

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 10th January 2025

Dear Children, Parents, Staff and Governors,

Firstly, I would like to wish a Happy New Year to you all. I hope you are all well rested and refreshed for the New Year and the new term. Moving forward, we will be offering a fortnightly newsletter which will enable lengthier communication including the children's significant calendar events, Religious Education updates, Sporting achievements, Educational cross-curricular visits, Enrichment opportunities and much more. I am sure you will enjoy our new design and we look forward to receiving your positive comments and continued support.

Our teaching team, site and support staff were all fortunate enough to take part in the SJSCAT Catholic Ethos day on January 6th which was the first of many fruitful collaborations between all of the primary and secondary schools within the SJSCAT, collaborations which will no doubt prove to be enriching for our pupils in terms of shared expertise and shared resources. Covering every aspect of the children's learning, over 300 members of staff from St. Joseph's Chelsea, St. Augustine's Hammersmith, St. John XXIII Shepherd's Bush, St. Thomas More, Our Lady of Victories, St. Thomas of Canterbury and Cardinal Vaughan worked together and prayed together to ensure that all of our pupils continue to receive outstanding provision.

On Tuesday, Fr. Alex led the children in prayerful contemplation of the journey of The Magi and reminded us all of the significance of the three gifts presented to Baby Jesus: Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, ***"Gold is the tribute of property to a king. The Magi recognized Christ as their King and knelt in homage. Likewise, we're called to surrender our hearts and lives to His reign. Our lives should be lived guided by his teaching and his desires, not just our own. Frankincense symbolizes worship. Its fragrant smoke, rising heavenward, is a visible act of reverence. True worship isn't just ritual; it is how we draw closer to God. The Magi's offering prefigures the perfect worship of the Mass, where we join in Christ's redemptive sacrifice. Then there's myrrh—an embalming resin. Strange, perhaps, for a baby, but deeply prophetic. The Christ Child would one day suffer and die for the sins of the world. Myrrh reminds us to unite our own struggles with His. Whether it's a sore back, a broken heart (...) Christ invites us to bring our pains to Him. He can transform even our suffering into something redemptive."***

Our BWW Mind children's sessions resume in the coming week. Topics across this term include friendships, staying safe and wellbeing. I shall share details of parent workshops and resources in due course. Next week, KS1 and KS2 children will take part in the Indoor Sports-hall Athletics and we look forward to witnessing their dedication, drive and sporting behaviour.

Mrs Moulinet, Lay Chaplain for the Trust has asked me to share the following message:

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them. (Matt 18, 20)

Many thanks for our first SJSCAT Monthly Prayer! It has been a deep joy to pray for the pupils, staff and families with you.

Thank you for coming today and see you again on January 10th.

St John Southworth, pray for us.

[Click here to join the prayer on Teams](#)

Meeting ID: 372 905 578 739

Passcode: noFQnG

As mentioned previously, After School Clubs will resume from Monday 13th January. **All clubs are now full.** Additionally, Junior Adventure Group also offer

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Breakfast Club from 7:45 am and childcare at the end of the school day until 18:00.
<https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/>

Finally, I would like to leave you with the Chalk Blessing, an ancient Epiphany tradition. The chalk is blessed at Mass and we then join in the following prayer:

V. Our help is the name of the Lord

R. The maker of heaven and earth

V. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in.

R. From this time forth for evermore

When the prayer of the blessing is complete, we take a piece of chalk home and mark the lintel of our front door as follows: 20+C+M+B+25 while saying: **“The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God’s Son who became human two thousand and twenty years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the New Year. Amen.”**

As well as being the names of the three Magi, CMB is an acronym for *Christus mansionem benedicat*, “May Christ bless the house,” the “+” sign representing the cross and 2025 being the year. Finally, we offer the following prayer:

“Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.”

May God bless you and keep you safe,

Dr. N. Fernandes-Viana

MERITS AND AWARDS		
NAME	MERITS	AWARDS
PINK1 Miss (Dorota)Wegrzynowicz	Mariana	Maximillian
PINK2 Mr Starbuck & Mrs Morrin	Susanna	Arijon
PINK3 Miss S Ward	Benji	Simon
BLUE1 Miss Donnellan & Miss Jackson	Sophia & Louie	Pepe
BLUE3 Miss Armstrong	Louisa	Sami
VIOLET 1 Miss Lawson	Lily	Aimee
VIOLET 3 Miss A Ward	Caroline	Youssef

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

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YEAR GROUP	Percentage Attendance (target >97%)	Late %
RECEPTION 1	92.3%	1.0%
Y1 PINK 1	95.6%	1.0%
Y1/2 PINK 2	96.3%	2.6%
Y2 PINK 3	95.8%	1.0%
Y3 BLUE 1	95.4%	0.8%
Y4 BLUE 3	95.0%	0.9%
Y5 VIOLET 1	95.0%	1.1%
Y6 VIOLET 3	92.8%	2.2%
Totals	94.8%	1.3%

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2025

January

Monday 13th

BWW Mind whole school assembly

Tuesday 14th

Y3/Y4 team attending Indoor Sportshall Athletics @ Moberly Centre 9:30am – 1:45pm

Wednesday 15th

Y5/Y6 team attending Indoor Sportshall Athletics @ Moberly Centre 9:30am – 1:45pm
Student teachers from CVMS visiting

Tuesday 21st

Y6 General Knowledge Quiz Championship (online)

Thursday 23rd

Y5/Y6 team attending Girls football competition @ Paddington Rec' 9:30am – 2pm

Monday 27th

Y5/Y6 team attending Boys football competition @ Paddington Rec' 9:30am – 2pm
Y2 Pink 3 visiting Forest School pm

Monday 3rd

Rec 1 visiting Forest School am
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Y4 & Y5 Road Safety workshop pm

Wednesday 5th

NCMP visiting Rec – Weighing and Measuring am

Y1 Pink 1 Visiting Forest School am

Y1/2 Pink 2 Visiting Forest School pm

Thursday 6th

Fire Safety Workshop for Y2 – Y5 am

Monday 10th

Y5 team attending Maths challenge @ Guildhall pm

Tuesday 11th

NSPCC whole school assembly tbc

Swimming Gala trials @ Moberley Y4, 5 & 6 tbc