



Newsletter: March 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are moving through Lent and are all very much looking forward to celebrating Easter!
Please read on for some important items for your attention...

School Lenten Project

Next week we will be preparing to celebrate the events of Holy Week and the last days of Jesus' life on Earth in school through our assemblies including reflections upon The Last Supper and The Journey of the Cross.

Our Lenten project this year is to 'Open Your Heart to God' in our prayers, in our actions (making small sacrifices and positive changes) and in our reflections.

We have been sharing the different ways the children have been opening their hearts to God in our assemblies and here are a few examples...

- 'I will open my heart to God by respecting others and being positive towards whatever is around the corner.'
- 'At home, I did chores like emptying the bin bag and washing the dishes.'
- 'When I went shopping with my mum and sister I helped carry the shopping to the car.'
- 'I will open my heart to God by never giving up even if it is hard.'
- 'I will open my heart to God by taking my teacher's advice and living a healthy lifestyle.'
- 'I took care of my sister when she sprained her leg whilst she was dancing.'
- 'I helped my friend play hockey because they didn't know how to play.'

Please continue to encourage your child to open their heart to God and to continue the spirit of our Lenten Project 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 here in school.

Book Week 2018

We had a wonderful Book Week this year with our theme 'Dream it, Believe it, Achieve it' being enthusiastically embraced by pupils, teachers and parents alike. We read a variety of inspiring texts across the school linked to the children's aspirations for when they get older and officially opened our brand new school library! Congratulations again to our costume and project winners and to all our parents who supported our themed day - especially those who recycled bits and pieces from home to make costumes. The children very much enjoyed the week and all that it entailed. A special thank you to all parents who came into school to talk to the children about their professions; these talks were very much enjoyed by the children, provided a valuable learning experience and certainly offered much inspiration with regards the children's ambitions for the future.

Thank you to Mrs Schönknecht and all the staff at St Joseph's for planning and organising another great Book Week full of fun and valuable learning.

Parents & Toddlers

Our Parents & Toddlers Sessions are now running again and once more proving very popular indeed! Thank you to Mrs O'Mahony for her hard work in planning and leading these sessions. Please review our school website for a full list of opening dates and times.



Term Dates

We break for the Easter holidays on Friday 23rd March at **2:00pm** – there will be no after school clubs on this day. Please be prompt in collecting your child from school on this day and at this time. The children return to school on Monday 9th 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 2018/19 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 Tuesday 1st May. Parents are welcome to attend our service on Friday 27th April. 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. There will be a summer uniform sale in the Thames Room (entrance via George Row) on Tuesday 15th March from 2:45-4:00pm and again on Tuesday 20th March from 2:45-4:00pm.



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. Your support is always appreciated with items in our newsletter.

Nativity DVD (Dec. 2017)

Exciting news for the parents of our KS1 and reception children! Our Nativity DVD is available to purchase! Should you wish to buy a copy, please see a member of the admin. team at our main reception desk.



PTA

We have some exciting PTA events approaching. There is the "decorate a hard boiled egg" taking place this Thursday and one prize will be awarded to the most creative egg in each class. The Spring Bazaar has been rescheduled for Saturday 28th April from 12-3pm at Wade Hall, following this event being rescheduled due to the snow on the original date. The PTA trolley keyrings are still available to purchase from main reception at the price of £2.00 each. Please look out for further information from our PTA on these events and the general meeting which is approaching and a great opportunity for anyone wishing to be involved in the PTA to come along.

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. Furthermore it is not permitted for pupils to wear beads in their hair – these are a hazard both in the playground and during PE and not in keeping with our school's uniform policy. 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.

Staffing

Goodbye
We say good bye to Mr Child this month who is leaving our premises team to begin his career as a physical fitness trainer. On behalf of all the staff at St Joseph's we thank him for his hard work and dedication over the course of his time here at our school and wish him all the best for the future.

Welcome back

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Miss Quinn back from maternity leave to re-join our nursery team.

Parents Suggestions

Thank you to all parents for your kind words about the success of World Book Week this year and thank you for your suggestions for ideas for World Book Week's in the future – these have been duly noted. A further thanks to all parents for your kind comments with regards the class assemblies that have been taking place this half term – as a school we are very proud of how well the children have spread the message of the Gospel this Lent through their class assemblies.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Byrne or Mr Hoyes by appointment through the school office.

St. Joseph's School Staff