



Newsletter: June 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

The summer term is disappearing fast! Read on for some information about upcoming events...and thank you to all who attended our first sports day of the week! Our Reception and Key Stage One children were in top form!

Sports Days

Our next school sports days are on the following dates:

- Nursery – Thursday 15th June, (doors open at 1:45pm)
- Key Stage Two – Friday 16th June, (doors open at 1:30pm)

Please check the website on the morning of the sports day in case we have to postpone the event due to wet weather. I am sure you have experienced how unpredictable the weather has been lately! Don't get caught out, as a few parents did last year! Check the website and be in the know!

Our last INSET day of the academic year is on Monday 26th June. School is closed to all pupils on this day. Please record this date for your reference.

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 levels) 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 for attending to uniform notices in previous newsletters – hair bows are now much more functional in keeping hair neat and tidy as opposed to being worn for decoration – many thanks ☺



Important Dates

Parents' Evenings:

- Nursery – *Thursday 6th July from 4-7pm*
- Reception and Year groups 1-5 (inclusive) – *Thursday 6th July from 3:30-7:30pm*
- Year 6 classes – *Thursday 13th July from 3:30-7:00pm*



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

Reports will be distributed in the week beginning 3rd July. Letters detailing your child's next class and teacher will be distributed on Thursday 13th July.

Winter Uniform Sales for 2017/18

- Tues. 11th July 2:45-4:00pm – Thames Room
- Fri. 14th July 2:45-4:00pm – Thames Room



Term Dates

We break for the summer holidays on Friday 21st July at 2:00pm.

We return to school on Wednesday 6th Sept. at **8:55am** (supervision in the playground from 8:40am).

Our new Reception children begin at **9:15am**, on Wednesday 6th Sept. A settling-in timetable will be provided for reference.

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 29th June.

The school term dates for the next academic year 2017/2018 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 2017/18

Healthy school meals are currently funded for all primary school age children, through both local and central government schemes – *let's hope this does not change!* 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:

http://www.2.southwark.gov.uk/info/200326/free_school_meals_programme

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 not had any recent suggestions, however there are some previously made that are still relevant and worth a reminder for us all...



1. Sugary sweets and treats. Sometimes the volume of sweets and treats the children receive via party bags is unhealthy. We would urge parents who choose to send in party bags to reduce the amount of sweet treats in these and to include 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. We recommend 2-3 items in a party bag only and we will remove the following items: any snacks containing nuts, boiled sugary sweets, e.g. sugar dummies and inappropriate toys such as party poppers. We will also reduce the amount of items in party bags and return these to you if we believe there is too much provided. Party bags are optional and are supposed to be a happy gesture only.



2. 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 continue to liaise with Southwark Council to see if they can assist us in enforcing strict parking regulations, although to date they have been unable to do this. 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.

3. Travelling with children safely. Please ensure if children are travelling with adults on bicycles that the children are wearing helmets and are in bicycle seats that are compliant with safety regulations. Further, children travelling in cars should be wearing appropriate child restraints and using booster seats where applicable – see the following website for more details: <http://www.childcarseats.org.uk/carrying-other-peoples-children/child-seat-and-seat-belt-laws/> These are all parents'/drivers' responsibilities – please be aware of these and follow the laws in place for your children's safety.

School Funding

Unfortunately, our school budget has been significantly cut for the financial year 2017-18. It is also likely that this is the start of reduced funding for schools for the future. Mr Macauley, Miss Alford & Mrs Byrne have had many meetings considering the staffing structure, resource plan and budget for the coming year and have had to be sensible and prudent with the decisions that have had to be made. One big impact for our community is that our Parents & Toddlers Club will have to close. Sadly, this is just not financially viable for the foreseeable future. We know this is a significant loss for many families in our community and it is not a decision we have taken lightly.

Thank you to Mrs O'Mahony & Mrs O'Connell in setting up and managing such a valued asset to the community. Thanks also to Mrs Buckland, Miss Garcia and Mrs Martin for their sterling work in supporting the initiative. We have thought about volunteers running our Parents & Toddlers Club in the future and we would be interested in offers. However, schools and their practices, values and cultures are delicate and extremely important. We would have to ensure the right people could manage these aspects before accepting anybody for this role.

Staffing

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

Mr Jones

Mr Jones was a full-time teacher at St. Joseph's from 1996 to 2007. He left us for a period to explore new ventures and he returned to us as a part-time teacher in 2010. Mr Jones has been a loyal member of the St. Joseph's team, always ready and willing to step in when we have had staff shortages. He will always be remembered for his infectious enthusiasm for subjects such as maths, art and science and even games such as chess! We thank Mr Jones sincerely for all he has given over the extensive time he has been part of our school community and know that many children will remember him for the difference he has made to their school experience. Thank you Mr Jones.



Miss Quinn & Miss Dixon

Both our Teaching Assistants are leaving us temporarily as they are expecting a baby! Congratulations! We wish Miss Quinn and Miss Dixon a smooth pregnancy and look forward to their return in the future.

Mr Macauley & Miss Alford

It's the final countdown and we are both keeping ourselves busy enough not to think about it. We always enjoy this time of the year, seeing how the children have grown and celebrating the progress they have made as we read reports and review books leading up to our parents' evenings. At surprising times in the school week we find ourselves choked at the thought of not seeing the children every day – little things catch us unaware! We have been through inspections, a school fire, many wonderful school events including our centenary, we have enjoyed lesson observations, assemblies, staff meetings and more, but this is a first and something we do not have a blueprint for! This is our toughest challenge by far. To say that we will miss you is more than an understatement – St. Joseph's will leave a hole that not even a golf ball will fill for Mr Macauley! However, we will fill it with the many wonderful memories we have and there is more to be had in the coming weeks.

We also know our staff are up to something, but we have been kept in the dark! Luckily we trust them??!!

Welcome!

We welcome Mrs Hilton, Miss Crowther and Mr Jones (a different Mr Jones ☺) to our teaching team next year! Please join us in making them feel welcome as they join our community.

We welcome back Miss Crowe and Miss Bates, who return this half-term from their maternity leave. Miss Bates returns as a teaching assistant in our nursery on 20th June and Miss Crowe returns as an Assistant Headteacher on 10th July. We are also looking forward to Mss Ryan's return from maternity leave in Sep. 2017 when she will re-join our admin. team.

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 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 20th June – 6th July
- At St. James' Sussex Gardens, W2 3UD
- For more information visit: 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