

January 2018

Welcome back to the Spring Term and a Happy New Year to you and your families. I hope you have had a restful break. The children have made a great start to the new term and have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into their learning. How lovely it has been to welcome the children back to school: their enthusiasm and joy is truly uplifting. Spring term is often the term when children start to fly academically and walking round the school at the moment you can feel the buzz of new learning and the hum of curious minds. We have a very busy term ahead and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the staff who continue to work hard and to provide the children with so many inspirational activities. I am very thankful for the commitment and care they show towards our children at St Joseph's.

Last term, we said goodbye to Mrs Lawlor after 10 years' service at St Joseph's. Mrs Lawlor has settled into her new role in Redhill and sends her love and best wishes to you and your children. This term we have welcomed Ms Baker to our Infant staff as a teacher assistant. Ms Baker will be working in Reception supporting Miss Todd and Mrs Swain. We have also seen Miss Langford-Jackson in the Junior School make the exciting transition from teacher assistant to trainee teacher. We wish her well on this exciting new chapter in her career.

This week I have spoken to the Junior children in assembly about Jesus and how he called his disciples to follow him. They thought carefully about how they can follow Jesus in their lives and the children suggested by being kind to others, sharing all that they have, and caring for all people. Please take time to talk to your children at home about this. Ask them how they have followed Jesus' example this week in school and please discuss words such as love, sharing, forgiveness and kindness with them at home.

Thank you for your continued support.
Mrs Kelly
Acting Headteacher

School success

I was delighted to find out last week that according to 'The Real Schools Guide 2018' we were ranked as 2nd in Croydon and were amongst the top 100 primary schools in the country. We are immensely proud of all our achievements, both academic and otherwise. None of it would be possible without an incredibly hardworking staff, a team of very supportive parents and the most wonderful children. We are very blessed on all counts and want to thank everyone for their hard work in making St Joseph's the amazing place that it is.

Sporting success

Sport continues to go from strength to strength here at St Joseph's. This is largely due to the leadership and guidance of our PE team - Mrs Mangan, Mr Kavanagh and Mrs Krasnic. May I take this opportunity to thank them for their continued hard work.

On the 10th January, Mrs Mangan took a team to the Croydon Sportshall Athletics Final. The team came 1st and this means that they will now represent the borough of Croydon at the London Youth School Games in February. A fantastic achievement!

This week the children took part in the swimming gala at South Norwood Swimming Pool. We took a team of 36 children and I am delighted to announce that the team came 2nd overall.

After half term, we will be entering teams from Year 3 – Year 6 into the School Games Key Steps Gymnastics competition. We wish them success in anticipation of this event.

Sporting Partnerships

The PE team have developed strong partnerships with other secondary schools and are currently working with Trinity PE department who are sharing their expertise in hockey with our Year 3 children. Previously, Trinity have worked with children in Year 4 teaching them the skills of rugby. After half term, Bishop Thomas Grant Secondary School will be sending in twenty of their young leaders to hold a competition for our Year 6 children in athletics.

Reading

Reading with your child is vital. Research shows that it's the single most important thing you can do to help your child's education. It's best to read little and often, so try to put aside some time for it every day. Think of ways to make reading fun - you want your child to learn how pleasurable books can be. If you're both enjoying talking about the content of a particular page, linger over it for as long as you like.

Please try to read with your child, whatever their age, every day. You can add comments in their Reading Records to show how they have responded to the questions you've asked or the things you have discussed. The reading records contain other useful information for how to support reading at home.

Attendance

A BIG well done and thank you to all pupils who have 100% attendance so far this term. Children in primary school are expected to have above 95% attendance. Attendance continues to be strong at St Joseph's despite the wrath of flu like bugs that we have encountered over the Autumn term. In the Infant school, attendance is at 94% and in the Junior School it is at 97%.

How is your child's class attendance?

| Class | % Attendance |
|-------|--------------|
| RP | 88.6% |
| RH | 93.0% |
| 1E | 96.8% |
| 1S | 94.2% |
| 2O | 97.6% |
| 2J | 96.2% |
| 3LJ | 92.0% |
| 3G | 89.1% |
| 4M | 97.6% |
| 4P | 97.5% |
| 5M | 97.6% |
| 5B | 95.8% |
| 6L | 96.3% |
| 6M | 96.8% |

Lots of people think that missing the odd day at school here and there can't do much harm. But even taking a short amount of time can be a problem. Your child might fall behind in their work and not be able to catch up. If there are gaps in their knowledge, they will suffer when school assessment time comes around. There could be other problems too; children who miss school are missing out on the social side of things which affects their ability to make and keep friends. If your child had an attendance figure of 90% every year of their primary school life, they would miss over a year of their schooling.

At St Joseph's, we have set ourselves an attendance target of 97%. We hope you can support us in achieving our target - we can only do it with your support!

Safeguarding

We work together to safeguard our children and school community. We encourage partnerships with all visitors to the school and work hard to maintain mutual respect and recognition of shared responsibility for the children. This is set out in our Home School Agreement and ICT acceptable User Policies.

However, in a very small minority of cases, the behaviour of a small minority can cause disruption, resulting in abusive or aggressive behaviour towards staff or other members of our school community.

This will not be tolerated. All members of the school community have a right to expect that their school is a safe place.

Uniform

Thank you for supporting your children in wearing school uniform; they are a credit to you and look so smart. I would like to remind parents of the following with regards to our school uniform policy:

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. Small hoops and novelty earrings must not be worn. 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. Pupils' hair should be neatly groomed and professional at all times. Long hair (on or below the shoulders) should be tied back neatly in school colours (boys & girls). This is not only for reasons of smartness and appearance but also for health and safety. Pupils may not wear excessive hair gel, designs or words/lines cut into their hair or permanent or temporary coloured hair. Extreme hairstyles, such as Mohawks and Mohicans are not allowed. Haircuts should be no less than grade 3.
3. School coats must be worn by all children. It is a **compulsory** item of school uniform.

Junior Playground

Please ensure that all preschool and infant children are supervised in the Junior playground after school. Please do not allow them to climb the bank or climb/touch the basketball posts.

Weather

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.

Please remember that it is important that children bring their school coats **EVERY** day, and hats and scarves, so that they can wrap up warm.

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

Holidays and Absences from school

Please note by way of a reminder we are not able to authorise any holidays during term time.

Forthcoming events

| Date | Event |
|--|---|
| Friday 26 th January | Relish food day-Roman |
| Friday 26 th January | Year 4 Roman Day |
| Friday 2 nd February -Thursday 8 th February | Science Week – see separate letter for events |
| Tuesday 6 th February | Safer internet Day |
| Thursday 8 th February | Relish food day-Inventors |
| Friday 9th February | School closed – Inset Day |
| Wednesday 21 st February | Sportshall Athletics School Games Final |
| Week beginning Monday 26 th February | Book Week & World Book Day Thursday 1 st March – see separate letter for events |
| Thursday 1 st March | Relish food day-World Book Day |
| Tuesday 6 th March | Class E Class assembly |
| Friday 9 th March | The Feast of St Catherine |
| Friday 16 th March | 5B Class assembly |
| Week beginning Monday 12 th March | Years 5/6 - Shakespeare week |
| Tuesday 13 th March & Thursday 15 th March | Parent open evening |
| Week beginning 19 th March | RE Week St Joseph's Day Celebration –Monday 19 th March |
| Friday 23 rd March | 5M Class Assembly |
| Tuesday 27 th March | Class S Class assembly |
| Wednesday 28 th March –Thursday 29 th March | Year 4 Hindleap |
| Wednesday 28 th March | Stations of the Cross Infants at 9.15 am Juniors at 2.30 pm |
| Thursday 29 th March | School finishes at 2pm. |

**All class assemblies begin at 9.15 am