

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

November 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the November newsletter. I hope that you and your children enjoyed some valuable time together and had a relaxing break over the half-term week.

Mrs M Murphy

Remembrance Sunday:

In the month of November we remember in our prayers those who died and gave the ultimate sacrifice during World War I and II. On Sunday 12 November services were held around the world at 11.00am. A wreath of poppies was laid at the Cenotaph in Whitehall London and Veterans participated in the Cenotaph March Past.

On Friday 10 November we observed a 2 minute silence at 11am which was followed by the last post. A small group of children took part in a short liturgy at the War Memorial in Marsh Road and laid a wreath.



Parent Consultation Evenings:

May I take the opportunity to thank everyone who attended our parent consultations meetings before half term.

It was lovely to welcome so many parents over the two evenings and we look forward to continuing our work together over this academic year.

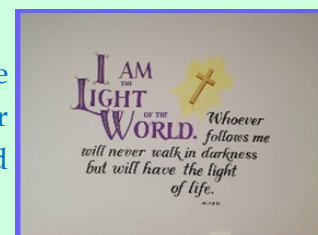


All Saints and All Souls:

In November we also take special care to remember in our prayers those we have loved who have died.

The Church begins with the feast day of All Saints and All Souls; we ask God to grant their souls eternal rest and comfort those who mourn.

In classes we have prayed for loved ones we remember by placing their names on our prayer tables.



Radio Maria:

We are very excited to announce the first podcast of our radio series 'The Art of Faith.' This monthly show will be released on the first Friday of every month at 5pm live on Radio Maria Station. During the series the pupils and a guest will focus on a piece of artwork and consider the inspiration for the artist. They will reflect on the meaning behind the piece, make links to scripture and consider how it makes them feel. Please find the link to the podcast below. A very special thank you to Mrs Dino, our Year 6 pupils Olivia, Eliza, Shekinah and David and our first guest Fr. Brendan Seery. We hope you enjoy the podcasts to come!

<https://radiomariaengland.uk/the-art-of-faith/>



Sporting Updates

After a rigorous screening process, our new Sports Councillors, who will help run clubs, sort equipment and raise the profile of PE and Sports in our school have been selected. Thank you all for your applications.



St. Joseph's Sports Council
2023-2024

Our Year 6 boys did us proud recently at the EFL event at Powerleague. Getting successfully through the initial rounds, they got knocked out in the semi-finals, finishing third. Well done to the boys and a big "Thank you" to our dads who helped out.



Our Year 3 & 4s had an active afternoon at the Sportshall Athletics competition at Inspire, showing their running, jumping and throwing skills and finishing in 2nd place! Well done all.



Smiling faces all around at the Year 1 and 2 Sportshall Athletics event at Inspire. The children had a great time demonstrating their running, jumping and throwing skills and are so proud of their medals.



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Roll of Honour:

Well done to the children awarded Roll of Honour awards last half term:



Year 1

1LH – S Jayathunga

1MB – E Hart

1SW – K Frances-Suthanaransan

1HA – M Lijo

Year 2

2SC – E Omale

2DW – A Ismail-Islam

2MH – T Ajisola

2DO – Z Powell

Year 3

3MG – L Krawczuk

3GK – L Sutton

3MM – G Bawor

3AV – A Gage

Year 4

4CW – M Oneychi

4BG – S S Jayathunga

4OR – A Karczewski

4PA – M Humana

Year 5

5LB – N Jakubek

5JS – E Kendall

5DF – T Tomasevic

5CS – H Cross

Year 6

6PC – K Atuchukwu

6SW – D McGrattan

6JC – S Brown

6MM – E Shah



The Department for Education has issued new guidance called 'Working together to improve attendance,' as research demonstrates that absence from school and learning hours lost have a negative impact on attainment and progress and can have a damaging effect on a child's life chances.

Attendance in October

Class	Attendance	Class	Attendance	Class	Attendance	Class	Attendance
Red	91%	Blue	91%	Yellow	92%		
1LH	98%	1SW	94%	1MB	99%		
2SC	97%	2DO	96%	2MH	98%	2DW	99%
3MG	94%	3GK	99%	3MM	97%	3AV	97%
4CW	95%	4BG	99%	4PA	97%	4OR	95%
5LB	99%	5JS	97%	5DF	94%	5CS	96%
6PC	95%	6JC	96%	6SW	97%	6MM	97%
						Whole School	96%

Our school attendance target is 97%. Well done to all the classes who achieved 99% attendance during October. We cannot stress how important it is for children to come to school every day on time.



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Christmas Dinner:

An early announcement that the children's annual Christmas lunch will take place on **Thursday 14 December**.



Children in Key Stage 1 are entitled to universal free school meals and therefore do not need to pay for a Christmas dinner if they wish to have one.

Children in Key Stage 2 however who normally have a packed lunch but would like a Christmas dinner, need to pay **£2.40** using the SCOPay cashless system; please contact the school office if you need any help with this. A separate letter will be sent home nearer the time to ascertain numbers.

This is always a lovely occasion for all the staff and children.

Year 2 Nativity and KS2 Christmas Carol Concert:

The **Year 2 Nativity** is on **Tuesday 05 December at 2.00pm** and the **Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol Concerts** led by Year 5 takes place on **Tuesday 12 December at 2.00pm and 7.00pm** in St Joseph's Church.



Mrs Cladd, Year 2/Year 5 staff and children have already begun their preparations for these festive events. Please support the children with their readings and encourage them to learn the words to hymns and carols as they are sent home.

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers to the performances.

Advent Services:

As we prepare for the joyous season of Advent we would like to invite parents and carers to join us for our Advent Services.

These will take place in the KS2 Hall as follows:

- ♦ **Tuesday 05 December**
9.15 am Year 6
10.15 am Year 5
11.15 am Year 3
- ♦ **Wednesday 06 December**
9.15 am Year 4



Caritas Love Christmas Campaign 2023:

Once again this year we are delighted to be supporting this worthy cause.



The **Caritas Love Christmas Campaign** supports families with young children, the elderly, the lonely and isolated and many others. We will be sending home a letter shortly outlining gifts you may be able to donate during the Advent Season.

Healthy Eating:

"Eating a rainbow" helps your body get a complete range of nutrients. What does it mean to eat a rainbow? Choosing a variety of different-coloured whole foods throughout the day and week. The more naturally occurring colours on your plate at each meal or snack, the better.

Find your 'Eat a Rainbow' chart [here](#)



PE Reminders:

As we enter the winter months can we please remind parents that children should bring a full outdoor PE kit (tracksuit/joggers) in any colour and a plastic bag to put their trainers in.

Also, as with all aspects of PE including swimming, if children are in school and well enough to be outside during break and lunchtime they are expected to take part in this important aspect of the curriculum.

