



February 2017

Dear Parents

DIARY OF EVENTS – SPRING 2017

FEBRUARY 2017	
Thursday 2 nd	9.15 am – Year 1 Class Assembly – parents invited 2.30 pm - Reception Mathematics Workshop – parents invited
Friday 3 rd	Fire Brigade visiting Year 1 class 3.30 pm – Football match at home against Merton Court
Monday 6 th	English homework sponsored spelling list distributed
Tuesday 7 th	Birds of Prey presentation – whole school
Wednesday 8 th	7.00 pm – PTA meeting
HALF TERM	
Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February 2017	
Wednesday 22 nd	Sponsored Spelling Test today
Friday 24 th	9.15 am – Year 6 and Year 1 Class Mass in church – parents invited PTA Event – Quiz Night for Parents
Monday 27 th	Living Eggs arrive
Tuesday 28 th	Year 3 trip to Museum of Kent Life re Stone Age Topic CAFOD Assembly Shrove Tuesday – pancakes for children at first break – Year 3 to have their pancakes on Monday
MARCH 2017	
Wednesday 1 st	9.15 am - Key Stage 2 joining parish for Ash Wednesday Mass in church 9.15 am – Key Stage 1 Mission Together a LENT assembly 7.00 pm – ‘Education in Human Love’ parents information meeting on new Scheme of Work to be adopted by school. Speaker, Sr Jude, author of programme
Wednesday 8 th	Lunchtime - Year 4 Easter Enterprise Sale – junior classes to bring in pocket money (maximum £1.00 in change) After school – Junior Athletics Team Competition
Thursday 9 th	am – Year 6 Junior Citizen Visit – keeping safe in the community
Friday 10 th	9.15 am – Year 5 and Year 2 Class Mass in church – parents invited
Monday 13 th	School Photographs being taken
Wednesday 15 th	Lunchtime - Year 3 Easter Enterprise Sale – junior classes to bring in pocket money (maximum £1.00 in change)
Thursday 16 th	Able Writers Day– selected children from Years 3 and 4 attending course 3.00 pm – 4.30 pm – Handball Competition Team from Years 3 and 4
Tuesday 21 st	9.15 am – St Joseph's Feast Day Mass – parents invited change of date 3.00 pm – 4.30 pm – Year 1 and 3 Football Competition Team at St Columba's

Wednesday 22 nd	10.00 am – 12 noon – Catholic Choral Competition (Choir) – parents invited to watch (choir will need lifts) Lunchtime - Year 5 Easter Enterprise Sale – junior classes to bring in pocket money (maximum £1.00 in change) 3.45 pm – 5.30 pm - Netball Team Competition – Years 5 and 6
Thursday 23 rd	Year 2 Trip to Chatham Dockyard
Tuesday 28 th	3.30 pm – 6.30 pm - Open Evening
Wednesday 29 th	Lunchtime - Year 6 Easter Enterprise Sale – junior classes to bring in pocket money (maximum £1.00 in change) 3.30 pm – 6.30 pm - Open Evening
Thursday 30 th	9.15 am – Year 3 and 4 Easter Play – parents invited 11.15 am – Infant Easter Egg Hunt 1.15 pm – Junior Easter Bonnet Competition – children to make bonnets at home
Friday 31 st	Royal Festival Hall – a number of children attending performance 11.00 am CRIBS – Easter Play for whole school
EASTER HOLIDAYS MONDAY 3RD APRIL 2017 – TUESDAY 18TH APRIL 2017 CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY 19TH APRIL 2017	
APRIL 2017	
Tuesday 18 th	INSET day – school closed for children
Wednesday 19 th	Children return to school
Tuesday 25 th	Able Maths Day – selected children from Years 3 and 4
Wednesday 26 th	3.45 pm – 5.30 pm – Golf Competition – Years 5 and 6
Friday 28 th	9.15 am – Year 5 and R Class Mass in church – parents invited After School Discos organised by the PTA: - 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm - Infants - 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm – Juniors



Details of all our regular school clubs are detailed below

Day	Club	Dates and Times
Mondays	Pro Futures Football Club Years 3, 4 and 5	3.15 – 4.30 pm 9 th January – 20 th March
	Orchestra	3.15 – 4.15 pm 9 th January – 20 th March
Thursdays	Pro Futures Football Club Years 1 and 2	3.15 – 4.30 pm 12 th January – 23 rd March
	Mathletics	3.15 – 4.15 pm 19 th January – 23 rd March
	Choir	12.45 pm – 1.15 pm 12 th January – 23 rd March
Fridays	Gardening Club	12.15 – 1.15 pm every Friday (weather permitting)
	Pro Futures Football Club Years 6	3.15 – 4.20 pm 13 th January – 24 th March
	Basketball Club (Mr Addy) Years 5 and 6	3.15 – 4.15 pm 13 th January – 24 th March

Smiley Ark Breakfast Club – 7.30 am – 8.45 am – Monday - Friday
 After School Club – 3.15 pm – 6.00 pm – Monday - Friday

For further details please contact Susan Ikpefuran on 07956 263531 or e-mail kids@smileyark.com



NEWSLETTER



Statement from the Chair of Governors

Please see attached

Pupil Leadership Opportunities

Our children love being given the opportunity to help with the decision making and organisation of school life. A number of children have been nominated as digital, sports and chaplaincy leaders by their teachers and School Council to help support their subjects. If the initiative is a success it may well be rolled out; art leaders, reading leaders



Be on time



at five to nine

Punctuality

Please try your hardest to be on time! The gate closes at 8.55 am and a number of families are regularly late. I don't like to close a gate on a child running up the path, especially when I feel the parent is responsible!

Visit of MP David Evennett

Mr Evennett visited St Joseph's last week. The children asked some tough questions ranging from local priorities to the impact of Brexit on the British education system. Who knows, one of our children might be inspired to become an MP!



Scooter/Cycle Parking

If you would like to request a 'parking permit' which allows a cycle or scooter to be parked during the school day please put a request via the Contact Book c/o Mrs Lockhart (Thursdays and Fridays).



PTA News – Your School Lottery

The PTA has launched a new fundraising initiative and would welcome as much support as possible. 'Your School Lottery' is our very own online lottery. The idea is, instead of buying scratch cards or the equivalent, the school community, parents, friends and staff subscribe to the school lottery. Every week members of our community will win prizes and will be in with a chance of winning £25,000. The planned first draw is on 11th February 2017. Please see attached flyer for details of how to sign up and good luck!



Quiz Night

The traditional parent Quiz Night is being organised once again by the PTA. A limited number of tickets are available – please apply, so please be quick! Please return this slip along with payment in an envelope marked 'Quiz Night' via your child by Friday 10th February (cheques made payable to 'St. Joseph's PTA'). We shall confirm your tickets by text.





Sponsored Spelling

Mrs Partridge, our English Co-ordinator, has organised a sponsored spell. Children will be issued with a challenge to learn a list of spellings appropriate to their age. The children, with parental support and permission, are then asked to find sponsors. The children will have two weeks to learn their spellings. We hope this activity will support the children’s spelling knowledge and raise funds for new resources to support our exciting curriculum.

Crazy Creatures Writing Competition

Last term the children were encouraged to enter the Crazy Creatures Writing Competition for homework. Congratulations to all our competition winners and we look forward to reading your published descriptions. The competition was suggested for fun and to offer the children a sense of purpose for their writing. Parents should be advised that there is no obligation to purchase the book!



Pollution – Car Fumes

It has been noted by a grandparent that a number of cars are being parked in Old Road with their engines left on and this is contributing to unpleasant fumes for pedestrians and cyclists. The Junior Road Safety Officers would like parents to turn their engines off!

Clean Kitchen!

Well done to the kitchen staff once again, as the school kitchen has been awarded a Level 5 Hygiene rating (the highest level). I would like to thank Mrs McCann, Mrs Lauricourt and Mrs Stewart for maintaining the high standards.



Sporting Events

Well done to our Year 5 and 6 Basketball teams for their recent tournament success. The competition was intense and the teams came fourth out of ten teams. They did St Joseph’s proud.

School Lunch Menu

The lunch menu will change to the Spring Menus after half term. Menus are available on the school website. Please be advised that the office and kitchen staff need one weeks’ notice of any changes to dinner arrangements.



Sainsburys Active Kids Vouchers

We are collecting again for 2017, please keep sending your vouchers in.





Writer of the Week

Each week a teacher nominates a child who has produced an excellent piece of work or has considerably improved their writing. January's winners were:

Year 6	Timmy	Paige	Thomas
Year 5	Judith	Bertie	Alex
Year 4	-	Evie	Victoria
Year 3	Lotte	Daniel	Oliver
Year 2	Ethan	Julia	Anna
Year 1	Olisa	Grace	Kosi
Year R	Teagan	Harley	Cameron

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Sinclair
Head Teacher



February 2017

IMPACT/AMBITION STATEMENT **LETTER FROM THE GOVERNORS OF ST JOSEPH'S**

Dear Parents

As 2017 gets underway, the governors would like to review last year's achievements and look forward to what the school hopes to achieve in the forthcoming year.

The governors have been busy meeting with the Senior Leadership Team and staff to ensure St Joseph's goes from strength to strength. The governors' monitoring offers challenge and support to ensure the best possible school for our community.

Governors' monitoring over the last year has included: subject leader interviews, lesson observations, health and safety walks, book scrutinies, exam invigilation and pupil interviews. All of which help inform the governing body about how the school is performing against the expected school standards. Governors provide written feedback to staff which includes strengths and points for development.

Governors have also been proactive in undertaking training to ensure that they are up to date with government and Ofsted priorities. Training has included: Ofsted training, safeguarding training and data training.

The Senior Leadership Team are well established and the driving force for continued school improvement. There have been a number of staffing changes across the school and although it is always sad to say goodbye to familiar faces, new staff offer opportunities for growth. Through a process of induction, new staff are now established as part of the St Joseph's team.

Pupils' academic achievement and progress remain the core business of the school. The school has re-written its curriculum in line with the requirements of the National Curriculum and offers children the opportunity to study in a creative topic based approach, with dedicated mathematics and spelling, punctuation and grammar lessons.

The impact of school action taken over the last two years has seen improvement in writing levels, especially for boys. Staff have developed their subject expertise and are now regularly called on to support schools across Bexley, which enhances their own leadership skills and in turn benefits our children. Staff are well supported by governors in setting budgets that prioritise good staffing levels and access to curriculum resources.

The positive Religious Education Inspection result shows how the school continues to move forward.

Analysis of data for the school shows many positive results. Whilst cohorts of children enter St Joseph's at or below the National Expectation they leave the Reception Class with 'Good Level of Development' consistently above the National average. Phonics test results in Year 1 show a three year trend of being well above the National average. In summer 2016, results showed that 93% of the class made the required levels against a National figure of 81%.



Test results for Key Stage 1, that is the Year 2 class, showed results in Reading, Writing and Mathematics for children working at the expected standard were all above National figures. Key Stage 2 results were above National averages and 67% of pupils attained the expected standard in all three subjects which was 14% above the National average.

The governors would like to thank the staff for their hard work and dedication given to achieve these results. Parents too have played their part by supporting with homework, hearing their children read and getting involved with diary and descriptive writing.

Yet, as always, there is still more to do. The governors are ambitious for the school and have set targets for 85% of pupils to reach the expected standards. Staff are rising to the challenge. The challenge is to raise attainment and progress for all pupils, groups of pupils and to increase the numbers achieving 'greater depth'.

Pupil premium children benefit from extra funding and the school use this to target additional support in terms of individual and small tuition groups, access to free sports clubs and subsidising school trips or extra enrichment opportunities.

Children who have been identified as 'more able' have been targeted for extra challenge. Children attend more able English and Mathematics workshops with other children from across different schools and have been identified as pupil subject leaders.

Staff regularly work with small targeted groups of children both during and after school to ensure the barriers to academic success are removed. Academic results above National don't just happen, but are the result of dedicated teaching, day in, day out, ensuring the best possible outcomes for our children.

The governors recognise there is more to a good/outstanding school than academic results and league tables. The teachers work hard at promoting an enriching environment where children can thrive and grow as individuals. Pupils are offered an increasing range of opportunities to get involved in student leadership groups, sports activities, healthy life style initiatives to name but a few. Recently our local MP, Mr Evennett, visited and the pupils had the opportunity to ask questions and learn first-hand about British Values.

Government policy to move all schools towards becoming academies is one the governors regularly review. The governors are always guided by the principles that they must act with the best interests of our school and our pupils in mind. The governors have considered becoming part of a MAT (a Multi Academy Trust) but are not convinced by the arguments which put financial interests above the needs of children. Currently the governors are considering moving toward an Umbrella Trust with several local Catholic schools where the possibility of a dedicated staff to St Joseph's would remain a priority and difficulties of being an outpost of a much larger organisation could be avoided.

The governors recognise the challenges of the next few years, especially in terms of tightening budgets, but will continue to work with the school to ensure that our children have the best opportunities for personal development and academic success.

M Lawrence

Mr M Lawrence
Chair of Governors

