

# 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  
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Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Dear Children, Parents, Staff and Governors,

Our special gratitude to our wonderfully supportive parents who worked tirelessly in the lead up to and indeed on the night of our **Annual School Auction**. From the marketing of the event to the teams of parents involved in securing promises; from the canvassing of sponsorship either in school or in the local community to those parents who selflessly donated their time; from those catering on the night to those involved in the beautiful art-work that enabled all of our children to be part of the event; from those teams of parents who were so incredibly generous in their bidding to our talented auctioneer who continues to preside over our School Auction, year on year, because of the warm reception he receives; you raised a phenomenal £60,000. The dedication to your children's learning is awe inspiring and humbling and I feel blessed to be part of such a dynamic and supportive parent community. I must also thank all my staff not only for their support and ongoing contribution in the scheduling of experiences and trips. **My particular thanks to: Lindsay, Liz, Camilla, Mirka, Greg, Plami, Emma, Vanessa, Rob, Shane and Florence.**

Without all of you working together, the Auction would not have been such a resounding success.

In addition to supporting our curriculum, we have plans to spend **some of the money on the renewal of musical instruments** and our music room and **continue to make our outdoor environments as appealing and safe as possible.**

One Auction item which is sure to be of interest, is the workshop and the school lunch hosted by **Sebastien Lambot on 2<sup>nd</sup> June**, for which volunteers are needed. Please do reach out to Sebastien to sign up.

**Congratulations to the following children for their sportsmanship** over the past few weeks. Alba, Cecilia, Nicholas, Ivan, Amelia V, Annabella, Gaspard, Giacomo, Joshua S, Maxim, Kiera and Felicitas. **Your participation in the tennis tournaments deserves a special mention!**

The children celebrated **St George's Day, on Thursday**, with a special singing assembly dedicated this special patron saint. My thanks to Mr. Foster and our KS2 children with this assembly.



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**School Council celebrated Earth Day on Wednesday 22nd April** with a most productive meeting reinvigorating St Joseph's Climate Club. We discussed the forthcoming 'Walk to School Week' in May and in light of so many pupils and staff already adapting their travel arrangements for the recent travel disruption, **it was proposed that we should adopt a weekly initiative of 'Walk to School Wednesdays'**.

Everyone is actively encouraged to walk as much of their journey as possible on a Wednesday! The children were keen that rewards should be offered as incentives - **so don your step counters and let's get started - there are prizes to be had!**

**Caroline Moulinet has asked me to share some information regarding at the recent parents retreat, which by all accounts was resounding success!** On Friday, 17 April, the second Morning Retreat for Parents and Carers was held. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with a strong and evident sense of fraternity throughout the morning. Prayer, reflection, and learning about the history of the martyrs were all deeply nourishing for parents in their mission.

A "beautifully designed" flyer helped to attract attendees—19 in total, women and a good proportion of men too, parents of children aged 5 to 25— and special thanks are due to Aaron and Anne-Marie and her ParentMail, which greatly supported the promotion of the event in the CVMS community, alongside the newsletters. I would greatly encourage all to share future invitations to the Parents' Retreat, as it is difficult to predict the spiritual thirst within a community, and invitations are the first step in building and nurturing the SJSCAT fellowship.

The contribution of Mgr Roger to the group discussion was much appreciated. He was described as "hopeful and encouraging." It was a mutually enriching encounter, with Mgr Roger sharing how pleased he was to meet with parents and listen to them, as he more often meets their sons and daughters. This gathering offered a meaningful moment to nurture both vocations—parenthood and priesthood—which was very special.

Please note, next week, there will be **no Celebration Assembly on Friday**, due to our **St Joseph the Worker Mass, in school with Cannon Kevin at 2:00.**

**As we approach our final, full term, we naturally start to make plans for the next academic year, starting September 2026.** Our community is such that many families have international links, whether that be employment or other ties. I would like to politely ask parents (except for our current Nursery, Reception and Year 6 classes) to chat to Mr. Bowles or myself if their child will not be returning to us in September. This will help us to plan (as much as reasonably possible) for the next academic year. Your understanding is greatly appreciated here.

Dr N. Viana  
Mr K Bowles

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Class	Certificate Winners 24.04.2026
Pink 1	Matthew and Isabella
Pink 2	Emma and Raphael
Pink 3	Federico and Natalie
Year 3	Manu, Leonardo and Nancy
Year 4	Neveah and Gene
Year 5	Agathe and Rafael
Year 6	Harry and Victor