



Celebrating over 75 Years of Independent Education in Nottingham

Head Teacher's Newsletter July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

On behalf of myself and all the staff of St Joseph's School, I would like to welcome you to my final Newsletter of the academic year which I hope you will find useful and informative.

We have enjoyed a busy but exciting final half term and all too soon the summer seems to be upon us.

Staff News

As detailed in my previous Newsletter, it is with great sadness that we are saying 'goodbye' to Mrs Flesher following her decision to retire from teaching at the end of the academic year. A wonderful teacher, musician and genuine individual, she will be sorely missed by the whole school community. Please join me in wishing her a happy and relaxing retirement.

To cover the vacancy arising from Mrs Flesher's retirement, Miss Melvill-Smith has been appointed on a temporary, full time, one year contract.

Class news

The proposed classes and teachers for next year are as follows:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
The Acorns	Reception	Miss Griffiths
The Chestnuts	Year 1/2	Miss Melvill Smith
The Maples	Year 3/4	Ms Needham /Mrs Cahoon
The Oaks	Year 5/6	Miss Drinkwater

Mrs Boyer, a qualified teacher and EYFS practitioner will be working 3 days supporting the infant classes, alongside Mrs Mason. Mr Purdy will support the juniors and Mrs Priest, when she returns from maternity leave, will be deployed around school as necessary.

From September, I will be teaching sport and control technology to the junior children for one afternoon per week, whilst Madame Khier will continue to teach French.

Choir News

To ensure there is no loss of provision to the children following Mrs Flesher's departure, Nikki Pearce, the founder of 'Rattle and Roll', will be taking the whole school for singing and music appreciation for one session every Wednesday, followed by a lunchtime 'Choir Club' for the older children. Yasmin, also from Rattle and Roll will continue to provide dance and drama sessions on a Friday to the children as well as running our very popular and successful Recorder Club.

Other Club News.

Other clubs planned for next year include: Football, chess, archery, dodgeball, ballet and karate to name but a few.

Twitter, Schoop and Facebook

You can follow our progress at the above fixtures on Twitter using @StjosephsNG1 or leave a comment on our Facebook page. The Schoop app can also be downloaded to your computer, tablet and smart phone in the usual way. Log in details for Schoop are in Reception and additional information is available on the school website at:
www.st-josephs.nottingham.sch.uk



Friends of St Joseph's

Thank you to the 'Friends' for organising and running our recent BBQ... Great fun was had by all and the money raised (£421.65) will go to subsidising the cost of trips as well as providing additional 'luxuries' for the children. If you would like to become involved with the PTA, then please get in touch.

Reports Out

On Friday 7th July your child will have received their end of year report. Please will you ensure the reply slip is signed and returned to their class teacher before the end of term. Please also discuss the comments made with your child to help them build on their achievements next year.



Uniform

School uniform is very important to us as it looks smart and gives the children a sense of togetherness and belonging. May I please therefore remind you that our uniform is not optional and is being strictly applied. This means that school shoes, not trainers, must be worn during the day and these should be sensible and fit for purpose. Equally, our uniform policy extends to coats, bags and our indoor and outdoor PE kit.

Regretfully, children who do not have the correct uniform will be excluded from certain activities and will not be selected to represent the school at the tournaments mentioned above.

Mobile Phones

Please may I remind parents of the need to follow our rules on the use of mobile phones in school which are clearly displayed on the window in Reception. After all, it is for the safety of all our children.

Holiday Club

As usual we hope to run Holiday Club through the summer with a variety of exciting activities planned. Please contact Shirley if you would like to book a place.

Spirit of the Olympics

Potted Sports 'In the Spirit of the Olympics' was held in school and was won by the Red Team. Similarly, Sports Day took place on 15th June at Lenton Park and was won by the Blue Team. Thanks to Miss Griffiths and Miss Melvill-Smith for organising and running the event.

Inter-School Competitions and Tournaments

Following the success of this year's engagements we will once again be attending various tournaments across Nottingham including Cross Country, Tag Rugby, Football Cricket, Netball and Rounders. We will also continue to compete with other small schools in similar matches starting in the Autumn.

Assessments

As previously, the school has not formally done SATs this year. Despite this, papers from the 2017 SATs have been obtained and these are being used to aide professional development and ensure teaching and learning remains competitive and of the highest quality.

ISI Update

Following on from my previous training with Ofsted, I have been accepted to begin ISI inspectorate training in London, starting in May 2018. The aim of this is to help sustain our reputation and prepare us well for our next visit, as well as supporting other schools in doing the very best for their children

Other News

Deanne in the juniors was runner up in a recent World Book Day competition organised by Mrs Cahoon. Out of all the thousands of entries submitted, she won book vouchers for herself and the school totalling over £200.

A residential visit for the junior school to the PGL near Grantham in October is being organised - let's hope for good weather!. Several off site visits have taken place in Nursery and across the school, including cricket at Belvoir and a planned visit to Sundown Adventure Park for Nursery and Reception Class.

Mike Able and his friend Bob are returning on Monday July 3rd to take an assembly at the school.

I am still trying to organise an inter-house 5-a-side football tournament but am hampered by play rehearsals, the weather and time. Maybe next year I will run it earlier!

The inter-house chess competition was won by the Red team, St George.

A trip to see David Walliams at the Theatre Royal is planned for November.

Prize Night

Rehearsals re in full swing for our Prize Night Production 'Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits. Further information regarding the evening will be sent to you in due course and I hope that you will all attend to see your children receive their awards and perform on stage.

And finally.....

As the current academic year draws to a close it is useful to look back and reflect. We came positively through the unannounced ISI inspection in September and have continued to build on our sporting calendar throughout the year.

Our residential visit to Youlgreave in the Autumn was also greatly received and the refurbishment of the IT suite in the Spring has enabled teaching and learning to continue into the 21st century.

The results of the parent survey were very positive and I feel that overall provision for the children has been enhanced through improved extra-curricular activities and PTA social events. Equally, staff have developed their teaching through continued CPD opportunities and, despite a few potholes, the road is relatively smooth and well signposted! We remain a small school, but are constantly changing and evolving and with sound financial planning, a strong vision and a lot of hard work, I am certain that the dreams we all have for St Joseph's will be realised.

Have a great summer and thank you all for your continued confidence and support.

Kind Regards

Mr A E Crawshaw
Head Teacher