

February 2018

We have had another very busy term at St Joseph's. We have achieved success academically and in sporting events as well as having a very successful Science week.

We were delighted in the first half of the spring term to appoint our new Headteacher for September – Mrs L. Fernandes. Mrs Fernandes will be visiting us over the summer term to get to know the children and staff in readiness for her new role in September. We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Carter at the end of this week as she begins her maternity leave. We wish her luck and look forward to meeting her new arrival. Mrs Carter will return to St Joseph's at the end of the year.

We are now in the Season of Lent. Lent is a special time of new life for the followers of Jesus. In Lent, Christians make a special effort to spend more time doing three things that were important to Jesus: living simply, sharing what we have with others, and praying.

We have been discussing with the children how Lent is a time when we make sacrifices/changes to become closer to Jesus. They may decide to give up biscuits or cakes or donate their money to a charity. They may also choose to do something that makes them grow as a person. For example, they could make their own bed every day.

At Home:

You could help your children by:

- reading the stories of Jesus' last week with them
- visiting church during Holy Week
- talking to them about all the things we have to be thankful for
- talking to them about how Sunday is a special day for Christians

Please encourage and support your children at home as we journey through the season of Lent. Devote some time to pray together at home as a family either at the beginning or end of the day, or before meals. It doesn't take a lot of time but it is well worth the effort.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Kelly

Acting Headteacher

World Book Day Celebrations

We will be celebrating World Book Day, on Thursday March 1st. All children (and staff!) are invited to come to school on this day dressed in their pyjamas.

This is the 21st year there's been a World Book Day. The main aim of World Book Day in the UK and Ireland is to encourage children to explore the pleasures of books and reading by providing them with the opportunity to have a book of their own. St. Joseph's will be celebrating the love of reading with a week filled with book-talk, competitions, dressing-up, stories and curriculum activities all based around the theme of 'Female Authors.'

Request for reading volunteers

The Infant school are in need of volunteers to listen to children during the school day. If you are able to offer your time and help that would be greatly appreciated. Please see Mrs Stylianou if you are interested in being a reading volunteer in the Infant School.

Attendance

In order to improve standards, I aim to inform you each month of each class's attendance from September.

How is your child's class attendance?

Class	% Attendance
RP	89.2%
RH	93.6%
1E	96.7%
1S	93.5%
2O	97.7%
2J	96.3%
3LJ	96.7%
3G	93.9%
4M	97.7%
4P	97.7%
5M	96.4%
5B	98.1%
6L	97.5%
6M	96.8%

A special well done to class 3G. Your attendance has improved significantly since the last newsletter. Keep it up!

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.

In the event that we have to close the school, we will update the website, send a text and update open check.

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

We are always trying to find ways to improve our website. We endeavor to make our website as user friendly as possible. In order to do this, we have arranged a workshop on 8th March at 9a.m. for parents or carers to come in to look at and use our website. We would like as many volunteers for this as possible. Please sign up in either school office if you are able to attend this workshop.

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
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 Dress up in pyjamas
Tuesday 6 th March	Class E Class Assembly
Thursday 8 th March	Quiz club event at St Aidans – Mrs McGrath leading
Friday 9 th March	The Feast of St Catherine Mother's Day Breakfast at 8a.m.
Week beginning Monday 12 th March	Years 5/6 - Shakespeare week
Tuesday 13 th March & Thursday 15 th March	Parent open evening
Wednesday 14 th March	Swimming Gala Final – Trinity School
Week beginning 19 th March	RE Week St Joseph's Day Celebration –Monday 19 th March
Monday 19 th March	Music concert – Junior Hall Year 4 trip to Westminster Cathedral
Tuesday 20 th March	Year 1 trip to St Matthew's Year 3 trip to St George's Cathedral Year 2 trip to Margaret Clitherow
Wednesday 21 st March & Thursday 22 nd March	Year 6 trip to Aylesford Reception visit to Virgo Fidelis
Friday 23 rd March	Year 5 Class Assembly
Monday 26 th March & Tuesday 27 th March	Year 5 trip to Buddhist Temple
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