

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Headteacher: Dr. N Fernandes Viana, Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mr Kevin Bowles

Lanark Road, Sutherland Avenue, Maida Vale, London W9 1DF 020 7286 3518

Email: office@stjosephsschool.org.uk Website www.stjosephsschool.org.uk



19th July 2024

Dear Children, Parents, Staff and Governors,

As this academic year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to review the year and look forward to the next.

My first thanks go to the wonderful children of our school. Their behaviour, academic performance and desire to live out our Mission Statement in full are all wonderful attributes that enrich our school. Our recent OFSTED Inspection highlighted the exemplary standards of behaviour of all our children together with their thirst for learning. **This level of positive engagement, kindness and courtesy has led to excellent results in the Early Years, KS1 and KS2 SATs, Year 4 Multiplication Assessments and Y1 Phonics Checks.**

Our end of year class assemblies were wonderful opportunities for us to congratulate the children. Well done to all! I am always heartened when I hand out these awards and indeed, all of our pupils should be incredibly proud of all of their achievements. **Thank you to parents for joining us.**

Year 6 have dazzled us all with their performance of 'Jonah and the Whale'. Congratulations to all of the children – I am sure there are some future West End stars amongst them! **My thanks to all the Year 6 staff, including Mrs. Procaccini and Mrs. Deacy for this stunning show as well as a special thank you to Miss A Ward for her dedication and creativity.**

I have an update on our recent **Summer Fair. We raised approximately £12,000 which is amazing!** Thank you to all who took part - this was a real team effort. My special thanks to **Neil and his team from Vickers Winkworth (Maida Vale) for their generous sponsorship.** Our Year 6 Yearbook was also sponsored by **Vickers Winkworth. Again, thank you so much.**

Our School Association has had another wonderful year and, I would like to extend a special thank you to Natalia, Rob, Florence, Kerry to name but a few. Thank you also to Mrs. Harrington for her efforts here - counting buckets of coins and balancing accounts can be a relentless task. A final thank you to Yvette for her many years of dedication to all of our fundraising events. We will miss you!

Our Governing Body have had another busy year and we continue to draw upon the valued expertise from the **St John Southworth family of schools. I was so proud of the Y2 children who represented our school so beautifully at Westminster Cathedral and of our wonderful Pupil Chaplaincy Team who also shone amongst the other representatives during their SJSCAT retreat day.** Indeed, **Paul Stubbings, the Catholic Executive Officer for the Trust, gave our children unqualified praise and has asked me to send on his congratulations for our OUTSTANDING OFSTED result.**

My thanks to **Lord's Cricket Club, Miranda and her team at Forest School, Iris and Tanya at BWW Mind** for their informative workshops and work with our families. Special thanks also to **our Beanstalk Readers – Mary, Eileen and Phyliss – our extra volunteer readers – Priscilla and Gillian – and also our external therapists, Cecily and Nicky.** All of you provide invaluable support, enrichment and learning opportunities for our children.

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Our Catholic Faith and Catholic Social Teaching is at the centre of everything we do and our children are proud ambassadors of their mission, 'Living life to the full' as followers of Christ. **This is possible because of the wonderful support from our teachers, parents and also from Fr. Kevin, Fr. Alex and Sr. Brigid.** We are proud of the real sense of community between school, church and home and would like to thank **Fr. Kevin, Fr. Alex and Sr. Brigid** for their help and support.

I would like to extend a huge thank you on behalf of our staff to all children and parents for your kind wishes, cards and gifts. I wish Year 6 the very best of luck in their new schools. I know some families will be relocating and will not return in September, so I wish you all the best as you embark on your new adventures. **Thank you to all our leavers for being wonderful ambassadors of our school.**

I wish you all a healthy and happy Summer. May God bless you and keep you safe

School resumes for children on Tuesday 3rd September. Please see below for more details.

NB: for the first week as children settle, children in years 1-5 should wear their usual school uniform for games and PE sessions.

Years 1 -6 on Tuesday 3rd September

Reception class- from Wednesday 4th September

Nursery class- staggered start- please see information packs.

We wish all of you a wonderful Summer Break and look forward to receiving you in September. I would like to leave you with Pope Francis's address to children and families everywhere, (from the Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for The First World Children's Day, 25-26 May 2024):

"With Jesus, we can dream of the renewal of our human family and work for a more fraternal society that cares for our common home. This starts with little things, like saying hello to others, asking permission, begging pardon and saying thank you. Our world will change if we all begin with these little things, without being ashamed to take small steps, one at a time (...) ...When we are all together, everything is different! Think of your friends, and how great it is to spend time with them: at home, at school, in the parish and the playground, everywhere. Playing, singing, discovering new things, having fun, everyone being together and excluding no one. Friendship is wonderful and it grows only in this way: through sharing and forgiving, with patience, courage, creativity and imagination, without fear and without prejudice."

Dr. N. Viana and Mr. K. Bowles