

Headteacher: Miss Helen Tyler

Dear Parents and Carers,
 Newsletter No. 2 – Autumn Term

Friday 14th September 2018

Attendance & Punctuality



After our delayed start we are now at the end of our first full week of school, except for our newly arrived children in Reception and Nursery, who are joining us gradually and settling in beautifully. The table opposite includes attendance marks from Thursday 6th September to this morning's registration. Three year groups exceeded our minimum target of 96%. We hope this will improve as the year goes on and look forward to seeing all classes achieving excellent attendance this year. Don't forget there are prizes and a class trophy to aim for, as well as cinema tickets and book vouchers each half-term!

Year Group	% Present
Nursery	87.5%
Reception	93.0%
Year 1	97.0%
Year 2	97.6%
Year 3	92.0%
Year 4	95.3%
Year 5	91.5%
Year 6	97.4%

Punctuality has been disappointing already. School is open from 8.45 am and we expect children to be in class and ready to learn at 9 am when the register is taken. We repeat our advice to ensure that you allow enough time for your journey so that the children get the best possible start to their day.

We will continue to monitor attendance and punctuality closely and Miss Plivda will be in touch with any families whose attendance or punctuality causes concern, so that we can offer every support possible.



Building Progress

Thank you again for your patience and understanding regarding the building works. Our Nursery classroom is almost complete and the children have been very excited to enjoy the extended playground space and the new arrangements in the dining hall at lunch-time.

Some of you were able to view the improvements after the coffee morning yesterday. We also explained that we will be submitting a further bid to the Diocese for capital funding, in order to plan for the final phase of the project, i.e. a secure entrance lobby area and reconfiguration of the remaining ground floor offices. In the meantime thank you to those who are contributing to our Building Fund. All these donations help towards capital improvements. We are blessed with a beautiful but old building, on a very restricted footprint, with all the challenges this implies!

RE and the Catholic Life of the School

Coffee Morning with Miss Tyler – Thursday 20th September – Prayer Group for Parents

Next Thursday 20th September Mrs Blanchfield will lead parents in half an hour of prayer, in the school hall from 9 to 9.30 am. This will be followed by a brief presentation by Miss Tyler about Religious Education at St Joseph's, as a refresher to those of you who were not able to attend the presentation given last term. We will be asking parents to complete a Diocesan Parent Questionnaire about the Catholic life of the school, which will be sent out next week.



Yesterday's coffee morning produced some great ideas about how our school family can develop our prayer life together and we will keep you updated on new dates and invite you along as soon as we have finalised arrangements.

Pope Francis Tweet



This week we are sharing yesterday's message from the Pope's twitter feed, which you may wish to follow yourselves:



When I am merciful, I am a true child of the Father, because the Father is merciful.

RE Homework Activity - REMINDER



A few years ago we created a beautiful display of photos showing your children's special places for prayer and/or reflection at home. We would like to create a similar display of photos this term.

We would love to give the children the opportunity to share the different ways in which they live out their faith and prayer life in their home.

Some ideas for a prayer or quiet area are: religious and spiritual icons & symbols, specific books/scripture/quotes/prayers, pictures/photographs/posters, fabrics, mats, pillows and cushions etc

If we could have all contributions by **Monday 17th September**, that would be great. ALL children are expected to engage with this, in whichever way is most appropriate to their family's faith or those with no faith. We look forward to celebrating the prayer life of our school family together.

Meet the Teacher – Thursday 20th September

We invite parents to meet their children's teachers after school next Thursday. This is an informal event when you will have the opportunity to see the classroom and learn about what will be taught this term and how you can support your child at home, class timetables and other important information. In the meantime teachers will be sending out class letters and details of the curriculum plan for the term. We hope to see many of you then!



- EYFS and KS1 3.45 – 4.15 pm
- KS2 4.30 – 5.00 pm

NB: Many of the Year 6 parents may be attending open days at a secondary school on this date. For Year 6, therefore, we will advise parents of a different date early next week.

After School Activities

These will start again **week commencing 17th September** and will be on the following dates:

Mondays from 3.30 to 4.30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS1 Lego with Miss Plivda and Miss Defreitas • KS1 & KS2 Cooking Club with Miss Martin 	FULL FULL
Tuesdays from 3.30 to 4.30 pm	Arts & Crafts Club with Mrs Bear-Nicastro and Mrs Davis Spaces offered to x10 KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6) and x6 KS1 children (Years 1 & 2)	FULL
Wednesdays from 3.30 to 4.30 pm	KS2 & KS1 mixed Lego Club with Miss Plivda and Miss Iglesias	1 KS2 space remaining
Thursdays from 3.30 to 4.30 pm	Reading for Years 1 & 2 with Mrs Davis and Miss Smith	2 places remaining

Please be sure to **pay before the first session**, so payment over the weekend would be appreciated.

To sign up for these activities, please email admin@stjosephs.camden.sch.uk or speak to Miss Plivda in the school office. We will be charging £15 for the half-term, which will include five sessions. Payment will be via **ParentPay ONLY**. For Reading, a lower charge of £5 will be made. Please ask for a ParentPay letter if you require one. Places will be offered on a first come, first served basis.

Football Club places have been offered via Bloomsbury Football Academy, which runs on Thursdays. These should be booked directly through Bloomsbury FA online and children must be taken there by a parent or carer.

Dietary Needs & Allergy Forms

We have sent out forms to all children who are registered as having a dietary need or allergy. It is vital to keep these details up to date for your children's safety, so please can you complete and return these to the school office urgently. We do this on an annual basis but, in the meantime, if there are any changes or if your child has an allergy but you have not received a form, please get in touch with Miss Plivda in the school office.



Congratulations to Ms Pascoe, who is expecting a baby early next year. We will be recruiting a new teacher to cover her maternity and wish her a healthy and trouble-free pregnancy.

Pupil Premium / Free School Meals

Did you know that the **school could receive £1,320 per child per year**, if you receive certain benefits? This can be claimed even though your child may already receive a meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme. If your child is in year three or above, to be eligible for free school meals the parent or carer must receive one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit – if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income (after tax and not including any benefits you get) must be less than £7,400 a year
- Child Tax Credit with a taxable income of no more than £16,190 and not in receipt of Working Tax Credit
- The Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit.
- Support from the National Asylum Support Service (NASS)



If you think you are entitled to free school meals it is very important that you apply for them even if your child eats a packed lunch. This is because the amount of money a school receives from central government is dependent on the number of children entitled to free school meals.

Visit <https://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/content/education/schools/pupil-benefits-and-allowances/free-school-meals.en?page=2> for more information and to apply online.

Lost Property & Second Hand Uniform

From next Friday we will be displaying lost property and second hand uniform items along the ground floor corridor. Unclaimed items will be offered for a donation. Parents are welcome to browse from 3.15 pm before collecting their children. Donations will go to the School Fund.

Secondary School Admission for September 2019

Parents of children in Year 5 should already be thinking about their secondary school application, as this process opens in September, with a deadline of 31st October 2018.

In addition, we have included some information below which will help you with your initial research:

[Camden's secondary schools](#) aim to help your child reach their potential whatever they want to do in adult life.

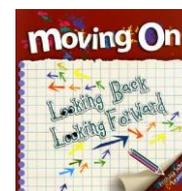
Camden Council co-ordinates the transfer from primary to secondary school for admission to all Camden state secondary schools. Find out more about Camden secondary schools in [their annual guide](#).

- The next deadline to apply for Year 7 places will be **31 October 2018**.
- You can visit Camden secondary schools on their own open days and evenings.
- [Meet the Parents](#) also holds informal forums for primary parents at local schools across the borough.

You may also wish to access the 'Good Schools Guide' at: <https://www.goodschoolsguide.co.uk/> where you will find details of the various options available to you.

Open days vary from school to school and from one London Borough to another, as do Admissions Policies. Please research this carefully. Faith schools will require you to complete their own Supplementary Application Form AS WELL AS the E-Admissions online form. To find out the open day dates, search online by Borough and they will be listed, e.g.

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/secondary-admissions/secondary-schools-open-days-and-evenings>



Mr Nuttney has kindly compiled the following list of the dates of various secondary school open days or evenings. However, we would advise you to check the schools' websites carefully, in case of any changes that may occur. **There is a form you should request from the office, to let us know if your child will be out of school to attend any of these events.** Thank you.

- St Michael's Catholic College Bermondsey 24th September 9.30am o 4.30-7.30; 26th September 9.30am; or 1st October
- La Sainte Union 27th September 4-7pm, or 4th October 10am, or 10th October 2pm
- Sacred Heart 13th or 19th Sept 9.30am or 4.50pm
- Maria Fidelis every Termtime Tuesday 9.30am
- St. Thomas More Language College 13th September or 19th September 4.15pm
- London Oratory 13th, 18th or 25th September 6.30pm, or 1st October 2.30pm
- Cardinal Vaughan 18th or 27th September 4.30pm
- Greycoat 25th September or four dates in October (booking with the school required)
- Marylebone School for Girls 11th September 8.45am; 12th September 5pm; 14th September 8.45am; 18th September 8.45am; or 19th September 8.45am
- Central Foundation School for Boys 20th September 6pm; 27th or 28th September 9.30am
- Elizabeth Garrett Anderson 24th to 28th September 9.15am; 3rd October 6pm; 9th or 10th October 9.15am

Individual Meetings re Secondary Transfer

Although no longer a governor, Mr Nuttney has kindly offered to meet with parents individually to support them with the transfer process, if required. Should you wish to have this conversation with him, please contact him directly or leave a message with the school office. We will need your specific permission to share your contact details with him, if you would like us to do so, according to data protection regulations.

Dates and Events – IMPORTANT CHANGES

Last week's newsletter detailed many of the dates we had provisionally planned in for this term. Please note that these have been and are subject to change, but are correct at the time of 'going to press'. Changes are highlighted. In particular please note the change to the Infant Nativity and the KS2 Carol Service.

With every good wish for the weekend.

Kind regards,

H Tyler

Miss Helen Tyler
Headteacher

Autumn Term dates follow on Page 5



Dates for this term:

Autumn Term 2018	
Thursday 20 th September 2018 from 9 – 10 am	Parents' Coffee Morning: Prayer Group & Presentation on RE by Miss Tyler & Ms Logue
Thursday 20 th September 2018 EYFS and KS1 3.45 – 4.15, KS2 4.30 – 5.00	Meet the Teachers Meetings
Tuesday 25 th September 2018	Pedestrian Skills Training – Y5
Wednesday 26 th September 2018	Visit to Royal Courts of Justice - Y5
Thursday 27 th September 2018	Individual photos
Monday 8 th October 2018	Citizenship Event- Y6
Tuesday 9 th October 2018 at 9.00	Parents' Coffee Morning
Friday 12 th October 2018 at 9.30 am	Harvest Mass at St Anselm & St Caecilia
Friday 19 th October 2018	Terms end at 3.30 pm
Monday 22 nd to Friday 26 th October 2018	Half term break
Monday 29 th October 2018	INSET Day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 30 th October 2018	Children return to school
Wednesday 31 st October at 9.00 am	Parents' Coffee Morning
Thursday 1 st November 2018	All Saints Mass at Corpus Christi
Wednesday 7 th November 2018 at 9.00 am	Parents' Coffee Morning
Monday 12 th November 2018	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 19 th November 2018	Structured Conversations- Y6 and Nursery
Wednesday 21 st November 2018 at 9.00 am	Parents' Coffee Morning
Friday 23 rd November 2018	Structured Conversations- Y2 and Y3 TBC
Monday 26 th November 2018	Structured Conversations- Y2 and Y3 TBC
Tuesday 27 th November 2018	Structured Conversations- Y6 and Nursery TBC
Friday 30 th November 2018	Structured Conversations- Y1 and Y4 TBC
Monday 3 rd December 2018	Structured Conversations- Reception and Y5 TBC
Tuesday 4 th December 2018	Structured Conversations- Y1 and Y4 TBC
Thursday 6 th December 2018	Parents' Coffee Morning
Thursday 6 th December 2018	Structured Conversations- Y2 and Y3 TBC
Friday 7 th December 2018	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 13 th December 2018 at 2.00 pm	Infant Nativity
Friday 14 th December 2018 at 10.00 am	Infant Nativity
Wednesday 19 th December 2018	Christmas Carol Concert at Corpus Christi
Tuesday 18 th December 2018	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 20 th December 2018	Class Parties and Own Clothes Day
Friday 21 st December 2018	Term ends @ 1.15 pm