

May/June 2018

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a restful half term and taken the opportunity to spend time with your families and friends.

May was an extremely busy month at St Joseph's! I would like to say a huge well done to all the children in Year 6 who worked so hard to prepare for their SATS tests. It was a challenging week! The children put so much effort in preparing and revising. They all tried their very, very best. All of the staff are so proud of each and every one of them! A huge thank you to all staff and of course you, the parents who have supported them.

On Friday 4th May the Infant children showed us how important Mary Our Mother is to us. They showed us how to honour Mary with a wonderful procession into the hall and they then decorated the Mary Altar with beautiful flowers. They shared with us the special events in her life. We found out Mary was very busy - just like our mothers.

On Friday 18th May, the children enjoyed an afternoon of celebrating all things British in an effort to mark the Royal Wedding. The children looked fantastic in their red, white and blue outfits and they enjoyed different crafts such as flag and crown making. The afternoon was topped off with a slice of cake and a drink of squash which the children thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you to the PTA for providing the delicious cakes and refreshments.

Finally, we finished off the first half of the summer term with our annual School Games Day. This was a fantastic event and it was great to see all of the children enjoying themselves and also encouraging each other through the events. Thank you to all of our parents who came to watch and to support their children. I was delighted to see the enthusiastic turnout for the mums and dads races! It was lovely to hear such positive comments about the day from the many parents that I spoke to. Thank you to Mrs Mangan and Mr Kavanagh for their organisation of the day – a huge success! I would also like to thank our Year 6 helpers who ensured that the infant sports events ran smoothly. They were incredibly helpful and encouraging to the younger children. I was extremely proud of them! Well done to all of the teams. A special mention must go to **St Sebastian** who were the overall winners and delighted us all with their 2 laps of honour at the end of the events!

We are now approaching the end of the academic year and this half term is always filled with lots of exciting events. Please look at the list of dates at the end of this newsletter to ensure that you do not miss out on events that are coming up this half term.

Thank you for your continued support
Mrs Kelly
Acting Headteacher

Staffing News

Welcome back to Miss Martin who is returning to school after her surgery. We are delighted to see her back. A big thank you to Ms Steele-Polmer who has taught 4M in her absence. An update on Miss Harrod's recovery. Miss Harrod unfortunately broke her knee cap before half term and has been recovering from surgery at home. It is highly unlikely Miss Harrod will be well enough to return to St Joseph's this half term. Mrs Stylianou will continue to teach in Year 2J on a Monday and Friday. I am sure that you wish Miss Harrod well and we look forward to seeing her fully recovered in September.

Securing excellence at St Joseph's

As part of our continued drive for improvement at St Joseph's we continually monitor and evaluate the quality of education that we provide and the standards of education for all of our children. An important part of this process involves an external review of teaching and learning in order to continue to develop and improve standards and to help identify priorities for improvement. We had an external review on the 22nd May by East Anglia Education. This involved a learning walk of all classrooms, a book look and meetings with senior leaders. The educational consultant who visited us was impressed by the on-going improvements in both schools and evaluated each school to be graded as securely good with the opportunity to become outstanding. We were delighted with this outcome and have already started to work towards those areas for improvement to move St Joseph's to outstanding. I have outlined below the key strengths identified and the areas for development that we are now working hard to improve.

Strengths
In EYFS and Key Stage 1 pupils make at least good and often outstanding progress. At Key stage 2, the proportion of pupils attaining at and above age related standards is significantly above national averages, as is the progress pupils make.
Leadership and management at all levels is outstanding – this includes senior and middle leaders
The quality of teaching and learning is never less than good and often outstanding. Worthy of particular mention are the following aspects of teaching: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers take care in marking and provide feedback that promotes learning • Very good differentiation • Accurate challenge within lessons • Very good use of questioning skills by teachers and teacher assistants • Excellent interventions to support disadvantaged and vulnerable learners • Mastery is well promoted • Innovative and motivating approaches used to support children with SEND • The quality of the EYFS outdoor classroom • The English curriculum is language rich and supportive of those children who join St Joseph's with little or no English • Very positive attitudes by the children towards their learning • The care children take in the presentation of their work • Very good progress in children's books • Children's behaviour for learning and the enjoyment they derive from their learning
The school's outstanding catholic ethos
Behaviour is consistently good throughout the day
Relationships between staff and pupils and the role model presented by staff are outstanding
Areas for development
Further improve the proportion of children achieving a good level of development in EYFS
Improve attendance rates in the Infant school

School places in September

We currently have places in our Nursery and Reception classes for September 2018. If you are interested in a place or know of a family looking for a school place for their child please contact Mrs McLeary in the Infant office for further information and a tour of the schools.

Sporting Success

Fantastic news for the basketball team this half term who got through to the School Games Final.

Congratulations to the Year 3/4 boys and girls teams who recently took part in a football competition at St James the Great with four other schools. The teams had a great time and the boys came away with a victory and the girls finished second place!

Our Year 5/6 boys B team also came second in their football tournament at Heavers farm School with again four other schools taking part in the competition. I was also delighted that the girls Year 5/6 football team also finished second in their tournament! Well done!

Finally, the boys school football team won their primary school league, lost in the semi final of the primary schools cup and are due to play in the Croydon Primary School Cup final in the next couple of weeks! A busy time for the football teams and Mr Kavanagh.

Mrs Mangan is currently working hard towards the reaccreditation of the Junior school for the School Games Mark. We are currently holders of the Gold mark, which represents our commitment to, and development of competition, school sport, physical education and physical activity. I will update you in July as to whether we have been successful in retaining our Gold status.

Summer Fair

The PTA has been busy behind the scenes preparing for this year's Summer Fair which we plan to be bigger and better than ever. This year's fair takes place on Sunday 1st July between 12.00pm and 4pm with inflatables, stalls for all the family, BBQ, competitions, tombola, gift stalls, creative areas, raffles, great music and much, much more around the school grounds.

This is our largest event of the year and our main opportunity to raise valuable funds for the school which are used to provide new equipment and extra resources for the children. Naturally, we need your help to make this event possible. **Can you help?** Please contact the PTA via the school office in the Junior school if you are able to volunteer at the summer fair – before, during or after the event!

Safeguarding

We have a duty of care to the children in our school. This includes taking the necessary steps to safeguard them and promote their welfare. Parents and Carers please familiarise yourself with the Safeguarding policy on the website. If you have any concerns the school's Senior Designated Officer for Safeguarding is Mrs Finerty and myself, Mrs Stylianou and Mrs McGrath are Deputy Designated officers.

Attendance

The class currently with the best attendance is again 5B with a fantastic 98.3%. Well done!

How is your child's class attendance?

Class	% Attendance
RP	89.4%
RH	94.2%
1E	96.3%
1S	95.3%
2O	97.1%
2J	96.4%
3LJ	96.9%
3G	94.8%
4M	97.4%
4P	97.4%
5M	96.7%
5B	98.3%
6L	97%
6M	96.6%

Holidays and Absences from school

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

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

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!

Forthcoming events

Date	Event
Monday 4 th June	Harlequins resilience training for Year 6 (Rugby) Harlequins tackling numbers training for Year 4 (Rugby) Harlequins after school club for Years 4,5 and 6
Tuesday 5 th June	Cricket for Year 4 and Year 6 begins for this half term Year 6L trip to Aylesford
Wednesday 6 th June	Year 6M trip to Aylesford
Friday 8 th June – Monday 11 th June	Year 6 PGL trip – Venue: Hindhead
Monday 11 th June	Healthy Eating Week
Tuesday 12 th June	CAT tests for all Year 6 pupils attending BTG in September Venue: St Joseph's Junior School
Thursday 14 th June	Quantum Theatre for Key Stage 2 children
Friday 15 th June	3LJ Class Assembly
Monday 18 th June	Creative Arts Week Drama workshops Infants Croydon Primary Schools Athletics Championships - Boys
Tuesday 19 th June	Drama Workshops Juniors Year 2 trip Venue: Dulwich Art Gallery Croydon Primary Schools Athletics Championships - Girls
Wednesday 20 th June	Croydon Primary Schools Athletics Championships - Finals
Thursday 21 st June	Swimming Gala – Venue: St Joseph's College
Friday 22 nd June	3G Class Assembly Year 4 and Year 6 Harlequins Rugby lessons for 6 weeks Cricket competition at Good Shepherd Primary School TES School Awards
Monday 25 th June	Road Safety Week Year 5 and Year 6 workshops on knife crime and gang prevention
Tuesday 26 th June	Transition Day for Year 2 – visiting year 3 classrooms Year 6 Picnic & Praise Day – Venue: St Philomena's
Wednesday 27 th June	Key Stage 2 Catholic Sports at St James the Great School STEM event – Venue: BTG School 'New to Nursery' parents meeting 9.30 am
Friday 29 th June	4P Class Assembly The Feast of St Peter & St Paul - Mass at Virgo Fidelis Church New Reception Intake Play afternoon 1.30pm – 2.30pm

Date	Event
Sunday 1 st July	SUMMER FAIR 12pm – 4pm
Tuesday 3 rd July	Class P Assembly
Thursday 5 th July	Year 2 production to parents – 9.30 am Croydon School Games Final London Youth Games Finals Year 5 pupils attending Fan Fest – Venue Crystal Palace Key Stage 1 Catholic Sports event
Friday 6 th July	School Council visiting the Houses of Parliament New intake reception visit 2: 9.30am – 10.30am New parents meeting in the Infant Hall – 9.45 am
Tuesday 10 th July	Class H class assembly Junior Orchestra concert 2.30 pm Disco's Y2/3 at 5 - 6pm Y4/5 at 6.15 – 7.15 pm
Wednesday 11 th July	Year 2/3 Mass in the Junior Hall Year 3 to dress in their Holy communion celebration clothes 'New to Year 3 in September' Parents meeting after Mass in the Hall and at 5.30 pm in 3G classroom Year 6 Disco 5.30 – 7.00 pm School reports out today
Thursday 12 th July	Year 6 Leavers Mass at 6.30 pm Year 2 trip Venue: The London Eye and Sea Life London
Friday 13 th July	Year 4 trip. Venue: The Tower of London
Monday 16 th July	New intake reception visit 3: 9.30am – 10.30am
Tuesday 17 th July	Year 6 performance at 7.00 pm
Wednesday 18 th July	Whole School transition day Optional parents meeting Thanksgiving Mass at Virgo Fidelis 6.30 pm. All are welcome followed by refreshments in the Infant Hall
Thursday 19 th July	Year 6 trip to Chessington
Friday 20 th July	School closes for pupils for the summer holidays at 2pm Y6 leavers BBQ organised by Y6 parents – Venue: The school field
Monday 23 rd July	INSET Day for staff.

**All class assemblies begin at 9.15 am