



St Joseph's Newsletter

February 2020



Dates for Your Diary

Class Assemblies

Fri. 13th March - Elizabeth Class Assembly

Fri. 20th March - Baptist Class Assembly

Term Dates

Fri. 3rd April at 2pm - Break for Easter

Mon. 20th April at 8:55am (supervision in the playground from 8:40am) - Return after the Easter Break

Photographs

Thurs. 19th March – individual child photographs and siblings (winter uniform)

Wed. 7th May – class photographs (summer uniform)
Further details will follow.

Coronavirus

We are closely following the progression of the coronavirus and ever-changing advice given by the UK government. It is particularly relevant this week regarding students/staff who have travelled during the half term break. We are recommending that if you have travelled to any of the affected areas that you follow the UK Government's advice.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas>



Book Week is next week, (WC: 2nd March) and our theme this year is 'Traditional and Twisted Tales'. This includes well known fairytales, classic tales and those that have been given a modern twist. Our aim is to rekindle children's love for traditional stories by exploring them in depth and looking at different versions. See the Book Week letter for further information.

Our Lenten Project

On Wednesday we marked the beginning of Lent in our Ash Wednesday service. Our Lenten project this year, inspired by the 'The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales declaration of 2020 as 'A Year of the Word', is 'Follow the Word'. Each week of Lent, through our assemblies and class reflections, the children will read, discuss and reflect upon the reading from the coming Sunday's Gospel centred around a key word which will represent the theme of that week of Lent. The children will be invited to reflect in a variety of creative ways upon how the theme of the Gospel reading for that week will influence their decisions and actions.



George Row Playground Redevelopment

We are delighted to announce that the St Joseph's School Council has been invited to take part in the design of the redevelopment of the George Row playground.

On Wednesday 4th March the School Council will meet with the architects from Wynne-Williams Associates to discuss their ideas and design for the new playground. They will present data about all the children's across the school preferences for the new playground which they have collected from their classmates.

There will be a main public consultation event on Saturday 21st March at Wade Hall between 12 noon and 4pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

Year 5 & 6 Visit Europe's Oldest Operating Theatre

Our Year 5 and 6 children had the amazing opportunity of visiting the Old Operating Theatre and took part in an interactive workshop exploring what it was like to have been a medical practitioner and patient in St Thomas' Hospital during the 19th century. They explored the role of an apothecary, creating their own herbal remedies and also experienced the 'bloody' world of surgery before the arrival of antiseptics and anaesthetics. According to Fermin, Björn and Ronan (Y6 Dempsey), "It was an outstanding experience to see an operating theatre from the Victorian times and to have the opportunity to make our own medicine. It truly felt like we were there at the time."

Uniform

We have noticed some variations to school uniform items being worn/used by some children in the school.

Children are not permitted to wear any boots in school, including ankle boots. School shoes only must be worn. 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.

Please also ensure children do not attend school with stylised haircuts, boys' hair length should be the same all over. Furthermore, children are not permitted to wear gel or any other product in their hair. Long hair should be tied back and beads and other unnecessary accessories avoided during the school day.

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



Safer Internet Day

We marked 'Safer Internet Day' in school last half-term on Tuesday 11th February by learning about what it means to stay safe online.

Teaching the children how to use the internet safely is a joint responsibility between school and home. We encourage you to regularly discuss internet safety with your child; to ensure that you set parental controls on all devices through which your child has access to the internet and to regularly check their browsing history, messaging and social media platforms to ensure that they are using them appropriately.

Ready for School!

Thank you for helping our pupils to be properly prepared for school each day, through ensuring that PE kits, homework books, reading folders and reading records/journals and permission slips are ready on a regular basis. Everyday in school is very busy and each minute is precious! Please continue to support us by making sure children have had enough sleep to take advantage of each day's learning opportunities.

The NHS recommend that children aged five to eight have 11 hours sleep each night and that children aged nine to eleven have 10 hours sleep. To follow this guidance children in upper KS2 should be asleep by 9.00pm and lower KS2 8.00pm (approx). We have noticed recently a small number of children coming to school who appear to be too tired to do their very best. Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Pupil Safety



Please do not leave children unattended at the school gates. The main entrance opens at 8:00am to admit children attending breakfast club and the pupil entrance opens at 8:40am to admit children for school. Please ensure you stay with your child, if you bring him/her to school, until they are safely within the school grounds. Furthermore, please be extra vigilant when bringing your child to school by car. Stopping and double-parking to let the children out onto the road by the school gates needs careful attention for the children, other drivers and pedestrians wishing to cross the road.

Prayer of the Month



By Peter Class (YR)

3 Ingredients Week

In the week commencing the 9th March the Kitchen are preparing a very special menu! Each dish on the Menu contains a maximum of 3 ingredients with a focus on simple, flavoursome and healthy dishes. Highlights on the menu include: cherry tomato & cheese Crostini, tuna and broccoli pasta bake and blackberry fool.

Mrs Castagno

Parents' Comments

Thank you to all parents for your comments and suggestions for school improvements. If you do have any suggestions for school developments the comment box is available at main reception.

For regular news updates please see the school website:
www.stjosephsgeorgerow.org

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