



Newsletter: February 2016

Dear Parents / Carers,

Remember to wrap up warm for the cold weather! Below are some notices for your attention...

Important Dates

Term Dates

- We break for Easter on Thurs. 24th Mar. 2016 at 2pm
- We return after the Easter break on Mon. 11th Apr. at the usual time of 8:55am (supervision in the playground from 8:40am) – children should wear the school summer uniform



Please find attached the term dates for the academic year 2016/2017 – please refer to these when arranging holidays and short breaks. Please keep them for your reference in a safe place.

Book Week

Book Week is next week! (WC: 29th Feb.) and our theme this year is 'Play scripts!' Yes, we are celebrating the arts, promoting the theatre and perfecting our very own performances! We look forward to a fun packed week of learning and entertainment!

School Photographs

The dates for this year's school photographs are as follows:

- Thurs. 17th March – individual child photographs and siblings (winter uniform)
- Thurs. 28th April – class photographs (summer uniform)



Further details will follow shortly, but please make a note of these times on your calendars/in your diaries.

Summer Uniform Sales

Summer uniform sales will be held on Thurs. 17th Mar. and Tues. 22nd Mar. 2016 from 2:45-4pm in the school.

Nativity DVD (2015)

Our Reception and KS1 Nativity DVD has been reviewed and is being edited; we expect that it will be available in March. If you wish to place an order, then this can be done via a member of our admin. team. Remember, when you collect it you will be required to sign an agreement that the DVD is for personal viewing use only, and that it will not be copied or shared publicly. Payment may be made in advance or upon collection. The cost of the DVD is £7.00.

Safer Internet Day 2016

We marked 'safer internet day' in school last half-term on Tuesday 9th Feb. by sharing some of the engaging resources produced by the 'UK Safer Internet Centre' to help children increase their awareness of how to be safe when using the internet. Please see the following website for more information to reinforce this learning with your child at home - <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources>



Thank you, also, to the parents of KS2 children who attended our training held in school on Tues. 9th & Wed. 10th Feb. – your support and feedback is much appreciated.

St. Joseph's Kitchen!

Mrs Castagno and her team are looking forward to the half-term ahead and will be cooking up a storm for our children! We have been working on our school menus over the half-term break ensuring they meet the DfE nutritional food standards and trying to incorporate seasonal produce and dishes that reflect our community cultures – these will be more apparent when the full year's menus are published – but you can expect Spanish Omelette and Jollof Rice! We will be making our own fresh bread daily and including some exciting options in our salad bar! The revised school menus will be published on our website on Monday the 29th February.



Parents & Toddlers

Our Parents & Toddlers has been open for a half-term and is going strong! We are pleased to have had visitors from our school community and some from our local community, not yet connected to the school. The children are enjoying themselves and only seem to get upset when it's time to go! This is a new venture, but we hope to develop it within the summer term by booking some workshops, e.g. baby massage and more... 😊



School Football Team

We are at the top of the table for our division!!! Can you believe it? Well done to all the children who have competed in the Lambeth and Southwark League Saturday matches! Also, thanks to our parents for supporting the team and bringing the children to the matches. Please visit the following website and see us at the top of the table for yourselves! <http://lpsfl.com/2015-16-LEAGUE-TABLES>



Reminders

Uniform

We have noticed some variations to school uniform items being worn/used by some children in the school. Therefore, we will be carrying out uniform spot-checks towards the end of this half-term. Please attend to any messages you receive about this during the Easter break – many thanks.



Children are not permitted to wear any boots in school, including ankle boots. School shoes only must be worn. Also, if your child takes home any items of uniform belonging to somebody else in error, please ensure these are returned at the next available opportunity – many thanks 😊

Ready for School!

Thank you for helping our pupils to be properly prepared for school each day, through ensuring that PE kits, homework books, reading folders and records and permission slips are ready on a regular basis. Everyday in school is very busy and each minute is precious! Please continue to support us by making sure your children have had enough sleep to take advantage of each day's learning opportunities.

The NHS recommend that children aged five to eight have 11 hours sleep each night and that children aged nine to eleven have 10 hours sleep. To follow this guidance children in upper KS2 should be asleep by 9.00pm and lower KS2 8.00pm (approx). We have noticed recently a small number of children coming to school who appear to be too tired to do their very best. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Pupil Safety

Please do not leave children unattended at the school gates. The main entrance opens at 8:00am to admit children attending breakfast club and the pupil entrance opens at 8:40am to admit children for school. Please ensure you stay with your child, if you bring him/her to school, until they are safely within the school grounds. Leaving your child unattended may have serious consequences to their safety.



Further, please be extra vigilant when bringing your child to school by car. Stopping and double-parking to let the children out onto the road by the school gates needs careful attention for the children, other drivers and pedestrians wishing to cross the road. If you happen to be late for school, please Do Not Rush! This only increases the chance of accidents. This can be put right the next day by waking and leaving your home earlier.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Macauley or Miss Alford by appointment through the school office.

St. Joseph's School Staff