ensure new Christmas devices and games have parental controls in place and are suitable for the age range of your children. It is important that we monitor and manage what children are viewing and engaging with. We want them to have fun but please be vigilant.

## Irish Dancing School

Irish dancing classes with The Rose School of Irish Dancing are held in our junior hall on a Thursday evening for all children age 3+. Contact Amy after 5pm on 07808084550 for information. The Rose school of Irish dancing has a Facebook and Instagram page - @theroseschoolis. It's a great way to meet new friends, have fun and keep fit!

## 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.

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School returns on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018.

Finally I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas with your loved ones! All the best for 2018!

## Forthcoming events

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018</b>	School opens – usual time
<b>Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	Infant Parents' coffee mornings-
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Relish food day-Roman Day
<b>Wed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan</b>	Infant Parents' coffee mornings
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb-Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Science Week-
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Relish food day-Inventors

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