



St Joseph's Newsletter

March 2020



School Closure

It is with a heavy heart that we are closing St Joseph's from Monday 23rd March until further notice in-line with the government's nationwide closure of schools to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. The school will remain open to the children of key workers and to vulnerable groups.

We would like to wish all of our school community the very best during this difficult time and to thank you for the support which you have all shown the school community in preventing the spread of the virus up to this point. During the period of school closure our school will continue to be staffed and if there is anything that we can do to support your family during this difficult period please do ring the school during our normal working hours and we will do our very best to assist you.

The management team would like to commend the hard work and resilience of all the St Joseph's staff who have continued to work to the very best of their abilities to educate, care for and support our children during this challenging period and will continue to do so during the period of school closure.

We will keep you informed as to when the school will re-open and assure you that you will all be in our prayers.

Key Workers and Vulnerable Groups

Late on the evening of 19th March, the Government published the official list of 'Key Workers' and 'Vulnerable Groups' - *Guidance for schools, colleges and local authorities on maintaining educational provision*. If you have any questions with regards your family's individual circumstances please contact the school office.

George Row Playground Redevelopment

On Wednesday 4th March, our School Councillors hosted an architect from Wynne-Williams Associates to discuss their ideas and design for the new playground. They presented data on behalf of all the children across the school for the new playground which they collected from their classmates. The Public Open Day on Saturday the 21st March has now been postponed.

We had a terrific Book Week this year with our theme 'Alternative Fairytales' being very much embraced by pupils, teachers and parents alike. We read a variety of fascinating fairy tales and fantasy stories throughout the school from Goldilocks and the Three Bears to Gulliver's Travels and everything in between.

Congratulations again to our costume 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 and we hope will continue to develop their love of reading at home by reading daily.

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



Our Lenten Project

As we move ever closer to Easter, the children have been engaging wonderfully in our Lenten project 'Follow the Word'. Each week of Lent, through our assemblies and class reflections, the children have been reading, discussing and reflecting upon the reading from the coming Sunday's Gospel centred upon a key word which will represent the theme of that week of Lent. The children have been reflecting in a variety of creative ways upon how the message from the Gospel reading will inform their future decisions and actions. We hope that they will continue to do this during the remainder of Lent in preparation for the Easter period.



Key Dates

The term dates for the academic year 2020/21 have been distributed and are available on the school website.

Hatrick Hero Nahriah scores last minute stunner to complete comeback!



St Joseph's 3
St James' 2

Our annual Year 4 Girls' football match against St James' has rapidly become a highlight of the St Joseph's sporting calendar and certainly did not disappoint delivering an absolute classic in the spring sunshine. The crowds turned out in good numbers from right across the school to witness a fascinating tie between these two giants of Southwark football.

St James' proved a tough opponent, taking an early lead as a result of their slick passing game. St Joseph's equalised a few minutes later but again fell behind as a result of a series of defensive errors.

As the second half progressed, the girls dug in, embracing the true spirit of St Joseph roared on by the exhilarated crowd to wrestle back parity in the tie with an equalizer. Tension engulfed the astroturf as the final minutes of the match played out with both sides pushing for the winner until the critical moment came. Teresa, who had put in a sterling defensive display all game, played a pin-point ball forward to Josephine who struck a firm shot on target only to be denied by an excellent save from the St James' keeper. As the keeper quickly tried to restart the game, Josephine intercepted the clearance playing a precise through ball to Nahriah who hammered home her third to secure the victory sending the elated crowd into raptures.

In her post-match interview Nahriah explained, "I feel very proud, they were a very good team," going on to give plaudits to the performances of all her teammates. Congratulations to all the girls who took part, there are certainly some players to look out for in the future in the school football team.



Parents' Comments

Thank you to all parents for your kind words about the success of World Book Week. 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.

Prayer of the Month

Dear God,
Thank you for
the opportunity
in Lent to live like Jesus.
We have been making time for
new friends, trying to follow your
word and helping our families.
Thank you for standing by my
side and giving us the chance to
live like Jesus in Lent.
Amen

Summer Uniform

When we return to school, which at this time we do not know, the children should return to school wearing their summer uniform.

- Girls – summer dresses (blue and white check); blue cardigans/jumpers and navy/white socks or tights.
- Boys – light blue polo shirts with either grey shorts or trousers and grey jumpers (please remind your son(s) to tuck shirts in and to fasten their top buttons)
- Parents of nursery children can choose whether to send their children into school wearing a summer uniform or their usual track suits.

Items of summer uniform are on sale from the website:
<https://www.yourschooluniform.com/schools/index/st-josephs-014b-r-c-primary-school-20988>

Parents & Toddlers

Our Parents & Toddlers Sessions are now postponed until further notice in light of the nationwide school closures. Thank you to Mrs O'Mahony and Mrs Ryan for all their hard work this term in running Parents & Toddlers. We will keep you updated via the school website as to when Parents & Toddlers will be reopening.



For news updates during the period of school closure please see the school website:
www.stjosephsgeorge.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.