

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019

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

## Flash Flooding Closure

Thank you for your understanding when we had to close the school following unexpected flash flooding on Tuesday afternoon. This was due to the sheer volume of rainwater that fell in a short space of time and found its way to the Year 6 classroom and down from the top fire exit door at the front end of the building. Safety is always our priority and various contractors were called out on Wednesday to ensure the safe operation of the fire alarm and electrical systems in school. Our special thanks go to Mr Ansley for his sterling work in cleaning up Year 6 and getting everything certified safe and 'ship shape' for our return yesterday.



## MEET THE TEACHER



These meetings have now been rescheduled to Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September and times will be as before, i.e.

- KS1 (Year 1 and Year 2) - from 3.45 to 4.30 pm
- Years 3, 4 & 5 - at 4.30 pm

Parents and carers are invited to come along to their children's classrooms at the above times to meet with the class teacher as a group and talk about the curriculum and routines for the year. Information and class letters will be sent out later today. (Year 6 will have been given a different date separately by Mr McEleney)

## PARENT PRAYER AND COFFEE MORNING

Thank you to those who supported our Macmillan Prayer and Coffee Morning today and to Mrs Blanchfield who led us in prayer. A copy of the prayers is attached, which we hope you will find helpful. We will let you know the total in our next newsletter, as some of the cakes will be on sale at the end of the day. Thank you to the Mums who helped today.



## RE HOMEWORK EXTENSION

Very few children have brought in their RE Homework, which we had asked for by today. Exceptionally, Ms Logue has extended the deadline to another fortnight's time, i.e. **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019**. The tasks are repeated below:

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September was the International Day of Peace Day or Peace Day. This is a day which is dedicated to the promotion of **global peace**. In 2001 the countries of the United Nations adopted the day and declared it a day of global ceasefire and non-violence. Over the years since then it has become more widely known. Homework over the next fortnight across the school is as follows:

EYFS and KS1 – make or draw a dove of peace, draw a picture representing peace and kindness **or** write a prayer for peace

KS2 – Retell a story from the Gospel relating to peace and/or forgiveness **or** write about a religious figure or Saint who promoted peace in the world. Examples include Mother Theresa, Pope Francis, Martin Luther King.

Homework to be put in RE box which will be left at the school entrance as usual.

## POPE FRANCIS TWEET

This week Pope Francis urged us not to be half-hearted about our faith but to make it a priority and our greatest commitment; we pray that we will give ourselves completely to Christ's call:



"When we become 'spiritually lukewarm' we become half-Christians, without substance.  
Instead, the Lord wants conversion, today."

## WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

This Sunday at Mass parishes will be celebrating the 'world Day of Migrants and Refugees'. We pray that God will bestow in abundance the gift of courage, unfailing commitment and justice for the defenceless and the vulnerable, so that we may serve Migrants and Refugees as the Lord Himself would.

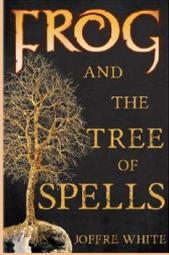
## POETRY WEEK – Recital on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019



Next week our literacy focus will be poetry. At the end of the week parents and carers are warmly invited to our annual poetry recital. This will be the culmination of the poetry work which classes have done throughout the week. It will be held in the hall on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 2.50 pm**. All classes will take part except the Nursery. We look forward to seeing you then!

## AUTHOR VISIT – JOFFRE WHITE – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019

We are excited to be welcoming the author Joffre White in a couple of weeks – details follow regarding the opportunity to purchase a signed copy of the 'Frog Trilogy' books and the date of his visit. I'm sure the visit will be inspirational for the children.



**Joffre White**  
Author, a UK Patron of Reading & Ambassador for Achievement For All, will be appearing for local schools at –  
**St Joseph's RC Primary School**  
On  
**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

If you would like to purchase personally signed copies of the Frog fantasy adventure series, they will be available on both days at a discount price.

'Frog and the Tree of Spells'. 'Frog and the Sandspiders'. 'Frog I'.  
Paperbacks - £8.00 each (rrp. £8.99) **THE FROG TRILOGY - £24.00**  
(Cash or Cheques made payable to B R J White)



[www.joffrewhite.com](http://www.joffrewhite.com)    [Twitter@joffrewhite](https://twitter.com/joffrewhite)    [Joffre White – Author](https://www.facebook.com/joffrewhite)  
[www.patronofreading.co.uk](http://www.patronofreading.co.uk)    [www.afaeducation.org](http://www.afaeducation.org)

"Joffre White is a master storyteller, his books leave you breathless." –  
Alexander Gordon Smith, award winning Author.

'A wonderful adventure – Everything to love.' - Julia Suzuki, British Fantasy Author & Celebrity.

## GUIDED READING OR OTHER BOOKS – AMNESTY!

A further reminder to take a good look around your home for any books which belong to St Joseph's and have inadvertently not been returned. Please do send them in if you find any – thank you!



## POSTER COMPETITION – METROPOLITAN POLICE

London Primary School children have been invited by the Metropolitan Police to design a poster to promote the Christmas Tree project. The project is about giving presents to children in care in every London Borough. Last year's overall winning entry is on the left and a gallery of winning entries can be found at: <https://www.met.police.uk/police-forces/metropolitan-police/areas/campaigns/2018/met-christmas-appeal/winning-poster-gallery/>

The Christmas Tree Campaign began with one tree outside New Scotland Yard in Westminster. This tree was decorated with individual tags which gave information on how to buy a present for a child in care. These presents were then handed in to Police Officers, who would distribute them to children.

Entries are invited from all children and should be delivered to the RE Homework box in the front entrance. We must receive them by **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October at the latest**, so we can submit them by the deadline given to us.

## WWF Fundraising 2019

You will know from your class teachers that we are currently organizing fundraising activities as part of our annual appeal for endangered species. Each class will be learning about their adopted class animal as part of this venture. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Nursery	Sponsored Walk for Wildlife	Year 3	Talent Show
Reception	Sponsored Walk for Wildlife	Year 4	Sponsored times tables challenge
Year 1	'Tiger that came to tea-party'	Year 5	TBC
Year 2	TBC	Year 6	Dance-a-thon



## BIKE TO SCHOOL WEEK 2019

Last year we were delighted to achieve a 'Gold Star' as part of the School Travel Plan scheme with the Local Authority. The week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> September has been designated as 'Bike to School Week'.

Did you travel to or from school on a bike (or a scooter) this week? If so, please let us know in the office and you may win a small prize to celebrate!

## WALK TO SCHOOL DAY – 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019

Next Wednesday is designated as 'Walk to School' day nationally. We know many of you walk at least part of the way to school. Teachers will be asking the children how they came to school and there will be stickers or an alternative small reward for those who came on foot!



## INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS



Stanley Baker Studios will be here to take individual photographs of the children and staff. These will be used for our database as well as being available for purchase. If you have a younger child of pre-school age, you may bring them along to be included in your child(ren)'s photo at 8.30 am. Siblings within school will be photographed together during the course of the morning. The school does benefit from every purchase, with a small donation to school funds.

## ENERGY KIDZ – Breakfast and After School Provision

Another reminder that Energy Kidz provide our breakfast and after-school club in the school hall every day. They offer child-care from 7.30 am each morning and up to 6 pm each evening, to children from aged 4 upwards. This essential service is in serious jeopardy if numbers drop below a certain level so we are anxious to promote the clubs with our parents and carers. Information about prices and registration can be found at: <https://www.energy-kidz.co.uk/breakfast-and-after-school-clubs/st-josephs-catholic-primary-school/>



Please feel free to call in and speak to Energy Kidz staff about the clubs if you wish to meet them and see the sessions 'in action'!

## MOVING ON – Current Year 6 children - IMPORTANT

A booklet was sent out earlier this week with information about applying for a secondary school place for September 2020. This will have included details of Open Days in Camden schools, as well as a 'Moving On' event at Swiss Cottage School on 19<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 schools outside the LB of Camden, so please look online for open day dates and information. Responsibility for this 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.

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>



We will be organising a meeting for parents in the next few weeks and will invite a representative from St Michael's in Bermondsey along. Their open days are on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September and information is on their website.



## PRIMARY ADMISSIONS – Reception Entry in September 2020

You can begin to apply now for your child's entry to Reception in September 2020. This applies to children who are currently of Nursery age and whose 5<sup>th</sup> birthday will fall between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021. You will need to apply online to Camden as well as completing our own Supplementary Information Form and submitting this to school with any relevant accompanying documents. Details for the Local Authority Application process and other information can be found at:

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

The deadline for applications to both the school and the Local Authority is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

For a Nursery place you need only apply directly to the school.

## ATTENDANCE – 16<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019



Year 4 children achieved the highest attendance over the last two weeks so well done to them! Unfortunately three classes fell short of our minimum expected target of 96%, set by the DfE. We look forward to higher figures for our next newsletter!

Punctuality has been poor over the last fortnight.

Please allow enough time for your journey as Central London travel will always bring delays. Aim to arrive for 8.45 am each day, so your children will be 'ready to learn' promptly each day.

Year Group	% Present
Nursery	93.4%
Reception	96.7%
Year 1	92.9%
Year 2	97.1%
Year 3	95.1%
Year 4	98.1%
Year 5	97.0%
Year 6	96.3%

## BUILDING FUND

We are still putting the finishing touches to our new ground floor space, as we wait for telephone lines to be connected and furniture to arrive. We look forward to welcoming visitors at our new Reception location by half-term at the latest. Thank you for bearing with us while we await the final details.



Thank you to those who have been making regular or ad-hoc contributions to our school building fund. As a reminder, and for those who are unaware, 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! There is always a shortfall to be found and our Victorian building needs a lot of TLC! Every contribution helps, however large or small and all your support is very much appreciated. Thank you.

## LOCAL GIRL SCOUT INVITATION

We have been asked to let parents know about the Girl Scout groups who are now welcoming Brownies and Juniors to their meetings:



Your local Girl Scout troop is now welcoming Brownies and Juniors!

Our next meeting will be on October 5, from 10am until 11:30,  
at the American International Church, 79A Tottenham Court Road.

We welcome all girls in Years 3 - 6!

Please contact our leaders, Claudia and Allison, at [londongirlscouts@usagso.org](mailto:londongirlscouts@usagso.org) for more information

## AUTUMN TERM DATES

A list of the main events for this term follows. These are correct at the time of writing, but please look out for any changes, additions or amendments in future newsletters.

Kind regards,

*H Tyler*

Miss Helen Tyler  
Headteacher



## AUTUMN TERM 2019

Autumn term 2019	
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Meet the Teacher – times as per newsletter
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2019	Walk to School Day
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2019	Years 3 and 4 Keats House visit
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2019	Individual Pupil photos
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2019	Years 5 and 6 Keats House visit
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Year 4 Family Prayers
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Joffre White visiting St Joseph's
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Harvest Mass at St Anslem and St Caecilia
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Reception Foundling Museum Visit
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Year 2 Family Prayers
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Year 3 Workshops at CLC
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Reception- Year 6 Nasal Flu
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Years 5 and 6 Just Enough Workshops
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Restart a Heart Day
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Year 5 Family Prayers
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2019- 3:30pm	Break for Half Term
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	INSET Day – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Pupils return from half-term
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Term ends at 1.15 pm
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	INSET Day – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Pupils return from the Christmas break

### ADVENT FAIR – IMPORTANT!

We invite all parents to meet with others to plan events for our annual Advent Fair. The meeting will be in the school hall on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 9 am for approx. one hour.

Ideas have already been discussed at the coffee morning today. The more volunteers we have, the merrier! Thank you.

The Fair itself is scheduled for Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019

