



Celebrating over 75 Years of Independent Education in Nottingham

Head Teacher's Newsletter November 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome

A very warm welcome to our November newsletter highlighting some of the wonderful events that took place last term and informing you of things to look forward to in the run up to Christmas.

Hall

New curtains and radiators have been installed in the Hall over half term which I am sure you will agree has made a massive improvement to both the efficiency and look of the room.



We would like to thank parents of Holiday Club and After School for their patience during the refurbishment.

May I also take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Philippa Wheeler, our new After School Care Assistant, working alongside Mr Shaw. After School Club runs Monday to Friday from 3.40 pm to 5.00 pm or 6.00 pm.

Inspection

At the time of writing we are still awaiting the outcome of our Compliance Inspection which took place in late September. This will be sent to you as soon as it is made public.

Parent surveys

Thank you to those of you who responded to the school and nursery parents' survey. I will be making the results known in due course along with my responses to the points raised. In the nursery only very few parents responded and were largely positive, but Alison will take on board specific comments, particularly about knowing your child's keyperson and providing opportunities for savoury baking as well as sweet.

Assemblies and Reading Raffle

Achievement assembly takes place on Friday morning at 9.10 am.

We would love to see you there and the children really do enjoy having an audience when they proudly show off their work - so do come along if you can!

Please also be aware that each time you sign your child's reading record at home they are entered into a draw and may win a small prize in the reading raffle. This is drawn during our Friday Achievement Assembly.

New Uniform

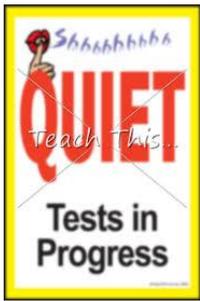
At a recent meeting, the Trustees agreed a new school uniform effective from September 2016. This is smart, practical and cost effective, whilst still retaining the individuality and status of ourselves as an independent school. Mannequins displaying the new uniform are in Reception and whilst our old uniform is no longer available to purchase, it may still be worn until the start of the next academic year.



Friends of St Joseph's

I am pleased to say that several parents have formed a new PTA and are working hard to arrange a disco for the children on Friday December 11th. Please support this exciting and fun event as all proceeds raised will contribute to improving our ICT capability across the school and thus benefit the children directly.

Progress Tests



During this term, the children will continue to undertake a number of progress tests in Maths and English. These enable us to track attainment and target more accurately any areas of learning or development which may need support. Please note however, the results of such tests are a

snapshot of performance at one particular point in time and only reflect outcomes on that day.

House Points

As well as working towards individual rewards, the 'House Points' earned by the children for good work, behaviour and attitude are averaged and contribute to the children's achievements on Prize Night in July. Currently, the scores are as follows but there is still plenty to play for:

St. Peter (Yellow) 42 points

St. Patrick (Green) 40 points

Our Lady (Blue) 40 points

St. George (Red) 47 points

MacMillan Coffee Morning

This was held on Friday September 25th and raised £125.80. Many thanks to all who attended and to our older children who prepared and ran the event.

PGL and Green's Windmill



Earlier this term, most of the upper school embarked on an adventure break at the Caythorpe Court PGL Centre near Grantham, whilst our year 2 children visited Green's windmill in Sneinton. All of them had a fabulous time. Many other outside opportunities are also planned in other year groups including a Year 1 visit to Newstead Abbey and those listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Harvest Festival

Thank you for all your donations of tinned and preserved produce that were given as part of our Harvest appeal. All the food was donated to the Canaan Trust who help homeless and less fortunate people in the Nottingham area.

Shoebbox Appeal

Just a reminder that Mrs Flesher is organising a Christmas appeal to fill a shoebox with gifts for children less fortunate than ourselves. You should have already received a letter to this effect, although should you require any further information, please get in touch.

Children in Need

To mark the national Children in Need appeal on Friday November 13th we are inviting our pupils to dress like Pudsey in yellow or spots etc. Contributions will be totally voluntary and all monies raised will be donated directly to the appeal.



Tag Rugby and other competitions

Some of our older children have been invited to attend a tag rugby competition at the NGHS on Friday November 13th. Good luck in advance to them.

In addition, we also have a Maths Challenge planned for after Christmas, an interschool Chess Tournament and several football matches, not to mention a swimming gala. I hope to report back on all these exciting opportunities in due course.

Christmas Lights switch on

The Canning Circus Christmas Lights switch on will take place on Tuesday November 24th at 4.00 pm.

All parents are welcome to attend. Further details to follow.

Pantomime

I am pleased to inform you that on Tuesday December 8th Years 1 to 6 will be off to the Nottingham Playhouse to see Dick Whittington, this year's Christmas Panto. Our Pre-prep and Reception classes will be visiting the Lakeside Theatre on Tuesday December 15th for a show of their own.

Nativity Shows

May I please remind you that our Nativity plays are on the following days and we hope to see as many as possible of you there to see our children in action:

Thursday December 10th at 1.30 - Pre-Prep

Thursday December 10th at 2.30 - Rainbow & Sunflower

Friday December 11th at 2.30 - School

Friday December 11th 5pm - 7pm - all children

Nursery Trip to Thomas Land

On Thursday December 17th Nursery will be visiting Thomas Land at Drayton Manor for a day of festive fun and adventure.

Christmas Term Mass

Our Christmas term mass will be held on Thursday December 17th at 6.00 pm at the Cathedral. Please note that as we are a catholic school, it is expected that all pupils respect Mass and attend the cathedral services regardless of their own personal beliefs and faith, which will also be celebrated by all throughout the year in assemblies and lesson time.

Notification Of Absences

If your child is going to be absent or late please notify the school office on 941 8356 **before 9.00 am**. We need prior notification of medical appointments, either by letter, telephone or via a direct message. All children leaving school early **MUST** be collected by a responsible adult.

Change of details

Kindly inform school of any change of address/telephone number. If you need to be contacted during the day or via our email/mobile messaging service, we need to have current details.

Cathedral Parking

Please do not park in the cathedral courtyard car park as this is private and may result in a fine or short term lock in. If you need a short term street parking permit, please ask at reception.



Lost Property

As in every school lost property is a huge problem. Please ensure all clothing is labelled and that no valuables are brought in as we cannot accept responsibility for them. Please also note that unclaimed property will be sent to charity at the end of each term.

Violence to staff

Please note, whilst we pride ourselves in being an open and approachable school, we do operate a non-aggression policy towards staff including zero tolerance to verbal and physical intimidation. Any member of the public or school community who does not respect this will be asked to leave the premises and further action may be taken depending on the nature of the abuse.

Helpers in School

We always appreciate the help of additional adults in our school. If you are able to help on a regular basis would you kindly contact your child's class teacher. Please note that for child protection purposes, the government has decreed that all adults working unsupervised regularly with children, whether volunteers or not must have appropriate safety checks carried out. There is a small administration charge to the individual for these checks and are essential to maintain safety in school. Also, please be aware that some activities such as interschool sports fixtures can only take place with the support of parents. For this reason, I would urge you to embrace the checks and volunteer to help the school.

Twitter and Schoop



You can follow us on Twitter using @StjosephsNG1. The Schoop app can also be downloaded to your computer, tablet and smart phone in the usual way. Log in details are available in reception. Additional information is available on the school website at: www.st-josephs.nottingham.sch.uk

Inset Days

May I remind you that Inset Days for this year have been planned for:

Monday 4th January 2016

Tuesday 5th January 2016

This means that only staff will be in school on these days.

Finally

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. Many of you speak very highly of the school and I agree that St Joseph's is a wonderful place; with professional and hardworking staff who only want the best for your children. Therefore, please rest assured that we are working tirelessly to provide an academic and extra-curricular experience that is second to none and that, with our small class sizes, you can be confident of sustained interactive and intimate teaching, targeted support and personalised learning aimed at ensuring every child achieves their best.

Kind regards
Mr A Crawshaw
Head Teacher