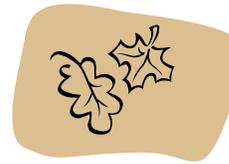


ST. JOSEPH'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GEORGE ROW, SE16 4UP

www.stjosephsgeorgerow.org

Newsletter: October 2015



Dear Parents,

We have had a great start to the new school year and our reception and nursery children are very well-settled and very much part of our school! And we already have new prefects and school councillors for 2015/16!

Below are a few items we would like to bring to your attention:

Important Dates Reminder...

- Our review meeting for parents of reception children is on Thursday 15th October at 2:00pm. Optional individual appointments can be made with the reception class teachers on Thursday 22nd Oct.
- Parents' evening for parents of children in Years 1-6 – Thursday 22nd October, from 3:30pm by appointment
- Nursery open days are on Wed. 21st and Thurs. 22nd October – book your visit time on the sheet in the nursery cloakroom
- We break for the half-term on **Friday 23rd October at 3.15pm**
- Half-term – Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October. **'All Saints Day' falls on Sunday 1st Nov. during half-term. This is a Holy Day of Obligation.**
- **INSET day – Monday 2nd November. School is closed for all children on this day.**
- Children return to school at **8:55am** (playground gates open from 8:40am) on **Tuesday 3rd November 2015.**



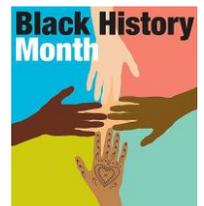
Uniform

All children should be wearing the full winter school uniform including black or navy shoes (**not trainers**) and a navy coat. Please remember jewellery, including stud earrings are not permitted. Shaved hair patterns, coloured or unusual hairstyles, including the use of gel are not permitted and children should tie back long hair during the school day. Please remember to label all items of uniform and return any items taken in error.

Curriculum Notices:

Black History Month

As you may be aware, we celebrate 'World History' during the month of October, ensuring we learn history from all cultures including Black, Asian and British. This year we will continue to focus on the centenary of WWI and integrating our history topics in a cross-curricular approach through Literacy, guided reading and homework activities.



Handwriting

Please find attached a copy of St. Joseph's handwriting script. We continue to use the 'Nelson' handwriting script and the information attached provides you with clear guidance on how we form each letter of the alphabet, our joined writing style and how we teach handwriting. Please support this handwriting style when assisting your child with his/her written homework.

Our Lady

During the months of October and May we remember Mary the Mother of God. We encourage the children to say the Hail Mary and teach praying the Rosary. We are glad to have the support of our Sisters of Mercy, and particularly Sr Assumpta, in praying the rosary with our Y3/4 classes. As always, we are grateful for your support in promoting and enhancing our school initiatives.



Breakfast Club

We run a Breakfast Club on the school premises from 8.00am onwards. Prices are £2 per day and we are open Monday to Friday. There is a wide variety of food available including cereals, fruit and fruit juice, toast with a variety of spreads and hot choices such as beans, scrambled eggs, pancakes and more. If you would like your child to join the Breakfast Club, for the week or selected days in the week, please ask at the school office for a Breakfast Club form. Once the form is completed, your child can hand it in directly to the Breakfast Club Manager, Mrs Reeve, on the first day they join. Many of our teachers attend breakfast club and enjoy talking to the children during this time.



Administration Notices:

Absences

Please remember to contact the school on the first day of your child's absence and then subsequently for each day s/he is absent. On their return to school, please ensure you have sent in a note explaining the reason for absence. The note needs to be addressed to the class teacher. Please ensure that all holidays are booked within the school holiday periods – refer to term dates.

Medicine

We would like to remind you that we are unable to administer any medication *unless* it has been prescribed by a GP. If it is necessary for your child to take prescribed medicine, please ensure you deliver it to the school office where you will be asked to sign a permission slip in order for school staff to administer the medication. Please ensure the school is aware of any long term prescribed medication that your child may need. Similarly, if they no longer require medicine, please inform the school so that our records are up-to-date.

Child Appointments

Please remember to book medical appointments outside of school hours where possible. Medical professionals are very accommodating of this as they understand the negative impact of disrupting children's daily education. Where appointments are within school time, please can you provide the school with a copy of the appointment card/letter so this can be marked accurately in the register.

Eligibility for Free School Meals

If you believe you may be eligible for free school meals, please consult a member of the admin. team for advice and to collect the appropriate form.

Poppy Sales

As we approach the month of November, we will be selling poppies at lunchtimes and encouraging the children to reflect on all those who suffered during the World Wars and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. We are encouraging the children to bring in 20p or more for a poppy. We are discouraging children buying several poppies as five poppies on one's jumper can cause quite a distraction! Poppy sales will begin w/c: 19th Oct. and they will continue for one week after half-term from Tues. 3rd Nov. During the month of November, we will say the 'Eternal rest' prayer regularly.



School Calendar for 2015

We have been busy in school creating the artwork for our new school calendar for 2016! We hope to make this available to parents to buy in mid-November 2015. The calendar will have all the important school event dates included for your attention and it makes a great Christmas present for families and friends – watch this space!



Personalised Christmas Cards

This new initiative is a success for the second year running! Thank you for supporting our school – every order raises important funds for the school and our children! We look forward to distributing your orders in early December!



The Book Fair is on its way!

Our biennial book fair is arriving this Friday (16th Oct.) and will be ready for you and your child to visit after school on this day! The book fair will be open every day after school from Fri. 16th Oct. to Fri. 23rd Oct. and it is open late during parents' evening – so there's plenty of opportunity to visit!. Mr Macauley has looked through the book fair catalogue and shared a few of his favourites in assembly this week – which books are on your child's list to read?

Parents & Toddlers

We are still hoping to open our 'St. Joseph's Parents and Toddlers Club' in November after half-term! We have decided it will run on Monday afternoons 1:30-3pm as well as Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9-10:30am. The club will be open for parents with young children under 4 years and we can accommodate a maximum group size of 20 children. More details to follow...



Finally...

Please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see Mr Macauley if there are any questions that you have, or concerns that you would like to discuss. Please contact the school office for appointments, which can be made throughout the year on Thursday mornings. Please also peruse our school website – address at the top of this newsletter.

Thank you - *St. Joseph's School Staff*