

Headteacher: Miss Helen Tyler

Dear Parents and Carers, Newsletter No. 10 – Autumn Term

Friday 30th November 2018

Lots of news and things to note as we approach the busy Advent and Christmas season at St Joseph's:

Attendance & Punctuality – data for the two week period: 12th to 23rd November



During the two weeks up to and including last Friday 23rd November, Year 1 achieved the highest attendance with a super 98.3%. There were still three classes who did not reach the target of 96%. Let's try our best to beat the winter germs and see if all of our classes can achieve at least this target in the last few weeks of term.

| Year Group | % Present |
|---------------|--------------|
| Nursery | 90.6% |
| Reception | 91.8% |
| Year 1 | 98.3% |
| Year 2 | 97.5% |
| Year 3 | 95.2% |
| Year 4 | 94.3% |
| Year 5 | 97.1% |
| Year 6 | 96.3% |

We recorded a total of 31 late marks over the two week period. This is a slight improvement on average but I know we can do better!

Neighbours and the Start of the Day



Whilst we do want everyone to arrive promptly at 8.45 am each day, please be mindful of our neighbours and be sure to supervise your children if you are waiting on Macklin Street before this time. This is a residential as well as a business area so please be considerate when you are waiting at drop-off or pick-up time.

Can we also remind you that the bollards have not yet been replaced following recent damage. You should therefore remain vigilant as drivers do not always obey the signs, particularly those who are on motorbikes.

Staffing News

We are pleased to be able to confirm that Ms Cecelia Vunaki will be taking over from Miss Pascoe in **Year 1** from January 2019. She has already spent a good deal of time in the class and we look forward to welcoming her officially as part of the St Joseph's School Family in the New Year.



Similarly, we are delighted to welcome Ms Krisztina Ildiko Iakab (Miss Krisztina) as our **Nursery** teacher. She has started with us this week and is getting to know the children and our routine with great enthusiasm.

We are left with the part-time **Reception** post yet to fill and have been busy meeting and interviewing candidates. We hope to be able to confirm an appointment very soon!

Mrs Jane Mwangi has been covering our **PPA** time (preparation, planning and assessment) and is making a very valuable contribution to the teaching and learning at St Joseph's.

On the support staff side, we are very happy to welcome Miss Lucy Glover to the school **admin team**. She will be working in the afternoons alongside Miss Aija Plivda and has made a super start with us.

Sister Lucina



Thank you to everyone who donated towards a gift and the 'afternoon tea' event for Sister Lucina. She has been a part of our school family for over fourteen years and we are all very sad to bid her 'Au Revoir'. We were able to present her with a very special 'Hands of Friendship' cross, an Oscar Romero cross and a 'Miraculous Medal' pendant, as well as a voucher for a well-known store! The children sang beautifully for her and she was delighted to receive all their messages of thanks and good wishes. Our prayers go with her as she returns to her Order in Loughborough.

Infant Nativity Tickets

These were on sale yesterday at the beginning and end of the school day. Remaining tickets are now available via the school office on a 'first come, first served' basis.



Christmas Lunch

The date for our school Christmas dinner is Tuesday 18th December. If your child usually has a school meal, you do not need to do anything. However, if your child usually has a packed lunch and you want them to have a Christmas dinner, you will need to let the office know **by Monday 10th December** at the latest, so that the kitchen can place their order in time. You will also need to pay **IN ADVANCE VIA PARENTPAY (or PayPoint)** by this date.



We cannot accept any late orders.

Advent Fair – 12th December – HELP NEEDED

As this event draws near, can we ask parents and carers to meet on Monday morning 3rd December to organise what's needed for the Advent Fair, stall holders, refreshments etc. Please spare just half an hour of your time to see how you might contribute to this fundraiser. This year we will be adding the money raised to our Building Fund.

Early next week we will be sending out raffle tickets for you to buy and/or sell, as well as a letter with more details about the Fair. In the meantime, one thing we will ask is whether the children could put together a decorated jar and fill it with sweets, for sale on the day. This has always been a popular stall in the past. We will let you know in next week's letter when they can be brought in to school. **THANK YOU!**



The Schola Caeciliana, the Choir at St. Anselm and St. Caecilia is recruiting new members



for the Christmas Carol Service on Friday, 21st December at 6 pm. Please see the poster in the Music Room or the outside noticeboard for details. There will be an introductory rehearsal on Friday, 23rd November. Parents are invited to sign up by leaving a message with the Parish Office on 0207 405 0376, or by emailing the Director of Music, Adam Balkwill, at: scholacaeciliana@gmail.com.

Four Walls – Care Packs for Christmas!

Don't forget to add an extra tube of toothpaste or another small item to your weekly shop and bring these items in for the care packs we will be putting together for those who are forced to sleep rough in our local area.



The children met the founder of the Four Walls Charity for the homeless at a recent assembly and asked some excellent questions about their work.



Items can be brought in right up until Friday 14th December. See the boxes in the entrance lobby and by the school office. On the last week of term we will be inviting some of the older children and their parents to help put the packs together after school. Please look out for further details!

You can find out more about how to support the charity in other ways by visiting their website at: <https://www.fourwallscharity.com/>.

RE Newsletter from Ten Ten & Whole School RE Homework

Attached is the November newsletter from Ten Ten Resources, which are used in class. Please take the time to read through this and share some of the thoughts and ideas with your children. Thank you.

Thank you for the beautiful pieces of work which we received for the Adoremus project. We have displayed this around the school and in classes, as a perfect example of parents and children working together. Well done to all!

Those of you who were at last week's parents' prayer meeting will know something about the World Meeting of Families which took place in Dublin in August. For our next task, due in by Friday 14th December, can we ask that the children think about the three words that Pope Francis mentioned when he said: 'We are one family in Christ spread throughout the world. The Church is the family of God's children.' He asks all of us to learn three words: *'please, thank you and sorry.'* For each key stage:



EYFS - draw a picture illustrating how we say please, thank you or sorry

KS1 - write an example of when you did these three things at home

KS2 - saying sorry can sometimes take a lot of courage and strength. Write about a time when you said sorry and why it is important for us to say sorry when we have done something wrong.

If you would like to see some highlights of the Pope's visit to Dublin, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGbjKhL82Pw>



Pope Francis Tweet



From Pope Francis' recent tweets, we have chosen to share this message, particularly appropriate as we think about the giving of gifts for Christmas:

Let us ask the Lord for the grace of being generous, so that our hearts may be opened and we may become kinder.



World Wide Fund for Nature

The updated totals raised by each class for their adopted endangered species are now:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------|
| • Nursery (Leopard) - | £236.86 | • Year 3 (Dolphin) – | £40.00 |
| • Reception (Panda) - | £157.20 | • Year 4 (Rhino) - | £58.50 |
| • Year 1 (Tiger) - | £103.05 | • Year 5 (Elephant) - | £37.85 |
| • Year 2 (Polar Bear) - | £19.00 | • Year 6 (Orangutan) - | £7.75 |



This gives a grand total of **£660.21**. We will be sending this off shortly.

Fortnightly Newsletters

You will have noticed, as announced in our newsletter dated 9th November, that our newsletters will now be less frequent. Our aim is to issue them fortnightly, depending on the events and news we have to share. Do check your emails and the website frequently and don't forget we always post a copy on the notice board outside the school.

Carol Singing in Red Lion Square Gardens - 5.30pm Thursday 13th December 2018

The Friends of Red Lion Square Gardens are holding a carol singing event in Red Lion Square Gardens and we'd love to see friends, neighbours and friends we don't know yet come along. The park cafe will be providing free drinks and snacks - meet by the Christmas Tree to join in singing from 5.45pm.

Information from the Occupational Therapist

At the end of this newsletter you will find some information about the Occupation Therapy Service; what it does and how it can be accessed in Camden and in schools. I hope you find this useful.

In addition, we are including a letter from Miss Logue and Miss Baker, the OT who is allocated to us

National Online Safety – Guide for Parents

This organisation provides a very useful guide for parents about online safety. You can find it on Facebook!

Reception and Nursery Admissions – Deadline is 15th January 2019

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL OUR NURSERY PARENTS

Parents of our current Nursery aged children can already apply for a Reception place for September 2019. This must be done online with the Local Authority and our own Supplementary Information Form is also required. Contact the office or visit the school website for details.

Children who will have their 4th birthday between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 can apply directly to the school for a Nursery place starting in September 2019. Information is on our website.

Booklets about 'Starting School in Camden' have gone out to Nursery parents and contain important information about how to apply. Visit: <https://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/education/camden-schools/primary-schools/> and be sure to meet the deadline.

Dates and Events

Please check the dates in the table below, which are correct at the time of writing. Thank you.

Kind regards,

H Tyler

Miss Helen Tyler
Headteacher

| Autumn Term 2018 | |
|--|---|
| Friday 30 th November 2018 | Structured Conversations- Y1 and Y4 |
| Friday 30 th November 2018 | Go Ape – Offsite Visit – Y5 |
| Friday 30 th November 2018 from 9.45 to 10.10 am | Portfolio Friday – Nursery Parents |
| Friday 30 th November 2018 from 9 am | Christmas Decorations – School Hall |
| Friday 30 th November 2018 | School Nurse Health Reviews – AM (Reception children only) |
| Monday 3 rd December 2018 | Structured Conversations- Reception |
| Tuesday 4 th December 2018 | Structured Conversations- Y1 and Y4 |
| Thursday 6 th December 2018 | Parents' Coffee Morning |
| Thursday 6 th December 2018 | Structured Conversations- Y2 and Y3 |
| Friday 7 th December 2018 | Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day |
| Thursday 6 th December 2018 at 2.00 pm | Infant Nativity |
| Friday 7 th December 2018 at 10.00 am | Infant Nativity |
| Monday 10 th December 2018 | Deadline to order & pay for a Christmas Lunch, if your child usually brings a packed lunch |
| Wednesday 12 th December 2018 | Advent Fair – 3.30 to 5 pm |
| Wednesday 12 th December 2018 | Choir Singing at Central St Giles (lunch-time event) |
| Monday 17 th December 2018 | Christmas Movie for the class with the best attendance – Hospital Club |
| 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 |
| | |
| Monday 7 th January 2019 | INSET Day – School closed to children |
| Tuesday 8 th January 2019 | Term begins |



Occupational Therapy

What is Occupational Therapy?

Occupational therapy provides practical support to empower people to overcome barriers preventing them from doing the activities that matter to them. This supports increases in independence, satisfaction and participation in all aspects of life

How does this relate to my child at school?

Occupational therapists work in partnership with the child or young person's family, their teachers and other relevant school professionals, providing assessments and interventions in the following areas:

- Participation in productive school activities in relation to functional tasks such as handwriting, using tools and materials in the classroom for different lessons, using scissors, access to a computer and other technology equipment.
- Self-care and functional skills i.e. feeding, dressing, toileting, general hygiene tasks, participation in other school routines, etc.
- Participation in leisure and play activities i.e. taking part in sports and games, using playground equipment, developing a range play skills and riding a bike.

Participation for all

The OT service in Camden offers universal services for all students in Camden Maintained Primary Schools with the aim to;

1. Increase **early identification** of children who are having difficulty with school activities
2. **Build capacity** of educators and families
3. **Promote** health, wellbeing and participation

The OT works with the school SENDCO and class teacher to identify areas of need for the whole class, and embed strategies in the classroom, such as handwriting tips, self-regulation activities and activities to develop independence in changing for PE.

Find out more about the OT service in Camden here

<https://www.royalfree.nhs.uk/services/services-a-z/occupational-therapy-services-for-children-and-young-people/>

