



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Dr. N Fernandes-Viana
Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mr. K Bowles



Jesus said: 'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full'.

25th March 2024

Dear Pupils, Staff, Parents and Governors,

Firstly, a huge well done to all of the children across the school who have participated in so many competitions over the last few weeks. The children have represented our school wonderfully. Indeed, I have had reports of great sportsmanship and excellent behaviour whilst representing our school - not to mention some of the amazing results. St Joseph's are clocking up so many of the top awards in these competitions. Thank you to all who have supported the children over the last few weeks. On another sporting note, thank you to Lord's Cricket for their coaching this term. Children in Year 5 are at Lord's today for the final session of the term.

We have finalized after school clubs for the next half term. Mrs. Dunphy will be sending these today. Please note, Junior Adventures Group offer their wraparound childcare services with a breakfast and after school club offering throughout the year. Additionally, there will be an Easter Holiday Club here at school. Please see the website below for more details. <https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/find-us/st-josephs-catholic-primary-school-maida-vale/>

After Easter, our new catering company - Accent Catering - will be providing school lunches. I have been asked by parents if they could sample the menu. I will schedule times for parents to taste the food upon our return. I have attached the menu, which we have approved after speaking with some of the children. Please note, this may be subject to some minor amendments. Additionally, all children across the school are entitled to a universal free school meal. Please email the school office if you would like to change from a packed lunch to a school meal.

Thank you to Year 3 for their Prayerful Palm Sunday Liturgy. Year 4 will present the Maundy Thursday Prayerful Liturgy on Tuesday 26th while Year 5 will present the solemn Good Friday Liturgy on Wednesday 27th. We shall finish the term with Year 6 and their joyful account of The Resurrection. Thank you to all of the children and staff for their efforts with these prayerful liturgies. Thank you to parents for joining us on these important days.

Children across the school have been collecting for CAFOD over the Lenten period. I am pleased to say that we have raised a total of £230.

Our Annual School Auction, held on Saturday 23rd was a resounding success. Thank you to all who donated their time, money, efforts, flowers and food to make the event such a success. I shall update parents after the Easter break with totals of amounts raised. Every penny is spent on the children in this school, helping us to provide the best education we can to the children in our care.

Our Annual Easter Bonnet Parade will take place on Tuesday 16th April and our Easter Bonnet Theme is Building Bridges. As per our School Council Meeting, the Bonnets or Head-dress competition and parade is for all classes Nursery-Y6. However, Y5&6 can choose to opt out of the parade and instead produce a 2D/3D piece of Easter Art work reflecting the Building Bridges theme. Entries must arrive at school on Monday 15th April and they will be displayed in the hall to enhance the parade. School Council representatives have also asked for a novelty Egg and Spoon Race on the afternoon of the parades.

I know many of you managed to attend last Friday's celebration assembly where the children and staff thanked Mrs. Rose O' Connor, Mrs. Maria Strachinaru and Mrs. Halfida Otmani (one of our catering assistants) for their years of service. Thank you to the children across the school who helped to say thank you for the work these three ladies have done in supporting the school over the years. On behalf of the children, parents and indeed the staff here, we are incredibly grateful. Mrs. O'Connor is retiring but will still help St Joseph's on a part time basis. We hope Mrs. Maria Strachinaru will come back and visit us as she heads to pastures new. Mrs. Halfida Otmani has fed the children of St Joseph's for 30 years and will continue to do so. Indeed, my 27 and 22 year old sons remember her warm smile and generous custard servings with great fondness. All three ladies have asked that I pass on their thanks to each and every one of you.

As we approach our final, full term, we naturally start to make plans for the next academic year, starting September 2024. 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.

Please note, school finishes this Thursday 28th March at 13:30. There will be no Junior Adventures Group extended day on this day. Children return to school on Monday 15th April. Children can wear their summer uniform upon our return in April.

We wish you a happy and joyful Easter in the company of all of your loved ones and leave you with Pope Francis's words in last year's Easter message – words that are still relevant and meaningful today: "We believe in you, Lord Jesus. We believe that, with you, hope is reborn and the journey continues. May you, the Lord of life, encourage us on our journey and repeat to us, as you did to the disciples on the evening of Easter: "Peace be with you!" (Jn 19:21)"

With best wishes to you all,

Dr Fernandes-Viana & Mr Bowles

MERITS AND AWARDS		
NAME	MERIT	AWARDS
REC1 Miss Chani	Victor	Ada
REC2 Miss Diriye	Joshua	Ava
PINK1 Miss (Dorota)Wegrzynowicz	Alex	Adeyah
PINK2 Mr Starbuck & Mrs Morrin	Maika	Julia
PINK3 Miss S Ward	Coco	Ronnie
BLUE1 Miss Donnellan	Danny	Eita
BLUE3 Miss Armstrong	Eloise	Agustin
VIOLET 1 Miss Lawson	Joshua	Harvey
VIOLET 3 Miss A Ward	Julia	Lea

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

YEAR GROUP	Percentage Attendance (target >97%)	Late %
RECEPTION 1	92.8%	2.2%
RECEPTION 2	99.4%	0.6%
Y1 PINK 1	97.2%	1.2%
Y1/2 PINK 2	96.2%	1.6%
Y2 PINK 3	98.3%	0.3%
Y3 BLUE 1	94.7%	0.9%
Y4 BLUE 3	95.3%	2.1%
Y5 VIOLET 1	93.3%	0.8%
Y6 VIOLET 3	93.3%	1.2%
Totals	95.6%	1.2%

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024

March

Saturday 23rd

SJSA SCHOOL AUCTION

Monday 25th

Holy Week begins

Year 3 Palm Sunday Liturgy @ 9:30am

Y5 @ Lord's Cricket Ground

Tuesday 26th

Y4 Maundy Thursday Liturgy @ 9:30am

Y5 Reconciliation with Father Alex.

Wednesday 27th

Y5 Good Friday Liturgy @ 9:30am

Thursday 28th

Y6 Resurrection Liturgy @ 9:30am

Collection of chicks from Nursery

School breaks up @ 1:30pm

April

Monday 15th

Term begins

Tuesday 16th

Easter Bonnet Parade

Nursery, Reception, Years 1 & 2 @ 9:15am

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 @ 10:30

Friday 19th

Years 3 & 4 visiting the Wallace Collection

Monday 22nd

Reception trip to the Puppet Theatre Barge

Monday 29th

Dental screening Rec & Year 1

May

Wednesday 1st

Nursery visiting Forest School

2pm in hall - Whole school M