

ST. JOSEPH'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
GEORGE ROW, SE16

[www.stjosephsgeorgerow.org](http://www.stjosephsgeorgerow.org)



Newsletter: June 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

Take a deep breath...we have so much to tell you!

### **Queen Elizabeth II's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Street Party!**



What a wonderful party we had! We are so proud of our children – we paired the junior children with the younger children in the school and nursery for the event and they really interacted with each other well! They were calm, happy, eating, dancing and enjoying the sunshine! If you have not yet seen the photographs on our school website – please do check them out today! You will see Mr Macauley pictured with a very special guest!

The children have enjoyed learning about the royal family and some have written very reflective Queen's speeches! Most of all though – the children enjoyed dancing to 'Whip nae!'

Thank you to all parents who sent in food donations and dishes – children and staff enjoyed these immensely.

### **Sports Days**

Well, the weather has certainly had us on our toes! We had two very successful sports days last week – thank you to all the parents and family members who attended the YR+KS1 and Nursery sports days. The atmosphere was great at both of these events and the children did themselves proud. I do believe the stewards' enquiry is continuing regarding the staff race at the YR+KS1 sports day – Mr Coffey launched himself over the finish line and we are still debating whether space hopper and teacher need to cross the finish line at the same time!!!



### **Key Stage Two Sport Day**

We had to make a judgement call regarding our Key Stage Two sports day last Friday given the weather forecast! Heavy rain was pictured all around us on the satellite images and we had to consider all aspects of the event very carefully if the heavens did open – children slipping whilst racing, electrical equipment getting wet, parents not having any shelter and the volume of people to manage in these extreme weather conditions – we have 180 children in Key Stage Two and then twice as many family members and relatives! Therefore, we made the judgement call to 'err on the side of caution' and postpone the sports day. It has been re-scheduled for Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 2pm.

Obviously the children were disappointed, but we talked to them at lunchtime to explain our decision making and now they have more time to practise and hone their skills!!

Thank you to the majority of our parents who too had looked at the forecast and saw what we possibly would have to contend with! Most of you read the letters we sent explaining to check our website for updates and you did this – well done! A few, maybe 5 or 6 parents, failed to do this and made an unnecessary journey to the school. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of reading all correspondence from the school and to check the school's website. The notion of 'texting' parents is not a communication method we have ever used and nor one we will be considering in the future. Further, if one can receive a text on a mobile phone, surely it is just as easy to check a website using this device too. Most people have internet access on their mobiles and if not – they will know somebody who does.

Thanks again to our supportive parent community who understood this decision to postpone the KS2 sports day – we look forward to seeing you on the 8<sup>th</sup> July – the sunshine is on order!!

## Uniform

Summer uniform should be worn during this summer school term:

- Girls – summer dresses (blue and white check) and blue cardigans
- Boys – light blue polo shirts with either grey shorts or trousers and grey jumpers
- Nursery children continue to have the choice of a summer uniform or the nursery track suit



Please remember jewellery, shaved hair patterns (including distinct styles) and trainers are **not** permitted. Please also ensure long hair is tied back. We would appreciate parents reminding their boys to tuck their shirts in also! Thank you.

## Important Dates

### Parents' Evenings:

- Nursery – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July from 4-7pm
- Reception and Year groups 1-5 (inclusive) – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July from 3:30-7:30pm
- Year 6 classes – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July from 3:30-7:00pm



**Please remember children are not permitted to attend parents' evenings.**

Reports will be distributed in the week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> July. Letters detailing your child's next class and teacher will be distributed on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

### Winter Uniform Sales for 2015/16

- Tues. 12<sup>th</sup> July 2:45-4:00pm – Thames Room
- Fri. 15<sup>th</sup> July 2:45-4:00pm – Thames Room



### Term Dates

We break for the summer holidays on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 2:00pm.

We return to school on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept. at **8:55am** (supervision in the playground from 8:40am).

Our new Reception children begin at **9:30am**, on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept. please refer to the settling-in timetable.

Our new Nursery children begin on various days – refer to the settling-in programme, which will be given out in the Nursery Welcome Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June.

The school term dates for the next academic year 2016/2017 were distributed in February earlier this year. They are also available on our school website, (web address detailed at the top of this letter), or upon request at the school office. Please keep these dates for your future reference, especially when organising family holidays *ensuring* these do not fall in term time.



## Dismissals

Please remember to notify the school office if another adult is collecting your child and please ensure s/he knows which gate to collect your child from.

## School Meals 2016/17

Healthy school meals continue to be funded for all primary school age children, through both local and central government schemes. The healthy school meals programme aims to make sure children have a healthy meal at lunchtime and as a result achieve their best in lesson times. All children from reception to year 6 will automatically be included in this scheme. **Families who are eligible for free school meals, under the pupil benefits system, will still need to complete the required forms. Administrative staff will provide further information and help with this.**

You can find out more information about the scheme at: [www.southwark.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

## Parents' Suggestions and Comments

Thank you for your comments and suggestions. The parents' suggestion box is located in the entrance area of the school. Please complete a suggestion slip if you would like to make a comment – admin. staff are available if you would like some assistance with this.

We have had recent suggestions outlined below:

1. Recipes used in our school kitchen made available for parents to use at home! Yes, our children have been trying lots of new tastes, ingredients, dishes and vegetables at lunchtimes and parents have requested our recipes be made available so they can provide such dishes at home too. This is something we will work on – we will need to look at quantities of ingredients and adapt the recipes scaling them down from serving 340 to 4-6! Watch this space!



2. Sugary sweets and treats. A parent has raised concerns relating to the volume of sweets and treats the children receive through/from the school via party bags, school parties and gifts from staff. We will arrange a meeting to discuss this item further with the relevant parent regarding school parties and staff gifts as we do feel, as a school, these events are minimal. We would, however, urge parents who choose to send in party bags to consider reducing the amount of sweet treats in these and to perhaps consider including healthier dried fruit snacks. Sometimes a child can receive 2-3 party bags in one day/week and we understand this can amount to a lot of sweet treats. Further, our parents are very generous with party bag contents and really just one or two small items is plenty. We will leave this to our parent community to consider.



3. Parents parking on the yellow zig-zag lines outside school during school 'drop-off' and 'collection' times and parents keeping their engines running during these times is also causing a concern as children are then breathing in exhaust fumes. This is an ongoing problem. Some parents are very considerate and vigilant during these times and others are not. We will contact Southwark Council to see if they can assist us in enforcing strict parking regulations. We will also book meetings with parents who are repeat offenders – so please do report parents to the school office if you notice somebody repeatedly ignoring the parking laws. Also, we would ask parents to politely remind one another of the rules. It is a collective responsibility and a shared responsibility. We, as a school, cannot commit great amounts of time to these things and neglect our responsibilities inside school.



4. School suggestion...and here is one from the school. We have noticed a great increase from parents demanding responses to letters immediately or the next day as well as parents demanding a meeting the same day on which they are calling. Please be mindful that we have a school to run with 340 children and twice as many parents daily. In addition to this we have another 40+ parents to communicate with who will be joining our community as well as a great number of professionals too. We also have 70+ staff. Often parents who work in our school comment on just how much we are dealing with day to day. We have many events and priorities to deal with in a school and the notion that we can simply drop what we are doing because a parent wishes a letter/passport form to be completed urgently is unrealistic. Further, please be mindful of keeping your interactions with our admin. staff short and concise. They have many parents, requests and messages to deal with and we do not want to keep parents waiting. Many thanks.



## Staffing

At the end of this academic year, we say goodbye to the following staff...

Mr McInroy is leaving us after two years to travel the world! Yes, he has the travel bug! However, he assures us that he will keep in contact and may re-join us once he has matched Phileas Fogg's record! Mr McInroy is a hard worker, committed teacher and a colourful character – we will miss him greatly!



Miss Walsh is leaving us to return home to Ireland! We have tried to convince her that 'it's not that far' but the home heart strings are pulling! We thank Miss Walsh for her hard work and the difference she has made to the children in her class this year and hope she will visit when she can!

Miss Crowe, Miss Ryan & Miss Bates are all leaving us temporarily as they are expecting a baby! Congratulations! We wish them all a smooth pregnancy and look forward to their return in the future. And on that note...Mrs Webb, our previous lunchtime supervisor, has recently given birth to a bouncing baby boy! Congratulations to the Webb family!

### Welcome!

We welcome Miss Prior, Mr Brady, Miss Sharvin and Mrs Kingman! Miss Prior and Mr Brady joined us in January and completed their student teacher placements with us and already feel like part of the team! Mrs Kingman has been with us for 5 years as a teaching assistant and has had a very successful year's teacher training this year. We are proud of her achievements and excited about the continued contribution she will make to our children's education!

We also welcome Miss Fant who has joined us this week. Miss Fant will be the face of our school whilst Miss Ryan is on maternity leave – please join us in making her feel welcome.

### Warm Weather

We will be reminding the children of how to play safely in the, hopefully, coming warm weather during break times. Please remember school caps can be purchased from the office and these are advisable for sun protection. Also sun cream should be applied before school on your child's face, neck, arms and legs.

Water bottles remain part of the school uniform. Please ensure these are brought to school full.



### The Voices of London Festival

Mr Dixon, whom has had a great first year with us, wishes to bring the following musical opportunity to your attention...

The Voices of London Festival – celebrating choral music: a variety of workshops and concerts

- From 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> July (particularly the Youth Choir on Sun. 10<sup>th</sup> July)
- St. James' Sussex Gardens, W2 3UD
- For more information visit: [www.voicesoflondonfestival.com](http://www.voicesoflondonfestival.com)

If you have any questions regarding the content of this newsletter, please do not hesitate to book an appointment through the school office with Mr Macauley or Miss Alford.

*Many thanks,*

*St. Joseph's School*