



*God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us.
God of hope, the rock we stand upon,
be the centre, the focus of our lives
always, and particularly this Advent time.*

*Hope is being able to see that there is light despite
all the darkness around us - Desmond Tutu*

DECEMBER 2018

Dear Parents & Friends

During the season of Advent, we will be preparing for Christmas and children will be encouraged to think of the real meaning of Christmas. Father James joined us on Friday and blessed our Advent wreath, lighting the first candle symbolising Hope. Children were reflective and led the services with reverence and respect. Please talk to you child about the importance of Advent and how they can prepare for Christmas.

Celebrating good news

I am delighted to inform you that St Joseph's Junior School will be included in an annual Ofsted report due to be published shortly. It relates to schools who have been on a journey to outstanding. It acknowledges the work of a strong community of staff, governors, pupils and parents., past and present at St. Joseph's School. The report focuses on the following information from the June 2018 Ofsted report:



- ◆ Highly ambitious leaders and governors have been uncompromising in making significant and sustainable improvements to all areas of school life since the previous inspection.
- ◆ Training and professional development have been vital in improving the quality of teaching so that it is outstanding. There is a systematic approach to training, which ensures staff have a deep understanding of the approach to teaching that leaders advocate.
- ◆ The breadth of the curriculum, and the strong links across subjects, is a strength of the school. The curriculum is enriched by trips to places of interest and visitors, including theatre groups, into school. Leaders have a keen awareness of pupils' backgrounds and ensure that they expose them to a range of experiences that they might otherwise not have.
- ◆ Leaders ensure that pupils with particular behavioural needs are very well supported to learn to manage their behaviour.

It is a great testimony to Mrs Kelly who was acting Head last year and I am delighted to be working with her to continue building on our achievements and addressing the areas of future development.

The Infant school was judged to be 'Good' at its last Ofsted inspection in 2014. We are due an Ofsted inspection and under the new Ofsted framework the school will be inspected for one day. The new framework states that a good school cannot be judged outstanding at this visit as it is a different framework.

We are expecting Ofsted this academic year and look forward to welcoming them to the Nursery and Infant school to celebrate our strengths and address areas for future development. We have an amazing school community to be proud of and we need to spread the word in our local and wider community.

Mrs Fernandes (Headteacher)

WE LEARN TO LOVE, WE LOVE TO LEARN

Christmas Fair

Thank you to the PTA for organising the Fair held on Friday, 30th November in the Junior School. It was a wonderful event and well supported by our school community. It was a pleasure talking to so many of you and seeing everyone enter into the festive spirit. My thanks to the many helpers who worked incredibly hard, giving generously of their time. Without our PTA it would not be possible to hold these events. Please do support them, as they always need extra helpers. You will be informed of the total amount raised, before the end of Term. Money raised is kindly donated to the school. Pupils are then involved in how it is spent to further develop the school.

Shoe Box Appeal - Operation Christmas Child - Samaritan's Purse

Thank you for contributing gifts for the Shoe Box appeal. The boxes have been delivered to the Charity organising distribution to families in need. It is important for us to be involved in charitable acts, to help children understand we have a responsibility to help our wider community. This links to our Catholic ethos and gospel values.



Parent/Teacher contact meetings

Thank you to everyone who attended the above meetings and I was delighted with the positive responses to the parent questionnaires. Feedback indicated that the majority of you preferred the new format for parent meetings which will continue. 95% of parents attended and this supports the fact that parental involvement has improved. We will be holding a curriculum meeting after Christmas in the spring term, the focus will be 'Ways to support your child to be an outstanding learner' It will look at strategies and activities you can use to develop key skills in reading, writing and maths, as well as developing your child's thinking and reasoning skills.

Please do take time to look at our main school development priorities for this academic year. I welcome your comments.



Review the curriculum so that pupils have even more opportunities to apply reading, writing and maths skills. Encourage debating skills and pupil voice. Discuss current affairs and express views

Continue to increase the number of pupils exceeding in reading, writing and maths so that the school continues to be above national level

Further improve outcomes for pupils at the end of Early Years. Ensure that children have a creative curriculum with opportunities to develop their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills

Ensure our pupils continue to be outstanding, independent learners who are self-motivated and aim high. We want to deepen reasoning and thinking skills for all ages

Give staff the opportunity to observe other practice in local, national and school in other countries. Support staff in being even more creative and challenging all

We want to review our curriculum and extend opportunities for pupil voice so that our children are fully aware of their local, wider and global community. We want our children to know that they can make a difference to the world

We want to plan projects to develop our premises and in the short term improve our school playgrounds.

We have a wonderful Forest School and plan to make even more use of it to improve outdoor learning.

WE LEARN TO LOVE, WE LOVE TO LEARN



Odd socks day as part of anti-bullying week



Pupils from the Leadership team visited the Houses of Parliament and took part in a debating workshop



Throughout the school we have been increasing opportunities for outdoor learning to support writing activities



Investigating ideas in Math and Science through practical activities promotes thinking and reasoning skills in every key stage



The best way to support reading is to develop reading for pleasure. If children love to read, it will widen their vocabulary and they will thrive with their writing

Our strong ethos based on Gospel values embeds everything we do. Children learn to play and learn together, valuing diversity with respect and understanding.



Comprehension skills are developed through use of ICT, role play and discussion.



ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

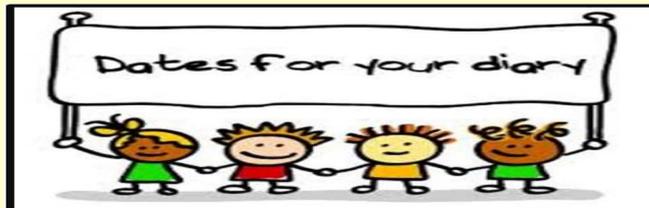
We are striving for 100% attendance and punctuality.

Remember classroom doors are open at 8.45 a.m., so please ensure your child is in on time to make the most of early morning work.

OVERALL ATTENDANCE TO DATE

CLASSES WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

***Reception – class P
Year 6 – 6M***



Diary Dates

2nd Half of Autumn Term

- 06.12.18 – Nursery Christmas Production - 9.45 a.m.
- 6.12.18 – Maths lecture/workshop at University of London (group of Y6 pupils)
- 07.12.18 – Reception Christmas Production – 9.45 a.m.
- 07.12.18 – Y5 Trip to British Museum
- 10.12.18 – KS1 Christmas Production (E & J) – 9.45 a.m.
- 11.12.18 - KS1 Christmas Production (S & O) – 9.45 a.m.
- 13.12.18 – Christmas Lunch
- 17.12.18 – Junior Carol Service 2.00 p.m.
- 21.12.18 – Infants Carols by candlelight

**21.12.18 – END OF TERM (2.00 P.M.)
INSET DAY: 7TH JANUARY 2019**

**CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL
8TH JANUARY 2019**

Extended learning

- Theatre workshops
- Cinema trips
- Visits to Parliament
- Maths workshops
- Sporting competitions & workshops
- Planting trees in the local community
- Shoe Box Appeal
- Anti-bullying week
- International week
- Debating project
- Harvest & Advent services
- Choir singing in the community (please listen to the Choir singing the creed on the music page on our website)
- Christmas Fair
- School disco and parties

Please refer to the school website for regular updates and do visit the gallery which has up to date pictures on events

www.stjosephsfederation.co.uk

Class	% Attendance
RP	97%
RH	95%
1E	94%
1S	94%
2O	97%
2J	95%
3LJ	94%
3G	96%
4H	96%
4K	96%
5LJ	98%
5P	98%
6M	98%
6B	99%