



Newsletter: March 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are almost at the end of March and looking forward to Easter! Please read on for some important items for your attention...

School Lenten Project

This week we will be reflecting on the events of Holy Week and the last days of Jesus' life on earth in school.

Our Lenten project this year is to 'Walk with Jesus' in prayer, in our actions (making small sacrifices) and in our reflections.

We have been sharing the different ways the children have been walking with Jesus in our assemblies and here are a few examples...

- VA (Nursery) – 'I asked for fruit instead of sweets.'
- CS (J. Paul) – 'I said a morning prayer with my family and swept the floor.'
- EE (Peter) – 'I went on a long nature walk with my mum instead of watching TV.'
- GB (Elizabeth) – 'I gave up a few minutes of my playtime to listen to a child in John Paul Class read.'
- BK (Baptist) – 'On 23rd March I prayed for the victims of the London terror attacks.'
- DP (Jerome) – 'I have been trying new foods at lunch in school and trying to eat all of my lunch.'
- AS (McAuley) – 'I gave my neighbour some old clothes and I let my sister watch the TV instead of having my choice of channel.'
- TN (Felton) 'I gave up my own time to help my younger brother count to 20.'
- MG (Joseph) 'I tried my best to sing well in hymn practice.'
- IRC (Campion) – 'I saved a worm, moving it from the pavement and putting out of harm's way.'
- MOB (Campion) – 'I read the whole of the children's bible.'
- GS (Teresa) – 'I gave up my free time to clean up my sister's mess and to practise my yoga.'
- DT (Dempsey) – 'I helped a lady carry her shopping across the road.'
- DS (Fisher) – 'I helped my dad all week whilst my mum was in Italy.'

Please continue to encourage your child to 'Walk with Jesus' and complete their Lenten calendars over the Easter break – we are so impressed at how well both children and parents have embraced this project and we are definitely seeing the positive impact!

Book Week 2017

We had a fantastic Book Week! We read stories of characters from fantasy lands and engaged in a variety of imaginative Literacy activities! Congratulations again to our winners and to all our parents who supported our theme day, especially those who recycled bits and pieces from home to make costumes! The children very much enjoyed the week and the storytelling workshops that followed!

Thanks to Mrs Schönknecht for planning and organising another great Literary week of fun and valuable learning!



Parents & Toddlers

Our Parents & Toddlers Sessions are still proving very popular indeed! Please review our school website for a full list of opening dates and times.



Term Dates

We break for the Easter holidays on Friday 31st March at **2:00pm**. Please be prompt in collecting your child from school on this day and at this time. The children return to school on Tuesday 18th April at the usual time of 8:55am (supervision in the playground from 8:40am) – we will celebrate Easter as a whole school on this return date!

The children should return to school wearing their **summer uniform**.

The term dates for the academic year 2017/18 are available on the school website – see address at the top of this letter. We celebrate the feast day of 'St. Joseph the Worker' on Friday 28th Apr. (actual feast day Mon. 1st May). Parents are welcome to attend our service on Friday 28th Apr. from 10:35am.



Summer Uniform Sales

Items of summer uniform have been on sale in the school. If you still need to purchase your child's summer uniform, orders can be placed with the admin. team at the school office.

Comic Relief 2017!



As you are aware, we celebrated Red Nose Day last Friday (24th March) by wearing red items of clothing in replace of a uniform item and any red accessories we had! Mr Macauley blew the whistle to start the school day at 8:55am and asked, 'Are we reddy!' We certainly looked red! We had a fun day and it was very comical listening to teachers remind children, 'You can take your noses off for a while if it becomes a little uncomfortable!' We managed to raise a brilliant £295.69 for comic relief so thank you very much for your generosity!

Safe Parking Outside the School Entrances/Exits

May we please ask our parents/carers to refrain from parking directly outside the school on the yellow zig-zag lines. These areas are meant to be 'car free' to enable the children and their parents to enter and exit school safely on foot. I am sure that the health and safety of our students is of the utmost importance to all of us.



Further, thanks to parents for not parking in the residential area near the Wade Hall during the end of the school day. This does affect the residents who live in this area particularly with the building works taking place at present. Your support is always appreciated with items in our newsletter.

Nativity DVD (Dec. 2016)

Our Nativity DVD is ready and has already been passed onto parents who have placed orders! Should you wish to purchase a copy, please see a member of the admin. team at our main reception desk.



Reminders

Uniform – Please remember children are not permitted to wear any boots, **including ankle boots**, or trainers in school. School shoes only must be worn. Navy blue coats are to be worn by all children; black coats are not part of school uniform. Please also remember school/navy blue hats and scarves are preferable – novelty hats and scarves can be worn at the weekends. Shaved/coloured hair patterns are not permitted, please ensure barbers and hairdressers are aware of this before they begin styling your child's hair. 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 ☺



Party Bags – please ensure you check these when your child receives them. If sending in party bags, please ensure these do not contain party poppers or items containing nuts. We recommend a small gift of only three items per bag – thanks.

School Funding

A few parents have asked questions about the future of school funding and what they can do to help – thank you and please read on... You may have heard in the news about the government's National Funding Formula for schools, which will result in a redistribution of funding, by taking money from schools' budgets to give more to others. St. Joseph's School and all Southwark Primary Schools will all be adversely affected by these cuts. It has been estimated that Southwark Primary Schools will lose an average of £250,000. Clearly this level of cut will have an impact on the standard of education that schools are able to provide. It would be very helpful if parents were to express their views about the proposed cuts. You can help by:

- Singing the online petition on <https://southwarkfairfunding.wordpress.com>
- Writing a letter to Justine Greening, the Secretary of State for Education, to express your concerns (suggested wording can be collected from our school reception)
- Contributing to PTA fundraising events
- Keeping an eye and ear out for grants, bursaries and sponsorships available to schools via application

Kind regards – *St. Joseph's School Staff*