

March 2018

What a month! We have been exceptionally proud to show many visitors around our school this month – from our Governing Body to our new Headteacher! The feedback has been so positive – the energy and enthusiasm from staff and children is palpable.

It was also lovely to see so many families at parents evening this month. I hope that you enjoyed looking at your children's work and that you are pleased with their progress. Thanks to 110 parents who took the time to complete our questionnaire - results are published below. If you were not able to get to Parents' evening, please see your child's class teacher to arrange a meeting for before or after school in the weeks ahead.

We are delighted to tell you that Mrs Carter has had a baby boy. Oscar Carter was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> March weighing 8lbs 1oz. May God bless her new family. Mrs Miscia will be leaving us just shortly after Easter to also have her baby. We wish her well and I will update you with her news in the April newsletter. Miss Long will be taking over as the class teacher of class 1S for the summer term.

There is no better time than the Lenten season to think about the direction of our lives, our interaction with those around us, and our relationship with God. During this time of reflection and sacrifice, we strive to put aside materialism and greed, counting our blessings for the things we truly need. Below are some Lenten reflection questions to think about this weekend with you and your family.

- ❖ Have I made a start with my Lenten challenge? If not, it's not too late...
- ❖ When have I struggled to "stay on task"? What is it that keeps me going?
- ❖ When have I discovered something brilliant or beautiful in people around me that I may find challenging? How did I find it?
- ❖ What am I doing to become the person God wants me to be?
- ❖ What am I doing to help the people I meet each day become the people God wants them to be?

Thank you for your continued support. I hope you have a blessed and Holy Easter break.  
Mrs Kelly  
Acting Headteacher

### **Request for reading volunteers**

The Infant school is still in need of volunteers to listen to children read 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.

### **Music lessons**

To register for music lessons in the Junior School, please contact the teachers directly on the emails provided below. All music lessons **must** be paid for in advance.

Violin/Cello:	Mrs Chamberlain	smiller105.306@lgflmail.org
Saxophone/Clarinet:	Mr Abbs	kabbs12.306@lgflmail.org
Flute/Fife:	Mrs Fewster	pfewster.306@lgflmail.org

## Parents' questionnaire

First of all I would like to say a **big thank you** to all parents who completed and returned the questionnaire. Your input is invaluable in helping us to identify areas of development to best meet the needs of the children at St Joseph's. We value our parent's opinions and are delighted that so many families are happy with the work of the school.

In all 110 questionnaires were returned to us. There was a very positive response to all statements, which was very pleasing. I have outlined the results below which show the percentage of parents who agree or strongly agree with the statements:

		Strongly agree %	Agree %
1	My child is happy at St Joseph's	66	34
2	My child is safe at St Joseph's	53	35
3	My child makes good progress at St Joseph's	50	46
4	My child enjoys their learning	55	44
5	My child is taught well at St Joseph's	53	41
6	My child receives appropriate homework for their age	48	41
7	St Joseph's makes sure that its pupils are well behaved	46	52
8	St Joseph's deals effectively with bullying	34	52
9	St Joseph's is well led and managed	46	43
10	St Joseph's responds well to any concerns I raise	41	48
11	I receive valuable information from St Joseph's about my child's progress	51	46
12	St Joseph's promotes the catholic ethos well and develops my child's spirituality.	69	29
13	Would you recommend St Joseph's to another parent?	87	1

We feel that the results are really positive overall and also gives us some clear areas that we need to develop. On our journey to excellence, we will always strive to improve and will act upon suggestions and views that were expressed in the survey. We also want to thank you so much for your kind words...we cannot tell you how much we appreciate this. We will continue to work hard for your children and for all parents.

## Attendance

The class currently with the best attendance is again 5B with a fantastic 98.2%. Well done. Congratulations to all other classes as your attendance is improving each month.

### How is your child's class attendance?

Class	% Attendance
RP	89.4%
RH	93.8%
1E	96.6%
1S	93.5%
2O	97.2%
2J	96.5%
3LJ	96.8%
3G	94.1%
4M	97.5%
4P	97.5%
5M	96.5%
5B	98.2%
6L	97.3%
6M	96.7%

## Weather

The weather this time of year is very unpredictable. In the event that we have to close the school, we will update the website, send a text and update open check.

## Holidays and Absences from school

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

## Haircuts

I am beginning to see haircuts on some boys which are not suitable for school. May I remind you of the following information on haircuts which is in our parent handbook:

*Pupils may not wear excessive hair gel, designs or words 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.*

## 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)

## **Irish Dancing School**

Irish dancing classes with **The Rose School of Irish Dancing** are 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!

## **Easter holidays**

During the Easter holidays there are a variety of sport activities which your children can take part in. For more information please follow this link:

<https://wp.me/P6GtOn-yQ>

## **Donations of school uniform**

Reception are in need of spare uniform and underwear. Please if you have any items of uniform at home that you no longer require can you please hand them into Mrs Swain or Miss Todd.

## **Book Fair**

Thank you for supporting our recent book fair in the Infant School. £719.00 was raised of which the school gets an amazing £359.00 commission to spend on new reading books for the school.

## **Cake sale**

You will be delighted to know that we raised £107.00 from our recent cake sale in school. Thank you for your donations of cakes. The money that was raised is in aid of the Lenten Appeal for the Catholic Children's society.

## Forthcoming events

Date	Event
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	School finishes at 2pm.
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	School opens
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Croydon Gym Final
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	4M Class Assembly Tear 5 – Downhouse Trip
Week beginning 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Computing week – Infant School
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	PGL information meeting for parents 6 p.m. Junior Hall
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Pyjama Day – wear pyjamas to school Book week parent activity 9-10 a.m. Year 4 cycling course Scooter training – Infant school
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	4P Class assembly
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 4 trip to Westminster Cathedral
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	May Procession
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	<b>Polling Day</b> School will be closed as it will be used as a polling station.

\*\*All class assemblies begin at 9.15 am

### Online safety tip

Agree with your child family rules for Internet use at home

Try to reach a family agreement on rules for Internet use in your home.

Here are some tips to get started:

- Discuss when and for how long it is acceptable for your child to use the Internet
- Agree how to treat personal information (name, address, telephone, e-mail)
- Discuss how to behave towards others when gaming, chatting, e-mailing or messaging
- Agree what type of sites and activities are OK or not OK in your family