

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL SUMMER TERM 1



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



Dear Parents

Welcome back! I hope you all has a pleasant and relaxing holiday ready to commence the last term of this academic year with vigour and energy.

No matter how old you are, there is always a sense of wonder and fascination, when you come across a cicada shell still clinging to the bark on a tree. It looked dead but somehow you knew, that in some mysterious way, it was alive; the neat split down its back, was from where the living creature inside had escaped and taken flight. You couldn't actually see it anywhere but at some point you would hear it singing away in some tree. The cicada shell is a good analogy for the empty tomb that was found by the women then Peter and John on Easter Sunday. The resurrected, living Jesus, who had once been inside it, was gone. He was out amongst the living to whom he appeared several times. Every time he came to his friends, they became stronger, wiser, kinder, more daring. Every time he came to them, they became more like him.

Now that Jesus was raised from the dead, the Apostles and disciples, his followers, were commissioned to give witness to his death and resurrection. After the coming of the Holy Spirit, they fearlessly preached what, previously, they had not understood. We see this clearly in the transformation of Peter, who went from misunderstanding the scriptures to interpreting them through the lens of the resurrection. We see it in Paul, who had set out to put Christians to death, only to become the champion of the fledgling church.

By rising from the dead, Jesus shattered the hold that death had over all of us. Death could not keep him down and, if we are joined to him, neither can it keep us down for we are "Easter People", full of the new life of Jesus. This is why Christian faith does not rest on the death of Jesus

and an empty tomb but on the continuing experience of the risen Jesus.

We Christians today are summoned to live, proclaim and celebrate Jesus' victory over death by resisting all those forms of death and violence that saturate our society and not only unjustly take the lives of innocent people, but can desensitise our spirit and damage our belief in freedom and justice for all. The Resurrection announced that human values cannot be extinguished by violence or death; no one can be forgotten. Here and now, God holds onto the lives of all the departed including the lives that have been wasted, violently cut short, damaged by oppression. All have worth in God's sight. There are constant hints of resurrection in our daily lives, foretastes of our ultimate resurrection. These are found daily in our downs and ups, our sorrows and joys, our worries and relief, our disappointments and successes. Easter Sunday offers an opportunity to celebrate all our small, personal "resurrections" and unite them with Jesus' Resurrection. It offers us renewal to be people of faith, hope and love in our home and in our community.

"Lord, we ask this Easter to become more like you. Help us to develop an inner strength that is capable of handling life's situations. Help us to provide a place in our heart where you reside. Amen."

Peace and Best Wishes.

SUMMER UNIFORM

All children must now wear their summer uniform. Please take a look on the website <http://stjps.org/school-uniform/> or ask in the school offices if you are unsure.

DINNER MONEY

Dinner money for Y3-Y6 for the first half of the summer term will be £60.20 if paid in advance. If you are paying weekly, please send in £10.75 on a Monday morning as this will avoid follow-up texts. Please use our online payment facility for convenience.

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS – VERY IMPORTANT

We are streamlining our processes and protocols in the interests of providing the very best we can for all pupils. In relation to “special diet needs”, this can only be considered given that there is clear medical information and evidence to support any such request. ISS catering who provide the catering services to us are also looking at their systems currently. If your child has such a need, can you email the office with your child’s name and specific needs and we will reconcile this with our current list and then contact you then to secure the necessary paperwork. I realize you may have done this earlier this year and I hope you will co-operate as we can never be too careful when looking after your children.

PACKED LUNCHES

Packed lunches should always be healthy: plenty of fruit and vegetables, a good portion of bread or pasta, perhaps some dairy such as yogurt or cheese and a drink such as fruit juice, milk or water. NO sweets, chocolate, or fizzy drinks are allowed. Please remember no food should contain NUTS.

NEW!!! LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS

Children in all years, i.e. Reception through to Y6, should remain on either school dinners or packed lunch for a whole half-term. This enables the children to get used to a routine and also helps the kitchen manager order the correct quantities of food. If children are changing from school dinners to packed lunch and vice versa - this is happening sometimes on a daily basis - this causes confusion for the children and all concerned.

ATTENDANCE

Our target of 98%, in line with Ofsted expectations for “good and outstanding schools”, appears to be slipping owing to the number of requests for leave of absence. Please note all foreseen requests for absences must be submitted on the relevant form at least four weeks previous to the commencement of the absence. You will be aware that there was a High Court ruling on this matter very recently.

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done and congratulations to Buddy 1S having recently achieved Blue belt in Karate. Be on your guard; you’ve been warned!

ENTERING THE SCHOOL

Polite Notice - Please remember your manners and be aware of other families who are standing and queuing at the entrance doors and gates patiently. Everybody's time is precious.

CAR ACCESSING SCHOOL

Parents are not authorized to park onsite unless they have special permission from the headteacher. Please do not obstruct the barriers at any time as they are a fire exit and the main entrance to the school for us and other site users.

YEAR THREE DRUMMING

Last term Year 3 have been learning all about African drumming. Their music lessons with Mr Martin has taught them about African songs, instruments and some culture. Year 3 had so much fun learning a number of rhythms and songs and playing the drums. Thank you to all the parents, teachers and Year 6 children who came to watch us perform our new talent!

SCIENCE WEEK - 13 MARCH UNTIL 17 MARCH

What a success it was! Firstly, I would like to extend a huge thank you to parents for your support to ensure that the children got the most out of it. Throughout the week, there was a great buzz around the school and the children really enjoyed themselves.

There was great enjoyment watching the chicks hatch with everyone trying to predict whether they would be 'boys' or 'girls' - even the staff seemed to slow their pace down as they walked past the incubators!

Key Stage 2 enjoyed the carousel of activities and explored how to manipulate the process of melting, how to plan a fair test as well as experimenting with sound and exploring what happens when different substances are mixed.

Key Stage 1 and early years also did their fair share of experimenting as well as lots of planting and how to look after them. The response to the competition was overwhelming and so impressive - it was fantastic to see so much science going on at home as well! On that note, a huge congratulations to:

Zosia (1J) Ezekiel (3S) and Nicole (5S) as overall winners for Key Stages 1 and 2.

Thanks again for your continued support.

SPANISH SCHOOL VISITING – 13 MARCH UNTIL 16 MARCH

15 Spanish students from Galicia visited St. Joseph's for the first time in March. It was a great opportunity for pupils from every year group as well as for parents to practice Spanish language skills and share cultural traditions. They brought beautiful dances, food and resources to help our students in their language learning process. Special thank you, GRACIAS, to the staff, parents and pupils who did the extra effort helping to organise the visit: buying souvenirs, writing welcome letters, involving students in all the games at break time, in class activities, visiting London famous Landmarks, organising workshops... Happy tears, hugs, telephone numbers, pictures... it was lovely to see that this visit was the beginning of a great friendship :)

EARLY YEARS MOTHER'S DAY CONCERTS – 24 MARCH

Congratulations to the Nursery and Reception Children for their wonderful singing in our Mother's Day Celebrations. It was delightful to see all of the children perform a wide variety of songs and action rhymes with such confidence and enthusiasm! We would like to thank all of the mothers, fathers and other family members, who attended.

We know that as parents, you, too were very appreciative of the hard work of all the staff who made this possible.

CLASS ASSEMBLIES AND MASSES

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.

Masses are held in the Chapel and start at 9.15am Please join us if you can.

Here is a list of class assemblies and masses planned this term:

19 April	Year 4 Mass	Chapel
28 April	RJ Assembly	Pope Francis Hall
03 May	Year 6 Mass	Chapel
10 May	RS Assembly	Pope Francis Hall
17 May	Year 2 Mass	Chapel
24 May	RT Assembly	Pope Francis Hall

PARENT CONSULTATIONS 25 & 26 APRIL

Parent consultations for years 1 to 6 (except 6S) will take place on **Tuesday 25 April** from 5.30pm - 8pm and on **Wednesday 26 April** from 3.30pm - 6pm. Please don't forget to book your appointment at www.schoolinterviews.co.uk using code 83kaa.

During the course of the consultations we will be issuing Parental questionnaires to all parents to receive feedback from you given that our school could receive an Ofsted Inspection at any time. We find your feedback very useful and it helps to develop the school further. Your feedback matters to us so much that we are going to offer a class treat to the class who has the greater response from parents. Children love nothing better than when I ask them to check whether their parents have done their homework on such occasions! I know you won't let them down.

GROUP PHOTOS - 16 MAY

These are scheduled to be taken on 16 May. Please ensure that your child is dressed in their uniform. If it is a PE day please send the PE kit in a labelled bag.

SISTER ANTHONY

Sister Anthony will be coming in to give talks on the Mass to Class 3T and to both Year 2 classes, during this half term. We thank Sister Anthony for continuing to share her expertise with the children in our school.

PARENT GYM

Unfortunately we had to cancel last 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.

YEAR 5 TRAVELLING TO SPAIN – 22 MAY UNTIL 26 MAY

3,2,1... ESPAÑAAA!!!!

Y5 students have been working very hard during the year to achieve their language targets as they will need to communicate with Spanish students. I am happy to say that they are more than ready to visit Colegio San Jose in Galicia. From Sunday 21st of May until Thursday 25th of May students will visit Coruña, Santiago, and Lugo, and will have their first international experience to improve not only their language skills but also to develop their personal skills that will help them mature.

YEAR 6 TRAVELLING TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT - 5 JUNE UNTIL 9 JUNE

On Monday the 5th of June Year 6 will be travelling to the Isle of Wight for the anticipated residential. Whilst there, they will be given the opportunity to develop their social skills and independence ready for their transition into secondary school. The awaited trip will see the children experience many cross-curricula activities including learning historical facts at Carisbrooke Castle and scientific enquiry at Monkey Haven. Enjoy the expedition Year 6. We can't wait to see the photos!

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

APRIL 2017

- 18/04/2017 School re-opens at 8.40am
19/04/2017 Year 4 Mass in the Chapel at 9.15am
25/04/2017 Parent Consultations 5.30pm – 8pm for Years 1 – 6 (except 6S)
26/04/2017 Parent Consultations 3.30pm – 6pm for Years 1 – 6 (except 6S)
28/04/2017 RJ Class Assembly in the Pope Francis Hall at 9.15am

MAY 2017

- 01/05/2017 BANK HOLIDAY
03/05/2017 Year 6 Mass in the Chapel at 9.15am
05/05/2017 Y5 Spain Trip parent meeting at 9am in the Vincent James Hall (Katherine Casper Building)
08/05/2017 KS2 SATS week
10/05/2017 RS Class Assembly in the Pope Francis Hall at 9.15am
15/05/2017 KS1 SATS week
16/05/2017 Group Photos
17/05/2017 Year 2 Mass in the Chapel at 9.15am
18/05/2017 Y4 Natural History Museum
18/05/2017 Y6 Isle of Wight Trip parent meeting at 9am in the Vincent James Hall (Katherine Casper Building)
21/05/2017 Year 5 travelling to Spain. Returning on 25 May.
26/05/2017 Breaking up for Half Term. School closes at 3.15pm

JUNE 2017

- 05/06/2017 School re-opens at 8.40am
05/06/2017 Year 6 travelling to the Isle of Wight. Returning 9 June.
07/06/2017 Year 1 Mass in the Chapel at 9.15am
12/06/2017 Nursery 2017/18 – welcome meeting at 2pm Vincent James Hall
14/06/2017 1J Class Assembly in the Pope Francis Hall at 9.15am
16/06/2017 Reception 2017/18 – welcome meeting at 9am Vincent James Hall
21/06/2017 2S Class Assembly in the Pope Francis Hall at 9.15am
27/06/2017 Sports Day
28/06/2017 1T Class Assembly in the Pope Francis Hall at 9.15am
29/06/2017 Y3-Y6 St Peter & St Paul Mass at Our Lady of Dolours at 9.30am

JULY 2017

- 05/07/2017 2T Class Assembly in the Pope Francis Hall at 9.15am
06/07/2017 Y5 Alladin Theatre Trip
10/07/2017 Year 5 Visiting St James' Catholic High School
10/07/2017 Reception school trip to Willows Farm
11/07/2017 Y6 Production at 7pm
12/07/2017 Y6 Production at 7pm
13/07/2017 Year 1 school trip to Golders Hill Park
14/07/2017 Leaver's Disco
18/07/2017 End of Year Mass at Our Lady of Dolours at 2pm
19/07/2017 Last day. School closes at 1.30pm
20/07/2017 INSET DAY

SEPTEMBER 2017

- 06/09/2017 School re-opens for the children at 8.40am

