

Newsletter: January 2016

Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope you have all had a great start to the New Year and that 2016 will be a prosperous and peaceful year for us all!

Please read on, for some important information in our first newsletter of the year.....

We have new school ventures for our New Year!

St. Joseph's Kitchen is now open!

That's right! We have taken over our school kitchen since the start of the new school year and all is going well! This is something we have wanted to do as a school for a while and finally we have achieved it! We have our own staff in the kitchen and they are:

- Mrs Castagno
- Mrs Budd
- Mrs Otomewo
- and Miss Garcia!



They are a hard working team and Mrs Castagno informs us that every meal is made with love! Each meal has certainly been well received by the children! Please see our website for our 4 week school menu. We even have a special menu planned for the start of Chinese New Year on the 8th Feb. too!

We are still in the early stages of running our own kitchen and our focus in the first instance was a smooth transition with well-cooked food! This we have achieved with ease! However, the developments ahead of us are exciting...local produce, seasonal menus, quality food, wider choice and more!



St. Joseph's Parents & Toddlers is open!

Yes we have opened our doors to our 0-3 year olds in the community and the problem is – they don't want to leave!

We are open on Mondays 1:30-3pm and Wednesdays & Fridays 9-10:30am for a bargain contribution of £2 per family! (Refreshments included!)

Please visit if you can – Mrs O'Mahony and Mrs O'Connell have spent hours purchasing resources and preparing our new early years environment and it looks fab!

Advent Project

Thank you for all your support during our Advent project. We had to book multiple collections of generous donations for the Manna Homeless Shelter in December! Thank you for thinking of others and making a difference to those in challenging circumstances.

We reflected on our project during our whole school Advent service on the last day of the autumn term – thank you to the parents that took time from their busy days to attend and share this service with us!



The Wednesday Word...

We are continuing to purchase and send home the 'Wednesday Word' every week in 2016. This is a Gospel resource that contains the adapted Gospel reading from the coming Sunday's Mass, with a brief explanation of the key messages. There is a prayer that we encourage our children to say at home and some fun activities, such as a word search and colouring pictures, linked to the Gospel message. The back of the sheet has a further simplified version of the reading for younger children. We hope that you will share this with your children and family and enjoy the activities together.



Nativity DVD orders

The Reception and KS1 Nativity DVD can be ordered from the school at main reception. If you wish to place an order, then this can be done via a member of our admin. team. The DVD will be available during mid-February. 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.



School Calendars

Our school calendars are still on sale for the calendar year 2016! They include artwork from each class, the school term dates and our annual school events! They are a bargain at only £6.00 per copy – cheaper than last year! Orders can be made through the school office ☺

Staffing

We have had to say goodbye to Mrs Webb, one of our lunchtime supervisors, as she is expecting a new addition to the family! We wish her and all the family our sincerest best wishes!



We have more baby news too...

- Congratulations to Miss Tran, our teaching assistant from Teresa Class, whom gave birth to her baby daughter on Thursday 21st January weighing 6lb and 5oz! Both mum and baby are doing well ☺
- Mrs Lewell, who left us last year, is expecting her first baby in July this year! Please join us in wishing her and her husband well as their family is set to grow and blossom!

We would also like to welcome Mrs Cook and Miss Soton to our lunchtime team...they are busy learning the ropes and doing a grand job!

We would like to give a special mention also to Michael Johnson, who has been the clerk to our Governing Body for 18 years and retires from his post in Southwark Council next month. He has supported our school 'behind the scenes' offering great advice throughout the years, including at the time of our school fire in 2006. Thank you Michael and best wishes!

Reminders...

Term Dates

The spring half-term is from **Monday 15th Feb. – Friday 19th Feb. 2016**

School will finish at the usual time of 3:15pm on **Friday 12th Feb. 2016**

The children return, still in their winter uniform, on **Monday 22nd Feb. 2016**



Pupil Attendance

We had our annual register inspection this term and we are pleased to tell our parents that the level of attendance within the school remains high (97.9% overall). Please continue to ensure you support the school by calling the office if your child is going to be absent on the morning of the absence and ensuring that any absence is followed up by a letter addressed to the class teacher. Please remember to check term dates before booking any family holidays.

Children who are brought to school by an adult should be accompanied all the way to the pupil entrance – please do not send children running down George Row on their own for obvious health, safety and welfare reasons. Further, we will be reminding all our children to **walk** along George Row before entering school in the mornings, running is dangerous for the individuals and other members of our community present on the pavements at this time. In the event your child is late for school, please **do not encourage him/her to run** as this does not help the situation – best practice is to always arrive at school 5-10 minutes before the official start time of 8:55am. There is supervision in the school playground from 8:40am.



Medication

We are unable to administer medication to children unless it is prescribed by your GP. Please ensure you complete a medication permission form, which can be obtained from school reception, prior to the medication being sent to school.

Uniform

During adverse weather conditions, (heavy rain, frost or snow) please remember the children **can** wear boots to school. However, they should carry their school shoes with them in a carrier bag so that they can change into them once they arrive at school. Please ensure that children are wearing black shoes in school, not trainers or ankle boots, thank you.



Please ensure your children wrap up warm with the necessary accessories during cold periods – hats, gloves and scarves! Novelty and brightly coloured accessories are discouraged while navy blue and school items are encouraged. Please also remember laces on school shoes must be black – coloured laces are not permitted. Lastly, please label your child's school coat; there is a name label that can be written on, in the inside of the pocket and around the neck of school coats purchased through the office.

Please ensure items of uniform taken in error are returned promptly to the school – many thanks.



Please remember if you have any concerns or queries at any time, do not hesitate in making an appointment through the school office to see your child's class teacher or a member of management – we are always happy to listen and help where we can.

St. Joseph's School Staff