

October 2018



Thank you for the wonderful welcome you have given me since I started in September and for the many positive and supportive comments received. I am delighted to be the Head of St. Joseph's Federation and am very fortunate to be supported by Mrs Kelly the Deputy Head, all members of the Senior Leadership Team, Staff and Governors.

Our pupils have settled and are focused, rising to the challenges of a new academic year. We are continuing to promote 'pupil voice' where we encourage all pupils to feel confident to share their opinions. I have already received letters from individual pupils relating to clubs they would like to run during lunchtime break. Having spoken to children across the school, I can already see that they have many excellent ideas and are keen to be involved in building on current school achievements. It is important for us to help our children to know about freedom of speech and the importance of ensuring that everyone has a voice and with that comes the responsibility to show respect and tolerance.

So do look out for future newsletters from our pupil committees.

Thank you to all the Year 6 pupils who applied for the positions on the Pupil Leadership Team. They went through a rigorous selection process requiring them to deliver a presentation and then attend an interview. The standard was high and congratulations to all the pupils who applied. I am delighted to announce the successful candidates are:

Head Girl: Elza
Head Boy: Sam

Deputy Head Girl: Esmee
Deputy Head Boy: Fabio

Pupil Leadership Team:

Lilly, Mia W, Patrick, Dominika, Naimah, Ofure and Noel

Congratulations to the following pupils elected as

School Councillors:

Caleb, David M, Mattia, Tyrese, Nathaniel, Soraya, Blessing S, Sienna, Daniele, Frank A, Blessing L, Frank D, Daniel and Misha

House Team Captains

St Francis – Ben 6B Isabelli 6B
St. Sebastan: Faith 6B, Wetu 6M
St. Cecilia: Favour 6M, Godwin 6B
St. Catherine: Eoin 6M, Elisa 6M

Peer Mediators:

DeShawn, Lorenzo, Noel, Ruben, Fabio, Mattia, Ben, Tyrese, Ofure, Amy, Casey, Vicky, Pearl, Faith, Mia W, Tyla, Lullit, Anna, Kya and Jessye

Apostles of Mercy:

Lorenzo, Dennys, Akua, Clara, Ava, Eden, Simon and Jeremy

I look forward to working with all the pupil groups and believe that they can contribute significantly to the continued future development of the school. It is important that all our pupils believe they can make a difference and their views are listened to and discussed. We are encouraging the committees to produce termly newsletters to update you on events.



Jasmyn,



We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to run a drama club on a Saturday morning from 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. at a cost of £50 for ten sessions. It will be open to pupils in the Junior School. Mr Finnegan, (a parent) is generously giving his time to run this club. Pupils will work towards a production to be performed in December. Should your child be offered a place they will need to attend all sessions and commit to the project. We have a limit of 12 places so please return your letter of interest as soon as possible.

START AND END OF THE DAY

Thank you to all of you who park in neighbouring roads with care and consideration to others. Please remember not to block residents' drives and do not park on the yellow zigzag lines outside school. Most drivers are considerate to children and adults crossing the road and I am happy to help everyone cross safely outside the Woodend entrance.



If you have infant children, you must ensure that either you or a known adult walks them down to their class. Junior children may walk into school unaccompanied. I am sure you will agree that keeping all pupils safe is always a key priority. Thank you for your co-operation.



ONLINE SAFETY

Please continue to monitor your child carefully when it comes to using a computer, particularly on the internet. There are many useful programmes to support learning and age appropriate games. It is important that you ensure children are not accessing games and programmes above their age group. There have been recent reports about a game on the internet called

'Charlie, Charlie', which is not suitable for primary age pupils. Please do read the following message from Ms Caron Allery our

Computing and online safety lead:

'Many of your children are taking part in the Charlie; Charlie challenge without understanding the negative impact it can have on themselves and others. It is a game set up to be played both 'online' and in 'real time'. It works in a similar way to Ouija Boards and comes from a Mexican idea that children playing can contact a 'dead child'. This can be very scary for some children who feel pressured into playing and as a school; we are asking you to check that your child is not playing this 'game'. The psychological effects of this include; excessive scare mongering, a play on superstition and the associated worrying pressures to take part. This has already negatively affected some of our children at school and we ask that you please check with your child and explain the reasons why they should stay away from games such as these.

We thank you in advance for your continued support.- Ms Allery (Computing & Online safety Lead)

APPEAL FOR BOTTLES – Year 3

To mark the centenary of the end of the First World War, year 3 have planned to make 100 poppies to display outside the entrance of the school.

In order to do this, they would very much appreciate your help in donating empty large, clear plastic bottles (with screw tops). It will not only make a beautiful and poignant display but will also be a purposeful way of recycling some of our plastic. Many thanks.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We are continually looking for new ideas to further improve links between home and school and I welcome your suggestions on how to move forward. Many parents have asked for ideas and help with teaching phonics. We are currently trying to organise regular drop in sessions in Reception from 8.45 to 9.15 a.m. You will be able to observe phonics lessons being taught and have the opportunity to work with your child in class. Reading is another school priority for the year with a focus on extending pupils' vocabulary. The key to this is daily reading and encouraging your child to read a variety of texts. A competent writer reads regularly and builds up an extensive vocabulary. So please read with your child and take them to the Library to give them the opportunity to enjoy different texts. We need to support our local libraries and make use of their excellent resources.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Thank you to Mrs De Jesus, our PTA committee and all the helpers for organising this event, it was a big success and well attended. Thank you for your generosity and support. The total raised was over £600, a fantastic achievement and all funds raised will be donated to Macmillan. We are very fortunate to have a strong community at St. Joseph's who support our school events. Thank you to everyone.

PTA

Thank you to everyone who attended the PTA AGM in September, it was nice to meet you all and I would urge you to please support our PTA. They play an important part in developing parental involvement and supporting the school, so please do try to get involved and refer to the PTA board for information. The members work incredibly hard and always welcome your input and support. Thank you to the PTA for organising the uniform and book sale on Friday, 28th September, another very popular which raised over £300



Our next major event will be the **Christmas Fair on Friday, 30th November** so please look out for details on how you can help. The PTA have organised

The PTA have arranged with a Real Estate Agency to sponsor the advertising of our Christmas Fair. They will pay £15 for every board put up. It is an important part of our fundraising. If you are interested in having a board outside your home to advertise our Christmas Fair, please could you click onto the link below and register your commitment to displaying a board. It is open to any friends and family of St. Joseph's community and the more people we have registered, the more funds we raise for our school. Please use the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DDB65G3>

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our pupils continue to look very smart and are great ambassadors for our school in the local community. Please do remember to label all items of uniform clearly. In the interest of health and safety, we would advise pupils not to wear earrings, but if it is essential then please ensure your child wears small studs. Long hair should be tied back.

The weather is steadily changing and is much cooler; please encourage your child to wear their school coat. I apologise for the confusion caused with year 6 regarding the school coat. Having considered the school policy, year 6 will need to wear the maroon school coat and not a dark coat as previously suggested. I understand some year 6 parents would have preferred not to buy a new school coat, as it is Year 6's final year, but the coats are part of school uniform, inexpensive and do look smart.



OCTOBER MONTH OF THE ROSARY

October is the month of the Rosary, so please do talk to your child about how to say the Rosary and why it is an important prayer to us as Catholics. We will be saying a decade of the Rosary each week in Assembly.

PUPILS OF THE WEEK

Staff select pupils for a weekly merit certificate based on attitude to learning, attainment and for positive behaviour. To reward their efforts, pupils in the Infant School attend a 'golden tea party' on Friday afternoon to celebrate their achievements, while the juniors join members of staff for lunch at the 'Top table'. My thanks to Ms Harrod and Mrs Foley Brown for organising these rewards. Do visit our website for news posts and pictures of various events.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR JUNIOR SPORTS TEAM

Mrs Mangan accompanied two teams to a Tag Rugby competition on Wednesday, 26th September at Trinity School. It was a friendly competition and our pupils only lost one match.

Mr Harman entered a football team at Margaret Roper on Saturday, 29th September. Our school qualified for the quarterfinals and narrowly lost out to the winning team.

All teams participated with excellent sportsmanship and performed to a high standard representing our school values of passion, honesty and respect.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to working with you. I am at the front gate most mornings so please do come and say hello. My door is open so please do make an appointment at the school office if you wish to meet with me. We have much to celebrate and I am confident by working closely together, we will continue to thrive and further raise our school's profile in the wider community. St. Joseph's Federation is an exceptional place to learn and grow and we need to work together to promote our school to others. Our open day is Thursday, 11th October so do inform other families and encourage them to visit.

Mrs Fernandes
Headteacher

Diary dates

DATE	EVENT
8TH OCTOBER	GRANDPARENTS LUNCH – INFANT SCHOOL
9TH OCTOBER	CLASS J (Y2) ASSEMBLY 9.15 A.M. – PARENTS WELCOME
	GRANDPARENTS LUNCH – JUNIOR SCHOOL
10TH OCTOBER	Y6 TRANSITION MEETING – 8.00 A.M. JUNIOR HALL
11TH OCTOBER	OPEN DAY – 9.30A.M. & 5.30 P.M.
12TH OCTOBER	HARVEST MASS – 1.30 P.M. JUNIOR HALL
W.C. 15TH OCTOBER	INTERNATIONAL WEEK
19TH OCTOBER	WORLD FOOD DAY
	22 ND – 26 TH OCTOBER – HALF TERM WEEK
2 ND NOVEMBER	MUFTI DAY – PLEASE BRING A BOTTLE FOR THE CHRISTMAS SCHOOL FAIR
6 TH NOVEMBER	CLASS ASSEMBLY – YEAR (O)
9 TH NOVEMBER	REMEMBRANCE DAY PRESENTATION
11 TH NOVEMBER	REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE
30 TH NOVEMBER	CHRISTMAS FAIR – 3.00 P.M. ONWARDS

To find out further information on any past and current events, please sign up to our website. You can find key information to help support your child is learning and see all the wonderful things happening in school.

www.stjosephsfederation.co.uk