

Newsletter: November 2015

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 parents' 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. Teachers really do notice a significant difference in the progress of children who work on and achieve their targets ☺

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.

- Senior Citizens Christmas Tea – Friday 4th 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. 11th Dec. (doors open at 1:30pm)
 - Parents of children in Years 1 + 2 to attend the performance on Wed. 16th 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 15th Dec. 2pm (doors open 1:45pm), Nursery
- Children's School Christmas Parties – Thursday 17th Dec. (afternoon) – *children only!*
- Advent Carol Service – Friday 18th Dec. 10:45am (doors open 10:35am) – *All parents are welcome to attend.*
- Carol Singing – this year our group of Year 6 children will be performing carols at the following public locations:
 - Bermondsey Tube Station – Friday 4th Dec. 4:00pm TBC
 - Canary Wharf – Monday 7th Dec. 12:30pm TBC
 - Hay's Galleria – Wednesday 16th Dec. 12:30pm TBC
- There is the possibility of a 'Parents' Christmas Cake Sale' provisionally booked for Fri. 11th Dec. in the school grounds at 3:30pm. Watch this space for further details!



Also...

- Our school calendar for the Year 2015 is at the printers! Last year's calendar theme was 'Famous quotes/proverbs' and this year's calendar theme is 'Inventors and Inventions!' A school calendar makes a great family gift! More details to follow re: costs and availability!
- Good News – if you ordered personalised Christmas cards designed by your child, these will be sent out this week!



Our Annual Advent Fundraising Project

This year we are going to encourage our children to save money to buy provisions for those who are homeless. We are currently liaising with the Manna Shelter (Melior Street) regarding their preferences on what we can collect, buy and donate. More details will follow in a separate letter.



October & November Fundraising



A huge 'Thank you' for supporting all of our fundraising initiatives!

Children in Need – our School Council were delighted with our 'Children in Need fundraising day' which was 'head-spinning fun!' We had some very wacky and colourfully decorated heads! We raised £360.45! Well done to all!

However, our biggest success was our Book Fair! We raised an astronomical £2,903.00! Our school receives 60% of this to buy books for our class book corners! It was wonderful to see so many of our parents and children at the book fair as well as seeing our children reading as they waited to pay! Thank you also to those who donated books from class wish lists – I know many teachers have enjoyed reading these to their classes! A resounding success!!! Congratulations to all including Mrs Schöcknecht and her book fair team: Mrs Reeve, Mrs Burke, Mrs O'Mahony, Mrs Wu and Miss Ryan!



Remembrance

Remembrance Day



The children have been wearing their poppies with pride during the month of November and we have been remembering all those in heaven with Jesus in our prayers. We held a two minutes silence in school on Remembrance Day, joining the rest of the nation in this. Our poppy sales in school have raised £240.22 for all those affected by wars past and present. Thank you for your support.

WWI Centenary (1914 – 1918 → 2014 – 2018)

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 specific individuals such as Walter Tull, Wilfred Owen and Harry Hinkins. We will also be asking our children to continue completing their WWI journals started last year, and continuing over the next three years so they can develop their understanding of chronology and fully understand the duration of the war.



Paris Attacks

We are sure you are all aware of the terrorist attacks Paris suffered on Friday 13th Nov. last week. Please remember all those who died in the shocking attacks and their family members at this time. It is so very difficult to comprehend such acts, but we can do our best to counteract them with a united strength of love and compassion.



School Water Bottles

We have new and improved school water bottles on sale! They are non-drip and do not require the children to pull nozzles up with their teeth! Children can simply drink the water using a sucking action. They are on sale today at a cost of £1.50. Previous school water bottles are still acceptable while we move through this transitional period.



We have a new Green Team!

Your green team products and posters were outstanding! Congratulations to both children and parents for your time, effort and originality! We had filtration systems, jewellery boxes, bird feeders, bee sanctuaries, organisers, awareness and instruction posters, vases, money banks, candle holders and more! Each class teacher had the very difficult job of choosing just one winner and these children were announced in assembly last week on Tuesday! These children make up our new Green Team 2015/16! Congratulations everybody! Mr McInroy, our Green Team leader, was so excited with his new Green Team, and the projects ahead, they have already had their first meeting!



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 – there are still coats found without names!!! You may wish to put a small badge on the coats of young children for easy identification, although they are getting very good at checking name labels and delivering coats to their owners!

Thank you

Thank you for all your warm wishes regarding Mr Macauley. As you may be aware, Mr Macauley was injured in a road accident in April 2015. His cracked ribs and vertebrae have healed, but he had to undergo an operation on Wed. 11th November, to repair his dislocated shoulder. Your prayers and good wishes are much appreciated.

Kind regards,



St. Joseph's School Staff