

END OF 1ST HALF OF AUTUMN TERM 2019

Dear Parents & Friends

This first half of this term has flown by, the children have made a good start to the year. I have been most impressed with our young pupils in Nursery and Reception who have settled into full time school with ease and confidence. They are so positive and enthusiastic and show wonderful promise for the future.

NEWS THIS TERM

I am thrilled to say that we now have a wonderful school choir led by Mrs Gallagher, our new Deputy Headteacher. They have performed in both the Infant and Junior Schools and have exciting ideas for the term ahead. Mrs Gallagher has plans for an adult choir of parents, staff and friends, so keep an eye out for details next term. Without a doubt, I'm sure there is a lot of talent waiting to be discovered!

Many of you will have met Mr Navarro, our new School Business Manager who joined us this term. In a short space of time he has helped to raise the profile of the school in the local community, through making links with local groups and clubs. He has increased the lettings of our premises, which helps generate revenue for the school. He is currently looking into applying for grants and funding for a range of projects. If you are interested in hiring the school halls, please see Mr Navarro.

Thank you for the warm welcome extended to all our new staff. They have already had a positive impact on our school community. We have a strong knowledgeable team who bring fresh ideas combined with experience. St Joseph's is a strong community and working together we can achieve excellent outcomes.

Every year brings new opportunities and fresh ideas and we rely on your help and support to ensure the continued success of our school. Thank you to the parents who attended the curriculum evenings but we really do need more parents to get involved and engage with us. So please refer to our website for details of future events so you can plan ahead for events. The Governors will be holding a Cheese and Wine evening on Friday, 15th November 2019 from 6.00 to 7.30 p.m., please do add the date to your diary, details to follow.

NEW CURRICULUM

Each term, children will continue to cover the curriculum through a series of focused themes. Our theme in September was 'Breaking News' and it gave children a chance to talk about their holiday news and to cover news events through looking at current affairs. This was followed by the topic of 'Our Heritage' where children were encouraged to share information about their family's cultural background. Each class studied a famous person who had made a positive contribution to the world, either in the past or the present. Children learnt a lot about the challenges faced in the past and today and how people overcame them.

Thank you for supporting your child with the homework I set asking children to produce a persuasive text around the topic of 'It is important for everyone to celebrate diversity' I received some excellent posters, leaflets and persuasive letters to Boris Johnson, Donald Trump, the London Mayor and our local MPs. They were really impressive and I will be selecting some to send to the respective political figures.

Well done children of St. Joseph's. Our future is looking promising with young people like you standing up for what is right and presenting your views in a respectful and persuasive way.

WE LEARN TO LOVE, WE LOVE TO LEARN

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WEEK

Thank you to all the parents for making time to come into school to talk to the children about your culture and traditions. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and we are so fortunate to have a diverse community with much to celebrate. A big thank you for all your donations of food for our Friday feast.

On Monday and Tuesday, the children enjoyed drumming workshops with Winston, he was fantastic and it was lovely to hear the school filled with music. Do visit our website to view some of the photos of the week.



MUSIC CURRICULUM

I am delighted to share our plans with you about developing music at St. Joseph's School. After half term Year 3 will be starting recorder lessons and Year 4 will be learning to play the Ukulele. I would like to thank the PTA for their generous donation of £1500 to cover the cost of purchasing these instruments. It's very exciting and we hope to be up and running by late November. This donations is a result of money raised at the summer fair , so thank you for supporting this event. Details of the PTA's AGM will be sent out shortly. The proposed date is Monday, 4th November 2019 at 6.30 p.m. The PTA give generously of their time. Most committee members work full time and but still manage to find time to help the school. I urge you to please support the committee. All parents are automatically members of the PTA and we need everyone to give some time to help organise events, or with preparation or event, or even better , to take an active part on the Committee. If you attend the AGM you will have the opportunity to be part of an exciting organisation that is vital to the school. I know all of you have many talents so please do get involved.



We are looking into drumming and steel pans for Years 5 and 6 and percussion instruments for the Infant school for the spring term. I know you will appreciate that this is very costly and funding is a continual challenge. With this in mind I urge you to please contribute towards the School fund. I will be sending out letters again when we return after half term. Your contributions are vital to helping us purchase instruments so that every child can benefit and have access to individual instruments instead of sharing.

Music is so important and supports strong academic outcomes as well as contributing to pupil wellbeing and enjoyment. We do need your help, so please do contribute to the school fund.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING - FRIDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER 2019

A big thank you for supporting this event held in September and to Mrs De Jesus for organising it. We raised £338 which has been sent to MacMillan Charity. Thank you to everyone who made time to bake or donate cakes.

I wish you all a very happy half term. Let's hope the rain eases up and the sun shines all week. Sadly, temperatures are dropping, so please remember to remind your child to wear their school coat and please do name all items of uniform. Have a wonderful holiday and I look forward to welcoming you back on Monday, 28th October at 8.45 a.m.

Mrs Fernandes – Headteacher

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PUPIL VOICE

PUPIL NEWS

Music

At St Joseph's Mrs Gallagher has formed a choir also known as the STJ vocal group. This group consists of eight music leaders, and approximately sixty KS2 students who attended their first rehearsal two weeks ago and are still committed to the group.

The choir is fun because we learn many different songs that we have enjoyed singing and performing. So far this term, we have learnt three songs: 'Across the fields', a gospel medley and 'Three little birds.'

On the 15th October we had an assembly with Mrs Chamberlain and she showed us all of the instruments that we can learn in St Josephs. We really enjoyed this assembly. If your child is interested in starting music lessons at the school please contact the school office.

We have all really enjoyed attending choir.

Cheryl, Megan and Sienna (Year 6 Music leaders)

Environmental Action Club

Environmental Action Club (EAC) is a new club that started this September. The aim of the club is to look at how the school can improve the school grounds, and at how we can be a sustainable school.

Our main project this term is the Angel Garden. We have been researching different types of flowers, fruit and vegetables to grow in school. We thank the adults who have helped clear the garden, this is allowing us to move the project on quickly. We will keep you updated every half term on the garden and its growth over time.

Next half term we plan to lead on a whole school 'Big Dig' and will invite parents, friends, pupils and anyone who is able to help us with gardening

By Amelia, Isabella, Nirel (EAC Leaders)



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DIARY DATES

DATE	WHOLE SCHOOL	INFANTS	JUNIORS
30.10.19			SPELLING BEE COMPETITION
NOVEMBER			CAREERS MONTH - A VARIETY OF SPEAKERS FROM DIFFERENT PROFESSIONS TO WORK WITH KS2
NOVEMBER— DECEMBER	ENTERPRISE TOPIC ALL CLASSES TO SET UP ENTERPRISE PROJECTS CHILDREN WILL BE SELLING GOODS CREATED		
06.11.19			Y4 CINEMA TRIP
08.11.19		CLASS O ASSEMBLY—9.15 A.M. INFANT HALL	
11.11.19		REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE - JUNIOR HALL 9.15 A.M. PARENTS WELCOME	REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE - JUNIOR HALL 10.30 A.M. PARENTS WELCOME
12.11.19 & 14.11.19	PARENTS' EVENING	PARENTS' EVENING	PARENTS' EVENING
15.11.19	GOVERNORS CHESSE AND WINE EVENING— 6.00 P.M.—7.30 P.M. ALL WELCOME		Y6 ASSEMBLY PARENTS WELCOME
18.11.19		RECEPTION, YEAR 1 & YEAR 2 NASAL FLE SPRAY	Y5 TRIP TO THE CINEMA
29.11.19	Book Bus in school - Sharing books. Books will also be on sale		
05.12.19		RECEPTION & NURSERY NATIVITY PLAY 9.30 A.M.	
09.12.19		CLASS J & E—NATIVITY PLAY 9.30 A.M.	
10.12.19		CLASS O & S—NATIVITY PLAY 9.30 A.M.	13.12.19—Y6 CINEMA TRIP
12.12.19			CHRISTMAS CONCERT
20.12.19			KS2 ADVENT SERVICE -