



Newsletter: November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

The second half of the autumn term has already been full of excitement and the countdown to Christmas has begun. Our Year 5 children went on a very successful trip to France and Belgium to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice and to conduct their very own memorial service for Harry Hinkins – a former pupil of St Joseph's who lost his life in The Great War. In addition, we have elected a brand new Green Team to help make St Joseph's a more environmentally friendly school and have appointed more new prefects in Year 6. 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



October & November Fundraising

A huge 'Thank you' for supporting all of our fundraising initiatives! We raised a fantastic £356.42 for Children in Need on Friday 16th November, as well as having a lot of fun wearing spotty clothes to school.



Remembrance

Remembrance Day



The children have been wearing their poppies with pride during the month of November to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice and we have been remembering all those in heaven with Jesus in our prayers. We held a two minutes silence in school on the Friday before Remembrance Sunday, joining the rest of the nation in this act of remembrance. Our poppy sales in school have raised £234.94 for all those affected by wars past and present. Thank you for your support.



WWI Centenary (1914 – 1918 → 2014 – 2018)

We have been marking the centenary of WWI over the past four years reflecting the duration of this Great War. This year our commemoration comes to a close marked by our trip to France and Belgium during Remembrance week to mark the end of this terrible conflict. We will be encouraging our children to look back over their World War One Journals and to reflect upon the length and scale of this conflict as well as the sacrifice made by those who lost their lives in The First World War.

Our Advent Project – Shoebox Appeal

This year for our Advent project we will be donating gifts to the children and staff of the Ivor Leigh Community School in Sierra Leone, to show our continued support and generosity through our 'Shoebox Appeal'.

Below are the items the school has requested we donate:

For an Adult: shampoo/conditioner, shower gel, toothbrush/toothpaste, hand sanitiser, Sweets e.g. boiled/Haribo, socks and Christmas themed gifts.

For a child: shampoo/conditioner, shower gel, toothbrush/toothpaste, hand sanitiser, Sweets e.g. boiled/Haribo, colouring books/pencils and small games.



We are encouraging our children to use their pocket money (and any money saved from giving up treats) to buy the items listed above to donate to this worthy cause. We are collecting donations now up until Wed. 19th Dec. If your child can bring

in a donation each week that would be fantastic! We will be recording the growth of our donations and the growth of our love and support for the staff and children of the Ivor Leigh Community School on our class charts. We are always really thankful for your support and any items that you can donate are greatly appreciated. Furthermore, if you have any spare shoeboxes that you wish to donate please send them into school with your child or drop them off at main reception.

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 7th Dec. 10:30am, Wade Hall.
- Nativity Performances – upper school hall
 - Parents of children in Reception to attend the performance on Fri. 14th Dec. (doors open at 1:30pm)
 - Parents of children in Years 1 + 2 to attend the performance on Wed. 19th 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 18th Dec. 2pm (doors open 1:45pm), Nursery
- Children's School Christmas Parties – Thursday 20th Dec. (afternoon) – *children only!*
- Advent Carol Service – Friday 21st Dec. 10:45am (doors open 10:35am) – *All parents are welcome to attend.*
- Carol Singing – this year our Year 6 choir will be performing carols at the following public locations:
 - Tesco Surrey Quays – Wednesday 5th Dec. 12:30pm
 - Canary Wharf – Monday 10th Dec. 12:30pm
 - The School Playground – Wednesday 12th December during end of day dismissals



Year 5 Assembly

On Friday 7th December 2018 Campion and Teresa Classes will be leading an assembly to share their experiences of their trip to France and Belgium to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One. Parents of the children in Year 5 are welcome to attend this assembly; doors will open at 8:40am with the assembly running from 9:10-9:30am.

Also...

- Our school calendar for the Year 2019 is on sale now! Last year's calendar theme was 'Our Favourite Bible Stories' and this year's calendar theme is 'Favourite Songs'. A school calendar makes a great family gift and also contains all the key school dates during 2019. We will be selling these now for only £6.50. Calendars can be purchased from main reception.



We have a new Green Team!

Your green team projects and posters were outstanding! Congratulations to both children and parents for your time, effort and originality! We had many fantastic projects some big, some small, some even growing themselves! Each class teacher had the very difficult job of choosing just one winner and these children were announced in a whole school assembly. These children make up our new Green Team 2018/19! Congratulations everybody! Miss Allen, our Green Team leader, is excited to be working with the new Green Team – they have already had their first meeting!



Uniform

During the Autumn Term & Spring Term girls should wear a blue shirt, school tie, a navy blue skirt/pinafore/coulottes, navy socks or tights, a navy cardigan or jumper, black shoes, a navy coat and a school winter hat.

During the Autumn Term & Spring Term boys should wear a blue shirt, school tie, grey trousers, grey socks, a grey jumper, black shoes, a navy coat and a school winter hat.

We do have several items of uniform still in stock at school – see attached uniform list. If you wish to purchase any of these items please enquire at main reception.

All other school uniform can now be purchased online from: <https://www.yourschooluniform.com/schools/index/st-josephs-014b-r-c-primary-school-20988>

Parents and Toddlers

As you may be aware our Parents & Toddler group takes place from 9:00-11:00am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the Felton Hall. We are currently looking for volunteers to assist Mrs O'Mahony during these sessions. If you are interested in and able to commit to being a regular volunteer, please speak to a member of the Admin. team at main reception.



Congratulations

On behalf of all the staff at St. Joseph's, we want to extend our congratulations and best wishes to Miss Perry who this month, welcomed a beautiful baby into her family! Jack Thomas Walker was born on Thursday 1st November 2018 at a healthy 7lbs 5oz. Both mother and baby are doing well.



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.

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.

Please remember that our school day begins promptly at 8:55am and that any children who arrive after the whistle has been blown will be marked as late. We appreciate your support in ensuring that your child arrives at school in the morning before the start of the school day begins.

Parents' Suggestions and Comments

Thank you to all parents who have placed suggestions and comments in the suggestions box in main reception, these are always very welcome. All comments, e.g. parking outside school, have been included and addressed in this newsletter.

If you have any questions regarding the items in this newsletter then please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Byrne or Mr Hoyes.

Kind regards,

St. Joseph's School Staff