

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL EASTER TERM 2



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



Dear Parents

Which type of person are you, a risk-taker or a security-seeker? Some people really love taking risks as is instanced in the emergence of extreme sports; these participants love the rush of adrenaline and the feeling of escaping the ordinary.

However, most of us are not risk-takers but security-seekers committed to a lifestyle of playing it safe.

Playing life too cautiously could have us fall into the following description:

"There was a very cautious man who never laughed or played;

He never risked, he never tried,

He never sang or prayed.

And when he, one day, passed away

His insurance was denied;

For since he never really lived,

They claimed he never died." *Author unknown.*

Strange as it may seem, Jesus told a story that seemed to encourage risk-taking. The Parable of the Talents tells the story of a wealthy man who was about to go on a long trip. He called his servants and, according to their ability, gave one 5000 gold coins, another 2000 gold coins and the other 1000 gold coins. He told each to take care of what had been given to them.

The first two servants invested the money and made an equal amount but the third servant buried his money and made nothing. When the wealthy man returned, he applauded the enterprise of the two servants who had made the successful investments and promoted them to positions of greater responsibility. The third servant he deemed to be useless and threw him out of the household.

Paraphrase Matt. 25: 14 – 30.

Risk-taking is actually part of everyday life and is taken for granted in matters from food consumption to travelling by car. The great motivational speaker and author, Zig Ziglar, put it neatly when he said, "It's risky when a plane leaves the runway, but that's what planes are for. It's more risky for the plane to sit there and accumulate rust." There are shades of the Parable of the Talents in that statement.

The Season of Lent is upon us again and it is a time for us to focus intentionally on what helps or hinders our commitment to Christ. It may be better not to give up something but to take on something, to build up our spiritual muscles. How about this for taking on something: "There 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!

"There was a woman in Swaziland, Orma Mavimbela, who had a well-paid job in the civil service. She felt called to do something for the AIDS orphans whom she saw daily around her. So, she gave up her job and paid for three feeding centres where children could get a meal, receive some loving care and play games. Pretty risky; what happens when her money runs out?"

Source: Going Global.

Of course, few of us are in a position to do as Orma did but what can each of us do? We are all made in the image of God but we may not be so Christ-like in our behaviour. Maybe this Lent we could take part in some minor risk-taking. One more quote from Zig Ziglar: "You will get all you want in life, if you help enough people to get what they need."

"Father in heaven, may Your love be the foundation and motivating force for my life.

Help me to step out of my sheltered life and take Your love to other people in a way that is personal to me. Amen."

Peace and Best Wishes

SINCERE CONDOLENCES

We offer our sincere condolences to several members of staff who sadly experienced the loss of various family members: Mrs Talco, Mrs Pakota (Marta), Miss Yogarotnam and Mrs Yogarotnam. Miss Collins (previous deputy head) also sadly lost her father. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult and sad time. Please remember them and their loved ones in your prayers. We ask that God will guide and comfort them in the coming months.

CONGRATULATIONS

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Jessica A., a year six pupil who currently holds the title for "Second best swimmer under 12 in Great Britain in 800m freestyle". Such success comes as a result of hard work, commitment to practice, not to mention early mornings spent at the pool. We are very proud of you, Jessica!

ACADEMIC YEAR DATES 2017-2018

These have been ratified by our Governing Body and you will have received them by email. Term dates are also available on the website: <http://stjps.org/term-dates/>

ATTENDANCE

We believe that all pupils benefit from the education we provide, and therefore from regular school attendance. In order to achieve this we require your commitment to ensure that all pupils achieve the maximum possible attendance and that any problems, which may affect full attendance, are acted on as quickly as possible. Helping to promote a pattern of regular attendance is everybody's responsibility: parents, pupils and all members of school staff.

Request for absence during term time to take a family holiday will not be authorised. If there are exceptional circumstances, you must submit your request in writing four weeks in advance and meet with the Headteacher. I am sure that you will want the best education for your child. By taking family holidays during the designated school holiday periods, you will be supporting your child's full school attendance, learning and development. Please go the school website at <http://stjps.org/other-information/> to see the PowerPoint below.



DESIGNATED SENIOR PERSONS

Each school is statutorily obliged to appoint staff members who have a responsibility for safeguarding within the school. The Designated Safeguarding Team are Mrs Barton, Miss Flitton, Ms Ball, Ms Gawley and Mrs Doherty.

CHANGE OF ENTRY TO SCHOOL

Please note in the interest of safeguarding and ensuring security of our pupils, we are changing the entry access to school both at the start and end of the day. As from week beginning 13 March, access can only be gained by entering at the main gates on the Watford Way. Ensure you allow additional time for your journey to school so as to avoid being late for school. There will be no access to the front reception area. We will monitor this over the next few weeks to measure its success.

The children attending the following: breakfast club, Nursery, boosters and late children will access as they do currently.

STAFFING CHANGES

Mrs Butler in RJ: the more observant of you may have noticed that Mrs Butler is expecting a baby. This is wonderful news and I am aware that many of her pupils (mainly boys) are very perceptive and have a great curiosity about her pregnancy trying to emulate her shape when they are playing! Mrs Butler will leave at the end of this term, 31st March 2017 to commence her maternity leave. We ask that she continues to take care of herself and trust that God will do the rest. We send our sincere congratulations to Mr and Mrs Butler, wishing them well and looking forward to sharing their great news. Mrs Gill will teach the class fulltime ensuring continuity of practice and the most effective transition for pupils in terms of both their education and well being. All the pupils are well known by Mrs Gill. She, too, is looking forward to spending more time with them!

Miss Bloor in RT: Miss Bloor will be away from school as of next week and will return on 21st March. This arrangement had been in place prior to my interim appointment to the school and consequently, we have secured a teacher to replace Miss Bloor in her absence. The replacement teacher will be visiting school over the next couple of days so as to have a smooth and effective transition for the pupils. Miss Doherty, the Early Years Foundation Leader will be working closely with the new member of staff.

Mrs Ciapryna: It is customary when staff leave for you as parents to be able to contribute to a leaving gift collection. I am conscious that we have yet to offer a "Farewell and Thank you" gift to Mrs Ciapryna and so if you would like to make a contribution, please send it to the office in a sealed envelope labelled 'Mrs Ciapryna – Farewell'. A presentation will be made to Mrs Ciapryna on St Joseph's Day on 20 March, where a special St Joseph's mass to bless the new school building has been organised at 2.00pm.

LENTEN PRAYER GROUP FOR PARENTS – FRIDAYS AT 9AM

We would like to invite you to join us on Friday mornings so we can come together and pray for the needs of our community and the global issues. The prayer meeting will take place in the Chapel at 9.00am on the following dates: 10,17, and 24 March. If you would like us to pray for a particular intention, just let us know!

LENT ACTIVITIES

We will be having an Ash Wednesday Mass at 9.30am on Wednesday 1st March for Years 4, 5 and 6, in Our Lady of Dolours RC Church. We welcome all of our families to join us, as we begin our Lenten journey. The ashes will be distributed at this Mass.

In the school, the children in Years 1, 2 and 3, will be participating in an Ash Wednesday service, led by Father Tony Seeldrayers. The children in Early Years will be having their own class based and age appropriate Collective Act of Worship to mark the beginning of Lent.

Sister Anthony continues her talks to the children about the importance of the Mass in our faith. These will take place over the next fortnight for Classes 3T, 4S and 4T. We are extremely grateful to Sister Anthony for sharing her enormous wealth of experience and expertise with the children.

Year 4 are excited to announce this year's Easter play. It will be a take on the Easter story presented through songs and drama. The children are already practicing for this exciting play and we look forward to seeing you on the 29 March (times tbc) to come watch it.

FLOWERS FOR THE CHAPEL

We are delighted to be able to share our news with you that the Chapel is now consecrated once again and we will need be mindful of the reverence and respect that needs to be in place as we use it on a more regular basis enriching and deepening our faith. When we enter the Chapel, this is an opportunity as we pray, to talk to God and to listen to his response in the silence that surrounds us and in our own hearts. Consequently, it would be lovely if we could have fresh flowers at the altar and I am confident that a many of our children would like to make such a gesture by donating flowers having sought your permission, of course!

THE PASSAGE – CHARITY FOR THE HOMELESS

I received a lovely letter from "The Passage" thanking the school community for the generous donation of £183.53. Your contribution has undoubtedly helped so many people and through your contribution, you have shared in the Church's mission to provide resources which encourage, inspire and challenge homeless people to transform their lives.

MINIBUS – FOR SALE

We are selling the school minibus and would welcome sensible bids. The closest bid made matching the reserved price will become the lucky owner upon payment.

MERITS – NEW REWARD SYSTEM

Over the last few weeks, I have witnessed the great potential and achievement of our pupils. Consequently, we are going to introduce the following system which will recognise and acknowledge effort, hard work, commitment and success. Merits will be awarded for significant acts of kindness, behavior as well as for academic effort. There are four levels: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. Each child must gain five merits in the Bronze before progressing on to the next level, Silver and so on. I am delighted to say that the following children have already had an entry in the bronze book: Dakota, Mya, David and Dominik

The merits will be issued by me as Headteacher upon the recommendation of all staff. Recommendations made by the Midday Supervisors and endorsed by me will qualify for double merit entry.

It is my hope that, having been selected as a rightful recipient of the rewards, we would hold a "prize giving ceremony" at the end of the academic year for all those who complete a full level.

THANK YOU, SISTER ANTHONY!

As you are aware Sr Anthony spoke to several classes before half term and the pupils expressed their "personal thanks" by writing letters and designing "Thank you" cards which some of them delivered in person on behalf of their peers. Thank you, we are very grateful!

SUPPORTING PARENTS AT HOME

Having reached half-way in the academic year and now approaching the consolidation period for pupils in terms of the national tests assigned to their respective year groups, we would like to offer support to you as parents. During the half-term, a number of documents have been added to our school website and can be accessed from 28 February at

<http://stjps.org/helping-your-child-at-home/>

We would also like to run workshops for parents and would welcome your suggestions as to what would be most beneficial for you. Please email the office with any suggestions you may have.

We would like to share with you a document which explains the "teaching strategies" behind the four main mathematical operations as this may help you and avoid any issues with homework at home.

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:

08 March	6J & 6T	Pope Francis Hall
15 March	3S	Catherine Kasper Hall

SAINSBURYS VOUCHER SCHEME

The Sainsburys voucher scheme is now well under way. Your donations of vouchers are very much appreciated and help us to replenish our PE/Playground equipment stocks.

PARENT GYM

Unfortunately we had to cancel this term's Parent Gym due to lack of parent participation, we need a minimum of 6. However, we are sure that this course will have a positive impact and we have managed to rescheduled Parents Gym during the Summer Term, to provide practical tips and techniques in the following areas:

- communication
- self-esteem and independence
- behaviour (rules and routines)
- care (maintaining good physical and mental health for both parents and children)
- supporting learning and looking to the future

The course will start Tuesday 25th of April at 9:30 am and will commence for 6 weeks.

BEAR BLOG

Keep your eye out around the school for Joseph and Josephine, our school mascots. Soon they will be writing their own 'Bear Blog' on the website, reporting on visits to the classes as well as going on school trips. They will give pupils and parents an insight of a day in the life of a bear at St Joseph's and you cannot miss them as they are both in full school uniform! Joseph & Josephine have already been on a super school trip to the Science Museum and they both thoroughly enjoyed their day as a Victorian bear. Details when the blog goes live and where to find it on the website to follow.

YEAR 5 SCHOOL TRIP

On Thursday 23rd February, Year 5 went to visit The London Eye. They went as they are studying the book, '*The London Eye Mysteries*' by Siobhan Dowd. A lot of children were nervous to go up so high in the air but once they got on and saw the spectacular views, they were not scared anymore! They saw a range of monuments during their visit and even though it was quite windy it was definitely a day to remember!

WORLD BOOK DAY

This year, World Book Day is celebrating 20 years. To continue to develop the children's love of reading, various activities will be going on in the classrooms throughout the day to celebrate favourite authors, books and many more. We are looking forward to seeing all the fantastic costumes on the day.

SCIENCE WEEK 13 MARCH – 17 MARCH

We will be celebrating Science week from Monday 13th March – Friday 17th March. We have planned a range of activities for the children to participate in throughout the week. These include: 'Living Eggs', planting seeds, as well as a carousel of scientific experiments.

In addition, we have also arranged for 'Science Wizards' to come in to provide workshops for the children. You should have received a letter with more details, it is also available on the website <http://stjps.org/letters-home/>

PHONIC INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR NURSERY – 13 MARCH & 17 MARCH

In order that you can support your child with their early reading development, and to help you understand how we teach phonics in the EYFS we will be holding Phonic Information sessions on Monday 13th of March at 2.30pm -3.00pm and Friday 17th of March at 9.30am - 10.00am in the Catherine Kasper Building Hall.

During this session we will talk about how to say the letter sounds, how phonics is taught and how phonic knowledge is used in reading along with other ideas to help you support your child.

COLEGIO SAN JOSE

15 Spanish students and three adults from Colegio San Jose will be visiting us from Tuesday, 14th until Thursday 16th of March. We want to make their visit a positive language experience for both their pupils and ours and to make them feel as welcome as we felt when we went to Galicia. The Spanish students will attend Y6 lessons during the day and after school we will arrange a variety of workshops and school trips to make sure they learn and have fun at same time. Everybody will have the chance to practice their great Spanish skills with them.

If you would like further information, please contact Mrs Rodrigo.

EARLY YEARS MOTHER'S DAY CONCERT -

More details to follow

RECEPTION FARM TO FORK ON 27, 28 AND 29 MARCH

The Reception children are planning on going on a Farm to Fork Trail at our local Tesco near Brent Cross. During their visit the Reception children will learn where food comes from, how food is grown, which foods are grown in the United Kingdom, celebrations around food and how food is made. The Farm to Fork Trail links to several of the Early Years learning outcomes. Letter with details on this exiting experience will follow.

END OF SPRING TERM

31 March School closes at 1.30pm and re-opens on Tuesday 18 April at 8.40am

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
DATES FOR EASTER TERM 2 2017



FEBRUARY 2017

- 20/02/2017 School re-opens at 8.40am
22/02/2017 6S Class Assembly Catherine Kasper hall at 9.15am
23/02/2017 Y5 London Eye Trip

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 **Pope Francis Hall** at 9.15am
10/03/2017 Dance Festival
13/03/2016 Begin of Science week until 17/03/2017
13/03/2017 Living Eggs arrive until 24/03/2017
13/03/2017 Phonics talk for Nursery parents at 2.30pm
14/03/2017 Spanish School visiting until 16/03/2017
15/03/2017 3S Class Assembly Catherine Kasper Hall at 9.15am
16/03/2017 Science Wizards for KS1 and KS2
17/03/2017 Phonics talk for Nursery parents at 9.30am
20/03/2017 St Joseph's Day
24/03/2017 Early Years Mother's Day Concert at 1.30pm
27/03/2017 Reception Hearing & Vision test. Also on 28 + 29 March
- 27/03/2017 RJ Farm to Fork project at Tesco Brent Cross – details to follow
28/03/2017 RS Farm to Fork Project at Tesco Brent Cross – details to follow
29/03/2017 RT Farm to Fork Project at Tesco Brent Cross – details to follow
29/03/2017 Easter Play – lead by Year 4 – details to follow
31/03/2017 School closes at 1.30pm for Easter Holidays

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

