

Newsletter: November 2014

Dear Parents,

We are in November and on the countdown to Christmas! Please read on for some important items in our November newsletter...



Parents' Evening

Thank you for your attendance at our autumn term open evening last half-term. We hope you have been working with your child on his/her targets. Please continue to refer to them as we begin to approach the end of the autumn term.

Advent/Christmas Events

Below is a list of events we will be holding during the season of Advent. Please make a note of the dates relevant to you, so that you can attend.

School Events

- Senior Citizens Christmas Tea – Friday 5th Dec. 10:30am, Wade Hall – *please note this is an earlier time than originally planned*
- Nativity Performances – upper school hall
 - Parents of children in Reception to attend the performance on Fri. 12th Dec. (doors open at 1:30pm)
 - Parents of children in Years 1 + 2 to attend the performance on Wed. 17th Dec. (doors open at 1:30pm)
 - Both performances are ticketed and tickets will be given out during the week of the performances
- Nursery Nativity – Tuesday 16th Dec. 2pm (doors open 1:45pm), Nursery
- Children's School Christmas Parties – Thursday 18th Dec. (afternoon)
- Advent Carol Service – Friday 19th Dec. 10:45am (doors open 10:35am)



PTA Events

- Carol Singing – this year our group of Year 6 children will be performing carols at the following public locations:
 - Bermondsey Tube Station – Friday 5th Dec. 4:00pm TBC
 - Canary Wharf – Monday 8th Dec. 12:30pm TBC
 - Hay's Galleria – Wednesday 18th Dec. 12:30pm TBC
- PTA + School Calendar for the Year 2015 – it's at the printers! Last year's calendar theme was 'Book of the Month' and this year's calendar theme is 'Famous Quotes/Proverbs'. A school calendar makes a great family gift!
- There is the possibility of a PTA Christmas Fete provisionally booked for Sat. 6th Dec. in the school grounds. Watch this space!



Advent Fundraising Project

This year we are going to encourage our children to save money to buy gifts for children and adults in hospital suffering from serious illnesses and medical conditions. We are currently liaising with the Evelina hospital as they have clear guidelines on what they can and cannot accept as gifts. More details will follow in a separate letter.



Fundraising

Thank for supporting our fundraising initiatives!



Children in Need – our School Council were delighted with our ‘Children in Need fundraising day’ which was absolutely super! We survived the day with not too many capes getting caught under chairs! We raised £410.50 – again beating our total from last year! Well done to all!

Poppy sales in the school raised £168.42 for the veterans. Thank you for your support ☺



WWI Centenary (1914 - 2014)

We are marking the centenary of WWI over four years reflecting the duration of this Great War. This year, we will be learning about aspects of WWI through texts such as *The Best Christmas Present in the World* and *a Medal for Leroy*. We will also be asking our children to keep a journal in school over the next four years so they can develop their understanding of chronology and fully understand the duration of the war. Last week, the children in years 1-6 enjoyed a WWI workshop taking part in singing songs such as, ‘It’s a long way to Tipperary’ led by an actor dressed as a WWI soldier!

On Friday 5th December, we will celebrate the famous ‘Christmas Truce’ - the spontaneous football match played between British and German soldiers on Christmas Day in 1914 in no man’s land. We will celebrate this humble event by playing our own commemorative school match – staff vs the school football team!!! Yes, staff vs children and I have never seen our staff so motivated and competitive –they’re even holding a training session in preparation! Mr Dines will be the referee and we will post photographs and news of the event on our school website!



Sisters of Mercy – Centenary + + +

The Sisters of Mercy celebrate 175 years of their foundation! Not 100 years, but 175! Their special Mass takes place on the 21st November with the chief celebrant being Most Rev. Peter Smith, Archbishop of Southwark, and the celebrations continue throughout the weekend. The Sisters of Mercy are a global organisation and we have had sisters from Australia visit us this week in our Tuesday assembly. Please join us in praying for them - 175 years of helping the community both local and global has taken commitment, dedication, faith and love. God bless all our sisters, those with us today and those who have joined Our Father in heaven.

Staffing

Mr Dempsey leaves us at the end of this week! He has made the very difficult decision to return to his previous place of work, which have been after him for while! Thank you Mr Dempsey for all your hard work at St. Joseph’s – we appreciate your care and commitment in looking after our children and school site.



We have advertised our premises manager’s position on the Southwark Website – application forms are available from our school admin. team. Closing date Mon. 1st December and interviews Mon. 8th Dec.

We have a new Green Team!

We were absolutely amazed and the wonderful wildlife designs we received from so many of our children – all presented in such wondrous ways. We had manuals, PowerPoint presentations, beautifully crafted models of all shapes and sizes as well as actual bird boxes made! Thank you so much for all your efforts – the time and energy put into these was truly spectacular! Each class teacher had the very difficult job of choosing two wildlife design winners and these children were announced in assembly this week Monday. These children make up our new Green Team! Congratulations everybody! Mrs Lewell, our Green Team leader, we will be booking the first Green Team meeting very soon!



Reminders

Please remember that children are not permitted to wear jewellery during the course of the school or nursery day. Shoes should be worn to school, not trainers. All items of school uniform should be marked with your child’s name. School coat labels can be found inside the coat pocket and on the collar.

Kind regards,

St. Joseph’s School Staff