

Friday 12th July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Newsletter No. 25 – Summer Term

With this being the last newsletter of the year, I will start by thanking everyone for their support during this particularly busy academic year, with two Ofsted Inspections in addition to the everyday business of a primary school. St Joseph's is a very special place and this is due very much to the effort, commitment and dedication of our wonderful staff, parents and governors, as well as your amazing children, whose enthusiasm and love for learning keeps me going every day!

SUMMER CONCERT



Well done and a huge thank you to our brilliant choir, hand bells and African drumming team, who treated us to yet another fantastic Summer Concert this week. Thank you to Miss Cotter for her dedication and excellence as always; we are so blessed to have her in our School. Special congratulations to the narrators and soloists, who performed so well. The amazing gift of music continues to fill our hearts with joy!



EYFS GRADUATION

Our youngest children also enjoyed a special graduation ceremony and picnic this morning. Well done to all our pupils for their great achievements over the last year. We congratulate them as they too move on to the next stage of their education and development. Thank you to Miss Cotter for supporting the children's performance this morning and to our outstanding Early Years staff: Miss Susko, Miss Liz, Miss Mohamoud, Mrs Sesay and Miss Shuhela.



YEAR 6 PICNIC AND LEAVERS' MASS



A Dojo message has gone out to Year 6 parents this week with details of the picnic planned for next Thursday 18th July after school in Lincoln's Inn Fields. Children **MUST** be collected after school as normal and accompanied to the park by an adult.

Year 6 (and other) parents are all welcome to join us to celebrate a special Leavers' Mass on Tuesday 23rd July at St Anselm & St Caecilia at 9.30 am. We look forward to joining as the family of St Joseph's in thanksgiving and prayer for all our leavers on their last day at the school. We wish them all firstly a restful summer holiday and secondly of course, a happy and successful move to their various secondary schools.



MOVING ON – Current Year 5 children

Parents and carers of children who will be in Year 6 this September will already be thinking about their application to start secondary school in 2020. A message was sent out earlier this week about Open Days in Camden schools, as well as a 'Moving On' event at Swiss Cottage School on 19th September 2019 from 4 to 6.30 pm.

Please be aware that time will pass very quickly once the Autumn Term begins and the closing date for secondary school applications is 31st October 2019. However, many of the faith schools require you to submit their own Supplementary Information Form and relevant documents **before** this date. You will need to act promptly to submit everything on time.

We are acutely aware that not all of you will be applying to Camden schools so please take the time to do some online research now, so as not to miss any open day events. We will remind you of this again in September but the responsibility does lie with parents and carers and not with ourselves, to make the application. We are unable to recommend specific schools and would also urge you to read each school's Admissions Policy very carefully so as to make the best choices for your child.

New Secondary School



Some useful links are:

<https://www.camden.gov.uk/secondary-school-admissions>

<https://www.westminster.gov.uk/school-admissions>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-secondary-school-place>

STAFFING 2019-20

As we come to the end of this academic year, we will sadly be saying 'Au Revoir;' to Miss Quirke, who has accepted a post very near to her home. We are grateful for her excellent teaching and wish her every success as she takes the next step in her career.

In September 2019 we will have a total of 14 teachers, with only four of these being new to the school. Mrs Mwangi will be taking on Year 4 and Miss Susko and Ms Liz sharing responsibility for the Reception class. Miss Stewart will be providing some of our PPA cover and will be mentoring and supporting teachers where needed. Teaching staff across the School will be as follows:

LEADERSHIP TEAM Autumn 2019	
Headteacher	Miss Helen Tyler
Assistant Headteacher & Inclusion Leader	Ms Gabriella Logue
School Business & Admin Leader	Mrs Jennifer Blanchfield
Literacy Subject Leader	Mr Sean McEleney
Maths Subject Leader	Miss Katie Stewart
RE Subject Leader	Ms Gabriella Logue
Inclusion Leader	Ms Gabriella Logue
EYFS Leader	Ms Olga Susko

TEACHING STAFF Autumn 2019	
Nursery (<i>Leopard</i>)	Miss Amelia Vine
Reception (<i>Panda</i>)	Ms Olga Susko & Ms Liz Burdon
Year 1 (<i>Tiger</i>)	Mrs Odette Roberts
Year 2 (<i>Polar Bear</i>)	Miss Kate Hutton
Year 3 (<i>Dolphin</i>)	Ms Emma-Loren Barrington
Year 4 (<i>Rhino</i>)	Mrs Jane Mwangi
Year 5 (<i>Elephant</i>)	Mr Michael Rodney
Year 6 (<i>Orang-utan</i>)	Mr Sean McEleney
Music teacher	Miss Sue Cotter
PPA Cover Teachers	Ms Sophie Smith-Tong Miss Katie Stewart

All our class based and other support staff remain with us with the exception of one teaching assistant, Miss Almu, who is returning to Spain. Emily Walsh will be joining us from St Aloysius School (Camden).

SCHOOL PHOTOS

All of the children who ordered class photos via school office will have received them today.

URGENT REMINDER - Outstanding debts

Please ensure that there are no outstanding dinner debts or school trip debts at the end of next week. This is particularly important for Year 6 children and any others who may be leaving the school. If you have any queries, please speak to Miss Aija Plivda or Ms Madelon Lyle in the school office. Thank you.



END OF YEAR REPORTS

We will be emailing out a copy of your child's Structured Conversation Report which is our Annual Report to parents, as soon as we are able at the end of term. You will receive a text to let you know when these have been sent out. If you do not receive an email or you require a paper copy, you will need to advise the office please.

PARENTAL CONTROLS

Please do take time to read the guide which is attached to this Newsletter as it will help you set up parental controls to provide your child with a safer online environment.

POPE FRANCIS TWEET



Today's tweet from Pope Francis seemed a particularly apt reminder, at these times of change for many of our children, that we too, even as adults, are beloved children in the eyes of God:



"Faith is a gift that keeps alive a profound and beautiful certainty that we are God's beloved children.

ATTENDANCE – 3rd September 2018 to 12th July 2019

This week's table shows school attendance for the whole academic year. Years 3; 5 and 6 are the only classes which achieved an attendance percentage higher than our expected DfE target of 96%. Overall the average was 95.4% which is unfortunately just short of the target.

Congratulations to 22 children who have achieved 100% attendance throughout the year. Those children will be awarded with a special medal and certificate. We also want to congratulate further 75 children who have achieved or exceeded attendance target of 96%.

Year Group	% Present
Nursery	93.5%
Reception	94.4%
Year 1	95.9%
Year 2	95.6%
Year 3	96.1%
Year 4	94.6%
Year 5	96.6%
Year 6	96.0%

2 Family Cinema Voucher winners and 1 special Family Portrait Experience Voucher winner will be picked at our Attendance Assembly on 22nd July.

BUILDING FUND

Thank you to those who have been making regular or ad-hoc contributions to our school building fund. As a reminder, voluntary aided schools such as ours are obliged to contribute 10% of any capital project. Donations can be made via ParentPay online at any time and completing a Gift Aid Declaration (if you are a UK taxpayer) can increase your donation by 28p for every £1.00. Please give whatever you can and, if your work involves any corporate organisations who could be a possible benefactor, please do put them in touch with Mrs Blanchfield!

We have learned of a potential setback regarding the works to our school entrance lobby and ground floor. However, we are still hopeful that some of this work may be completed during the summer break. Although we were successful in our bid for some capital funding with the Diocese, there is a significant shortfall to be found, as well as the 10% contribution. All donations or contributions will be so very much appreciated, however small. Thank you in advance.

LAST DAY OF TERM- Tuesday 23rd July 2019!

All children MUST be collected at 1.15pm on Tuesday 23rd July 2019. The School Office will be closed after this time.

SUMMER TERM DATES

A list of the main events for the remainder of the summer term follows.

With my warmest good wishes to all of our leavers for a wonderful summer holiday and a great future ahead!

Kind regards,

H Tyler

Miss Helen Tyler
Headteacher

SUMMER TERM 2019 – NB: PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE FOR CLASS PARTIES

Summer Term 2019	
Monday 15 th July to Friday 19 th July 2019	Active Week
Monday 15 th July	Reception and Year 1 Structured Conversations
Tuesday 16 th July	Year 1 and Year 2 visiting YMCA
Wednesday 17 th July 2019	Sports Day
Thursday 18 th July 2019	KS2 going to Regents Park
Thursday 18 th July 2019 PM	Year 6 Picnic @ Lincoln's Inn Fields
Friday 19th July 2019	Class parties and Own Clothes Day
Tuesday 23 rd September 2019 9.30am	Leavers Mass @ St Anselm and St Cecilia
Tuesday 23 rd July 2019	Term ends at 1.15 pm
SUMMER BREAK	
Monday 2 nd September 2019	INSET Day – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 3 rd September 2019	Children return to school