



Newsletter: September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back! We hope you all enjoyed the summer. Thank you to those children and families who sent in postcards – we enjoyed reading them very much and shared them in our assembly last week.

We have had a great start to the year – our new reception and nursery additions to the St. Joseph's family are settling-in well and have already made friends with the older children in the school. Thank you to our whole parent community for assisting with our settling-in procedures and for supporting our new school routine for arrivals and dismissals at the beginning and end of the school day.

Over the summer the school has undergone a number of building works with our new and improved lower hall area completed for the start of the school year, opening up a greater space for the children to eat in at lunch times – including a separate dining area for the nursery children - and providing additional areas for our nursery and After School Club to carry out activities. The building work during the course of this term currently taking place upon our new library and computing suite facilities is progressing well and we all look forward to the completion of these exciting new developments for our school.

Dates for Your Diary

In the first week back we sent home copies of the term dates for this academic year – 2017/18 alongside the annual dates for all our meetings and events for this year. These dates can also be found on our school website. Please keep them in a safe place for future reference and make a note of any dates relevant for you. We are pleased to inform you that the school photograph dates have been confirmed – see annual dates.

As in the past few years, we have two performances for our YR + KS1 Nativity Performance: the first performance is on Friday 8th December and this will be ticketed for our reception parents. The second performance is on Wednesday 13th December and will be ticketed for our KS1 parents (parents of children in years 1+2). This is to ensure all parents can watch the performance in comfort. More details will follow closer to the event.

Uniform

All children should be wearing the full winter school uniform including black shoes and a navy coat as required. Please note that black coats are not accepted as part of school uniform. Furthermore, children are required to wear shoes, not trainers or black trainers. Children in the nursery are required to wear a school tracksuit and suitable footwear (summer dresses can be worn if we have warm weather in September). Our girls in years 1-6 are allowed to wear culottes provide they are of a 'skirt' style. Please remember jewellery, including stud earrings, is 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. Girls who do tie up their hair should do so using sensibly sized and coloured headbands avoiding accessories such as large flowers and vibrant colours or patterns. A number of children have returned to school with subtle contrasting hairstyles – please ensure hair length is a consistent length over your child's head.



Children in Reception and Years 1+2 should have a rectangular book bag for their reading books, homework and school letters. The rucksack is their PE bag. Children in Years 3-6 use the school ruck sack as their main school bag for books, letters, homework, etc. They should use the small, school holdall as their PE bag. Children in the nursery only require a rectangular book bag.

Breakfast Club



We would like to remind our parents that 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 or scrambled eggs on toast. If you would like your child to join our Breakfast Club, 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 your child joins.

Administration Notices

Absences

Please remember to contact the school on the first day of your child's absence and then subsequently for each day they are 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. Nursery fees are still applicable even if your child is absent, as are fees for our After School Club.



Pupil Arrivals

Please note that our school gates open at 8:40 and that our school day begins promptly at 8:55 when the whistle is blown in the playground. Pupils who arrive in school after the whistle has been blown will be officially marked down as being late for school. Please ensure that your child arrives in school before 8:55 so they are ready for the start of the school day.

Pupil Collections

Please inform the school office or your child's class teacher if somebody other than a named person on your child's contact list will be collecting them from school. We are unable to allow a child to leave the school premises with an adult who is not listed as having permission to collect them or if the school office has not been informed that a different person will be collecting them prior to home time that day.



Parking

Please note that it is not permitted to park in the 'Keep Clear Zone' on George Row outside the front of the school as this is highly disruptive of children arriving and being collected from school. Traffic wardens will be monitoring this area at the beginning and end of the school day.

Packed Lunches/School Dinners

Nursery and Reception children are required to have a school dinner during this academic year.

Children in year groups 1-6, inclusive, have the option of school dinners or packed lunches. However, this must be a choice for a half-term period. Therefore, if your child is to have a school dinner, s/he must remain having school dinners for the duration of the half-term. If your child chooses to have a packed lunch, s/he will remain having a packed lunch for the duration of the half-term. This ensures our admin. team can effectively organise routines and systems with our school kitchen. If your child is having a packed lunch we ask parents and carers to support our 'Healthy School Approach' by providing them with a healthy packed lunch.

The Government and local authority are continuing to fund school meals for children in Years Reception to Year 6. However, if you are eligible for free school meals, independent of funded meals, please ensure you still complete the relevant forms from the school office to ensure you receive all benefits applicable. Parents of nursery children are still required to pay for school dinners - please remember to send your child's dinner money into school in a money pocket on the Monday of each week, stating your child's name, the date and class. Please also

ensure the amount enclosed is recorded on the money pocket. School money pockets are available from the school office at £1 for a pack of 10. The cost of school dinners for this September is £1.90 per day and £9.50 per week.

School Website

We are working hard to ensure our school website is current and useful. We regularly upload school letters and photographs of the children completing different activities, workshops and school trips. The website is available to you on tablets and smart phones, as well as your PCs. We suggest that you save the site as a favourite, so that it is quickly and easily available to you.

The website address is: www.stjosephsgeorgerow.org



Staffing Notices

We are very pleased to welcome Miss Crowther, Mrs Hilton, Mr Quinn and Mr Jones to our teaching staff this year. We also wish congratulations to Mr Kenny, our premises manager, whose partner has given birth to a new baby boy, Teddy, this summer on the 26th August weighing 7lb 3oz.



WWI Commemoration

This year, as part of our ongoing World War One commemoration we are focusing on 'Places' using texts and written sources to learn more about the impact of The First World War on places all over The World including here in Bermondsey. Please see the curriculum letters you received for more detail on all curriculum content – these letters are also available on our school website.

Christmas Cards

Following the success of previous years, we are continuing the scheme where our children can design their very own Christmas cards, which parents can then order! This year we will send the templates home so children can create their designs with you! More details will follow, but make sure you have felt-tips in good working order! The minimum order amount is only £4.00, however there is no obligation for you to place orders. Watch this space for further information...



St. Joseph's Parents & Toddlers!



Unfortunately there will be no Parents & Toddlers Club this term due to the ongoing building works in school. Further information will follow later in the year.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your kind comments about the successful start we have had to the school year and, as always, thank you for your continued support of us as a school. If you have any questions regarding the items in this newsletter then please do not hesitate to speak to Mr Hoyes or Mrs Byrne.

Please contact the school office for appointments, which can be made throughout the year.

St. Joseph's School Staff

