

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL EASTER TERM 1



"Inspired by St. Joseph, together with Christ, we learn, we grow, we love"

HAPPY
NEW YEAR

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Dear Parents

May I take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy New Year. I trust you all had a pleasant Christmas and managed to have a well-deserved rest!

You might not have been a fan of Reggae Music but Bob Marley had a point when he sang, "You just can't live that negative way. Make way for the positive day."

Positive Vibration. Here's a little story about a donkey and at the end you will understand why the story is titled, "The Wise Donkey".

"One day a farmer's donkey fell into a well. The animal cried miserably for hours as the farmer tried to work out what to do. Finally, the farmer decided that the donkey was old and the well had to be filled in anyway; it just wasn't worth the effort to retrieve the old donkey. The farmer invited his neighbours to come over and help him. Each grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. When the donkey realised what was happening, it cried horribly, then, to everyone's amazement it quietened down. When the farmer looked into the well, he was astonished to see the donkey shake each shovel of dirt off its back and take a step upwards. This sequence continued until the donkey began to appear. Before long, it stepped over the edge of the well and trotted off." Author unknown.

And the moral? Well, use each of your problems as stepping stones. We will never get out of our "deepest wells" by doing nothing. We need to shake off the negatives and "Make way for a positive day". Additionally, acting in a positive way does not mean that we ignore life's less pleasant situations but that we approach the unpleasantness in a more positive and productive way. What a Wise Donkey!

So, how do we teach our children to be wise and positive in the decisions and choices they will have to make?

Ron Disney gives good advice when he says, "It is not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are."

St. Paul, when he wrote to his church at Philippi, suggested some great values: "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, whatever is excellent or worthy of praise, think of these things." Phil, 4: 8.

As Christians, we believe in a positive outcome in life by our faith in a loving God. Through prayer, Christians believe that we can make use of what Jesus called, "the Kingdom of God within you." Luke 17:21.

When we are tempted to give in and say we can't do something, St. Paul has this encouragement, "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me." Phil. 4: 8.

Christians realise that optimistic, positive thinking needs to be tempered with realism, which is not the same as being negative. A favourite saying is to "Act as if everything depended on you, pray as if everything depended on God." In other words we should not use faith in God as a substitute for living in positive ways that will likely improve our chances of having positive outcomes; the two go hand in hand. St. Paul again: "There is no limit to the blessings which God can send you; He will make sure that you will always have all you need for yourselves in every possible circumstance and still have something to spare for all sorts of good work." 2 Cor. 9:8. No wonder Christians are such a positive lot! And if we aren't, we should be!

"God, my Father, increase my confidence and awareness of Your Spirit, Your Kingdom, within me, as You prompt me to live the Gospel message of Your Son, Jesus. Amen."

Peace and Best Wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Bann".

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

This year we are encouraging the children to arrive in good time for school as the gates will close promptly at 8.50am. Given the Pope's January message, we are also going to undertake to say the "Glory be to the Father and to the Son,...." every day as part of our daily prayer.

I would also encourage the children to read as often as they can and to set themselves challenging targets in this respect. I am hoping together with the senior leaders in the school and governors, to have the great pleasure of being read to by the pupils.

Please encourage the children to read and ensure the reading record book is signed.

PARKING AND PUNCTUALITY

At the start of another new year, when we are all making new resolutions and goals for ourselves, it seems a good time to raise the issue of parking. Let us be resolute in our determination to avoid parking carelessly and potentially endangering the lives of others. Every year, hundreds of children are killed or injured trying to get to and from their school. We do not want any of our children to be mere statistics. Please do not attempt to drive up the lane to the main reception of the school as this is not school policy and you will be refused. It has been reported that a couple of parents have gained access in this manner and this is currently being investigated. However, there are five known families with extenuating circumstances for whom permission has been granted. Please bear in mind office staff are there to enforce school policy. Please do not be abusive to office staff as this will not be taken lightly.

It is important to remember that all pupils are encouraged to arrive at school from 8.40am to ensure they are present for registration within their class at 8.50am. The start of each day is vital to ensure a productive day can be had at school and if pupils continue to miss the start of the day on a frequent basis, this impacts negatively upon both their education and often their confidence levels.

WINTER UNIFORM

Please ensure that all pupils are adhering to the school's uniform policy. All coats and hats must be navy and all footwear should be conventional, black, school footwear. Trainers (only black or white) are to be worn on the days when the children are in their PE uniform. Well done to all those pupils who represent the school by following this dress code!

DINNER MONEY REMINDER

Dinner money is £10.75 per week and is payable on a Monday morning. Please remember we require a half-term's notice if your child wishes to change from school dinners to packed lunch or vice versa. Food for the school kitchen is ordered in advance and we are trying to avoid wastage.

THANK YOU, SISTER ANTHONY!

We are very grateful to Sr. Anthony who has very generously offered her time and expertise to visit school in the next fortnight to talk to the children about the importance of the Mass in our faith. Having met both Sister Anthony and Sister Alphonsus, I know this will be an enriching experience for our pupils and one for which we are very grateful.

CONGRATULATIONS 5S

I had the great pleasure of attending the above class assembly on Wednesday as did many of the parents who wholeheartedly supported their children. The parents and school community were not let down or disappointed by the wonderful presentation led by our pupils. They were an inspiration to us all and delivered their message to us all with great integrity. Thank you to all the pupils and staff involved!

ACADEMIC YEAR DATES 2017-2018

We will be issuing these to you next Friday once they have been ratified by our Governing Body.

RE NEWSLETTER

Thank you, Mrs. McDonnell for compiling this useful resume.

PARENT GYM

On Monday we sent out a letter and leaflet about a FREE Parent Gym course we are running here at St Joseph's in the Training Room in the Pope Francis Building commencing next Tuesday, 24th January at 1.00 pm. This course will reveal practical tips and techniques for parents who want the best for their children. If you would like to attend the course or would like further information, please contact Miss Rodrigo.

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

You are warmly invited to attend your child's assembly followed by an opportunity to look at the children's work in their class room to share their learning. Assemblies start shortly after registration at around 9.10 am.

Here is a list of class assemblies planned this term:

| | | |
|-------------|---------|-----------------------|
| 25 January | 3T | Catherine Kasper Hall |
| 01 February | 1S | Pope Francis Hall |
| 22 February | 6S | Catherine Kasper Hall |
| 08 March | 6J & 6T | Catherine Kasper Hall |
| 15 March | 3S | Catherine Kasper Hall |

SAINSBURYS VOUCHER SCHEME

The Sainsburys voucher scheme launches again on Monday, 25th January. Your donations of vouchers are very much appreciated and help us to replenish our PE/Playground equipment stocks.

SPANISH TRIP MEETING

Having had children sign up for the planned trip in May, we are hosting a meeting for all of the parents of the Year 5 pupils who are attending this trip to attend a meeting on Friday 27 January 2017 at 9.00am in the Catherine Kasper Hall to discuss the details regarding itinerary and all safety requirements.

BARNET'S HOLOCAUSE MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

The London Borough of Barnet are holding their Annual Holocaust Multi Faith Memorial Day Service in the Quadrangle at Middlesex University on Sunday, 29th January at 1.00 pm. If you are able to attend this event with your child, please let the school office know so we can inform the Mayor's Office.

CALLING ALL YEAR SIX PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN ATTENDED THE SPANISH TRIP AS YEAR FIVE PUPILS!

It is now our turn and opportunity to reciprocate the great warmth and hospitality shown to our children and staff last year and so we invite you to attend a meeting scheduled on 3 February 2017 at 9.00am in the Catherine Kasper Hall to discuss ideas and details of how we can ensure the Spanish pupils have a wonderful experience whilst being here at St Joseph's School.

VICTORIAN DAY IN YEAR 4

Year 4 are planning a Victorian Day on 9 February. Please start planning your costumes ready to go back in time. Letter with details on this exiting time travel will follow.

PARENTS' CONSULTATION EVENINGS

Please note these have been scheduled to take place in the next term after Easter on **Tuesday 25 April 2017** from 5.30 to 8.00pm and on **Wednesday 26 April 2017** from 3.30 to 6.00pm.

WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day will on 2 March. There will be various activities throughout the day but we thought you would appreciate advanced notice to start planning the children's costumes now! Children and staff are invited to come dressed as a book character.

Y5 VISIT TO THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

This half term Y5 are learning about Earth and Space. We are extremely excited about our trip to the Science Museum on Tuesday 31 January where the children will have a blast exploring the Space Exhibition; from rockets to satellites and probes to landers. In addition, we will have the opportunity to observe 'A Beautiful Planet' in the IMAX theatre. We will update on our visit upon our return!

ROME COMES TO ST JOSEPH'S

On Friday 3rd February, Year 3 will be taking part in a Roman workshop. An experienced leader will be coming to St Joseph's to teach Year 3 all about the story of Rome from its foundation, including the invasion of Britain. We will learn about Roman life and have a chance to handle artefacts, before being quizzed! Year 3 will also learn about Roman medicine, engineering, military and the end of Roman Britain and archaeology. They'll all get a chance to try on Roman armour too... then if there's time we finish with the Gladiator games. Dressing up is optional, but we encourage this. We are really looking forward to this fun and informative day!

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
DATES FOR EASTER TERM 1 2017

JANUARY 2017

- 24/01/2017 Parent Gym taster session at 1pm
- 25/01/2017 3T Class Assembly Catherine Kasper Hall at 9.15am
- 25/01/2017 Sister Anthony visits Y5 to talk about her life
- 26/01/2017 Sister Anthony visits to talk about the Mass to Y6 at 2pm in the Chapel
- 27/01/2017 Y5 Spanish Trip meeting for parents Catherine Kasper Hall at 9am
- 31/01/2017 Y5 School Trip – Science Museum

FEBRUARY 2017

- 01/02/2017 1S Class Assembly Pope Francis Hall 9.15am
- 01/02/2017 Sister Anthony visits to talk about the Mass to 3S at 2pm in the Chapel
- 03/02/2017 Y3 Roman Empire Workshop
- 03/02/2017 Meeting for parents of Y6 children who went to Spain last year Catherine Kasper Hall at 9am
- 07/02/2017 Sister Anthony visits to talk about the Mass to 5S at 2pm in the Chapel
- 08/02/2017 Y6 Mass in the Chapel in the Chapel at 9.15am
- 09/02/2017 Y4 Victorian Day
- 10/02/2017 Inset Day - NO SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN
- 13/02/2017 First day of half term
- 20/02/2017 School re-opens at 8.40am
- 22/02/2017 6S Class Assembly Catherine Kasper hall at 9.15am

MARCH 2017

- 01/03/2017 Ash Wednesday Mass Y4-6 OLOD at 9.30am
- 01/03/2017 Ash Wednesday Service Y1-3 Catherine Kasper Hall at 9.30am
- 02/03/2017 World Book Day
- 08/03/2017 6J/6T Class Assembly Catherine Kasper Hall at 9.15am
- 15/03/2017 3S Class Assembly Catherine Kasper Hall at 9.15am
- 20/03/2017 St Joseph's Day more details to follow
- 29/03/2017 Easter Play – year group, time and venue tbc
- 31/03/2017 School closes at 1.30pm for Easter Holidays



School will resume for staff and pupils on Tuesday the 18th of April

