

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



Friday 20th December 2024

Dear Children, Parents, Staff and Governors,

This is our final newsletter of the calendar year, and indeed a special one. In the few weeks, **our fantastic children from Nursery to Y2 have performed Nativities with reverence and joy.** They have been a credit to themselves, parents and indeed all members of our school community. **Children in years 3.4.5 and 6 performed beautifully in our annual Carol Concert** at Our Lady's Church. **Thank you to families who were able to join us for this special event.**

Our Y6 children sang carols at the *Light up a Life* multi-faith celebration at St. John's Wood Church, in support of St. John's Hospice – one of our local charities – while 21 children from **Y4 and Y5** sang and read at the at the **Westminster Cathedral Christmas Celebration** with more than 20 other participating schools from the Diocese of Westminster. I was incredibly proud of our children's dedication and reverence and must thank all of you for giving up your precious time on a Saturday to sing with such joy.

Pope Francis said: **"Singing is joy, especially when it is done in choir... How much we need joy in our world!"** Our KS2 Carol Service on Monday certainly demonstrated this radiant joy. This world in which we live needs beauty so as not to fall into despair. This world needs hope, love and joy. Your voices, joining together to celebrate the birth of Jesus, your beautifully recited poems glorifying the Lord, your readings retelling the first Christmas were all inspirational and full of joy: **"By singing and praying together, in harmony, listening to one another, waiting for one another, adding your own voice... You teach all of us how good it is to walk and grow together."**

Our recent Winter Gala, organised by the Reception Class parent group is certainly a memorable one: **this event raised over £15,000!** A fantastic achievement! My particular thanks Camila, Francesco, Caroline, Simone, Laura, Gerda, Virginia, Michelle, Richard, Ada, Massimo, Vanessa, Liz, Wil, Gabriella, Eric and Carolina. A truly fantastic effort!

Junior Adventures Group will be running their usual holiday club from on Friday 3rd and Monday 6th January. Booking details are on their website as usual.

After school clubs will resume in the New Year, **week commencing Monday 13th January.** Dunphy has sent booking links at the beginning of this week. **Please note, Junior Adventures Group wraparound care is available as usual.**

Maida Vale Library have asked me to share upcoming events: please see below.

Festive events for children at Maida Vale Library, Sutherland Avenue

Thursday 12th December, 3:30 – 5:00

Make a Mural

Join us in making a festive mural for display in the children's library.

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Saturday 14th December – Saturday 4th January

Santa's Lost and Found

Santa has lost some Christmas things in the library. Find them all for a chance to win a mystery prize!

Monday 23rd December, 2:30 – 4:00

Christmas Card Making & Christmas Crafts

Come along to make some Christmas crafts and make your own greeting cards in the children's library.

No need to book, just come along!

Children of all ages are welcome at our events, but adult help is recommended for younger children.

On Wednesday 18th we collected money for a very special charity, Winston's Wish. This charity works with children and families who have been bereaved. The grand total of £400 was raised. Please see the following website for more information.
<https://winstonswish.org/>

Thank you to Fr. Kevin and Fr. Alex for their wonderful work with the children guiding them through Bible Stories, the Rosary and Advent, to name but a few. Our children and staff have benefited greatly from the close interaction enabling us all to grow closer to Jesus.

I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs. Moulinet and Sr. Brigid for their help with our **Pupil Chaplaincy Group**. It is wonderful to see children taking ownership in this way with such thoughtful guidance and support.

I would like to say a special thank you to all of our staff. It has been a bumper year for us as a school, with us being recognised as an Outstanding in our recent OFSTED Inspection. **My thanks to our additional supporters** including Lord's Cricket, Beanstalk Readers, Children's University and Tri Borough Music Hub to name but a few. We really couldn't do it without you! **Thank you to parents and families** for your continued support. From accompanying on school trips to supporting at SJSA events, your support is invaluable. **As always, my ultimate thanks are reserved for the children of St Joseph's.** Thank you all for being so wonderful and following our mission statement. You are all inspirational!

I have asked teachers for a particular achievement by each class.

Miss Diriye has been impressed by how well the Nursery class have settled. You are all amazing.

Miss Chani reports children in Reception class have made much progress in their reading and writing this term.

Miss Wegrzynowicz, Mr Starbuck, Mrs Morrin and Miss Ward would like to congratulate their classes on their writing. Year 2 even managed menu writing to accompany their recent food technology day.

Miss Donnellan and Year 3 have enjoyed a wonderful term learning all about the Stone Age to the Iron Age. Great work, Year 3!

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Miss Armstrong and Miss Lawson would like to congratulate their budding scientists following their recent trip to Middlesex University.

Miss Ward would like to say thank you to children for being such wonderful buddies to the Reception class children.

From all the staff here, we all wish you and your families a **Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Staff have asked me to thank parents for their kind wishes and gifts.** Children return to school on **Tuesday 7th January.** We look forward to welcoming you all back then.

With best wishes,

Dr. N. Fernandes-Viana
Mr K Bowles

May God bless you and keep you safe.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

YEAR GROUP	Percentage Attendance (target >97%)	Late %
RECEPTION 1	89.5%	4.4%
Y1 PINK 1	85.0%	1.3%
Y1/2 PINK 2	90.9%	5.2%
Y2 PINK 3	92.9%	1.8%
Y3 BLUE 1	83.0%	0.3%
Y4 BLUE 3	85.8%	2.6%
Y5 VIOLET 1	87.6%	2.8%
Y6 VIOLET 3	88.7%	3.0%
Totals	87.9%	2.7%

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024

December

The Greediest Elf production for Nursery and Pink classes only
KS2 carol service 2pm @ the Church of Our Lady's

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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

January

Monday 6th

staff inset school closed

Tuesday 7th

Term begins

Thursday 9th

Y3 Blue 1 visiting Forest School am

Y4 Blue 3 visiting Forest School pm