

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Headteacher: Dr. N Fernandes-Viana, 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



Monday 11th November 2024

Dear Children, Parents, Staff and Governors,

Thank you to all parents who joined us for our very **first Sport-a-Thon Family Fun Day**. It was wonderful to see all of our children and staff immersing themselves fully in the spirit of the day – walking, star jumps, running on the spot and even sprinting the final 100m with such gusto. I am sure you will agree that it was an extremely uplifting experience and I look forward to sharing the total raised with you in next week's newsletter. **Please note, our Celebration Assembly on Friday 15th November will take place at 2:30 in the school hall. Winners of Sport-a-thon Prizes will also be announced here.**

Thank you to Fr. Kevin for inspiring our KS2 children to pray for the Holy Souls in the month of November, sending up their prayers in order to enable all those Holy Souls who have gone before us, to enter the sweet embrace of the Heavenly Father. **I was so proud of our children's reverence, especially when they recited the Eternal Rest prayer with such grace and feeling.**

As in previous years, our **Year 6 children presented an Armistice Day assembly to the school**, showing how mature and respectful they take such a role. **My thanks also to this year's Poppy Sellers for their efforts.**

I also wanted to share a wonderful opportunity for our Choir Club and indeed for any other Y5 or Y6 pupils, to sing carols at Westminster Cathedral – a notably auspicious venue for Catholics throughout the world - **on Saturday 14th December**. This will be a wonderful celebration and a beautiful way to mark the festive season. It would be fantastic to see St. Joseph's fully represented at such a wonderful occasion. To that end, myself and Mr Bowles would be delighted to accompany all of those children and parents attending, to **Westminster Cathedral, leaving St. Joseph's at 12 on Saturday 14th December**, so that we can meet all of the participating schools outside the Cathedral at 1pm. **Please see the attached letter and do not hesitate to ask me or Mr Bowles or indeed Miss Murphy, if you would like any further information regarding this event.**

The annual SJSA Christmas Ball takes place on Saturday 7th December. Preparations are in full swing for this event. As in previous years, children are encouraged to take part in a small way. Children will be making decorations with their photograph inside. Judging by past items, these will be as impressive as always! **Please do let Mr Bowles know if you do not wish for your child to take part.** Reception parents are taking the lead as usual, please see your class CVC for more information.

Our Key Stage One Reading Workshop – held last Friday was well received. Thank you to all parents who were able to attend: I hope the morning was informative. Additionally, Mrs Morrin will be presenting a Maths workshop this **coming Wednesday, 13th November at 9:10 in the school hall, again, for parents of children in Year 1 and 2.** Please join us if you can.

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Finally, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of my team here at St. Joseph's as well a huge thank you to parents and governors alike, for your ongoing support during my family's struggles with ill health. My 90 year old mother Maria and my 83 year old mother-in-law Alice have both expressed their gratitude for your prayers, kind words and meaningful gestures throughout this difficult time. Please continue to pray for them and for my family. I feel truly blessed to be a part of such a caring school community and this, together with my faith, has held me during what continues to be a challenging time.

Also, during this month of November please do share the Eternal Rest Prayer with your little ones:

Prayer for Eternal Rest (The Requiem Prayer)

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon them
May they rest in peace
Amen

May God bless you and keep you safe,

Dr. N. Fernandes-Viana

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

YEAR GROUP	Percentage Attendance (target >97%)	Late %
RECEPTION 1	90.0%	0.8%
Y1 PINK 1	92.8%	0.4%
Y1/2 PINK 2	98.2%	3.6%
Y2 PINK 3	89.6%	0.4%
Y3 BLUE 1	94.6%	1.0%
Y4 BLUE 3	96.5%	1.0%
Y5 VIOLET 1	93.2%	0.3%
Y6 VIOLET 3	89.6%	1.7%
Totals	93.1%	1.1%

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024

November

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Saturday 9th

Open day – drop in session from 10am-12pm (for prospective parents Rec and Nursery 2025)

Monday 11th

Y6 Remembrance Assembly @11am
Year 5 visiting Tower of London

Wednesday 13th

Maths workshop for KS1 parents 9:10am

Thursday 14th

Assembly re St. John Hospice @ 9:10
Hearing & Vision review for Reception

Friday 15th

Y5 Cinema trip (Children's University)

Thursday 21st

Art Workshop Year 5 am

Friday 22nd

Feast of St Cecilia
Father Alex classroom sessions with Y1 & 2

Monday 25th

Pink 3 visiting Forest School

Tuesday 26th

Spirituality Day

Wednesday 28th

Art Workshop Year 5 am

December

Monday 2nd

Aim High Writing workshop Y5 & Y6 representatives
Last week of afterschool clubs

Tuesday 3rd

EYFS & KS1 Advent Assembly with Fr Alex @ 9am

Thursday 5th

Art Workshop Year 5

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Monday 9th

Nursery Nativity - school hall @2pm

Y6 attending Light up a Life service @ St. John's Wood Church

Tuesday 10th

Reception Nativity play to parents – school hall @ 9:30am

Wednesday 11th

Pink 1 visiting Forest School am

Pink 2 visiting Forest School pm

@ZSL London visiting Santa & the animals

Thursday 12th

Y5 Art Workshop am

KS1 Nativity to parents – school hall @ 9:30am & 2pm

Monday 16th

KS2 carol service 2pm @ the Church of Our Lady's

Tuesday 17th

Science Day (potions workshop) Y4 & Y5 @ Middlesex University

Wednesday 18th

School Christmas lunch

Class parties

Non uniform day

Friday 20th

School Ends @ 1:30pm