

**September 2017**

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the new academic year everyone, especially our new children and their families. Sorry the newsletter is so long – there seems to be a lot to say!

The calendar is updated every month so please check.

**DIARY OF EVENTS – AUTUMN 2017**

<b>SEPTEMBER 2017</b>	
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Education Sunday Mass in church
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Student Voice Elections this week
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	am Bexley Selections Tests at a local Test Centre Year 4 Trip to Crofton Roman Villa – Romans Topic Mindfulness Assemblies – assemblies to support emotional wellbeing
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Last date for letter and application form to Fr Ignatius (Year 3 and any other children) for First Holy Communion
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Start collecting for Harvest
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am – Harvest Assemblies – Salvation Army
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Tapestry Information Meeting for parents of children in Reception class 7.30 pm – Holy Communion meeting for parents at church (compulsory)
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mindfulness Pupil Workshops Junior Road Safety Officers in Years 5 and 6 to attend Bexley JRSO welcome event
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	2.45 pm – Meet the Teacher – Year 1
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Water Science Theme Day – Years R-6 2.45 pm – Meet the Teacher – Year 4
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	E-Safety Day – children, staff and parents to receive safety training 2.45 pm – Meet the Teacher – Year 3 7.00 pm – E-Safety parents meeting – come along to find out about social media and how you can keep children safe online
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am – Year 3 Class Assembly – parents invited 2.45 pm – Meet the Teacher - Year 5
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am – Head's Coffee Morning – supporting Macmillan Cancer Mindfulness Pupil Workshops 2.45 pm – Meet the Teacher – Year 6
<b>OCTOBER 2017</b>	
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Black History Month 2.45 pm – Meet the Teacher – Year 2 7.00 pm – School Journey Meeting for parents and children in Year 6 – Mrs Sinclair, Mrs Truss, Mrs Brady and Mrs Churchill
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	3.30 pm – Meet the SENDCo – letters to follow

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am – Rosary before school in Prayer Room – parents and children invited 7.00 pm Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) – all parents invited to get involved in organising fundraising
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Black History Month Assemblies – led by CARJ
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am – Year 1 and 6 Class Mass in Church – parents invited Mindfulness Pupil Workshops Presentation of Longman Cup re Spring Bulb Display
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Trip to Royal Observatory – Stargazers Topic 2.15 pm – Parent Induction Meeting for parent helpers
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am – Rosary before school in Prayer Room – parents and children invited
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 trip to Natural History Museum – Tremors Topic
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 trip to Hever Castle – Knights, Castles and Kings Topic 8.30 am – Rosary before school in Prayer Room – parents and children invited
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am – Year 4 Class Assembly – parents invited Year 5 and 6 Able Writers Day – selected pupils
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Trip to Museum of Kent Life – Read All About 'Animals'
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am – Rosary before school in Prayer Room – parents and children invited Year 6 School Journey
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 School Journey Mindfulness Pupil Workshops
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 School Journey
<b>HALF TERM</b>	
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017</b>	
<b>NOVEMBER 2017</b>	
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	9.15 am – Holy Day of Obligation Mass – Feast of All Saints in church – parents invited
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.15 am - Year 5 Class Assembly – parents invited
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Nasal Flu Vaccinations – Year R, 1, 2, 3 and 4 in school – letters to be sent home
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am – Year 6 Class Assembly – parents invited
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	SWAC Team – Environmental Workshops all day Mindfulness Pupil Workshops
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Anti-Bullying Week – All Different All Equal
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Open Morning for prospective parents 9.15 am presentation followed by a guided tour – let friends know
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Eco-Warrior Workshop
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Children wear own clothes – bring a bottle for St Mary of the Crays Christmas Bazaar
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	St Mary of the Crays Christmas Bazaar
<b>DECEMBER 2017</b>	
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm – 3.00 pm - Years 5 and 6 Carolthon at Bexleyheath Broadway
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	3.30 pm – 6.30 pm - Open Evening – appointments to be sent nearer the time
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	3.30 pm – 6.30 pm - Open Evening – appointments to be sent nearer the time
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am – Years 3 and 4 Class Mass in church – parents invited

Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm – Infant Nativity – Years R, 1 and 2 – parent invited – ticket only event – look out for information nearer the time
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Party Day – children to wear own clothes, school Christmas dinner
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>1.30 pm</b> - Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Carol Service – parents invited
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	CRIBS Christmas Play
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Last day of term
<b>Christmas Holidays</b> <b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017 – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018</b> <b>(children return on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018)</b>	

**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 Contact <a href="http://www.profutuessoccer.com">www.profutuessoccer.com</a> 01322 278677	3.15 – 4.30 pm 11 <sup>th</sup> September – 11 <sup>th</sup> December
	Orchestra – Mrs Martin Please contact via your child's Contact Book	3.15 – 4.15 pm 18 <sup>th</sup> September – 11 <sup>th</sup> December
Wednesdays	Dance Club – Mrs Sweeting Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 Contact 07984 952445	3.15 – 4.15 pm 13 <sup>th</sup> September – 13 <sup>th</sup> December
	Tiny Artists (contact club directly) <a href="mailto:phoebefricker@googlemail.com">phoebefricker@googlemail.com</a> Contact 07891 733059 – Phoebe Fricker	3.15 – 4.15 pm 13 <sup>th</sup> September – 13 <sup>th</sup> December
Thursdays	Pro Futures Football Club Years 1 and 2 Contact <a href="http://www.profutuessoccer.com">www.profutuessoccer.com</a> 01322 278677	3.15 – 4.30 pm 14 <sup>th</sup> September – 14 <sup>th</sup> December
	Mathletics – Mrs Vidler Please contact via your child's Contact Book	3.15 – 4.15 pm 21 <sup>st</sup> September – 14 <sup>th</sup> December
	Choir – Mrs Martin Please contact via your child's Contact Book	12.45 pm – 1.15 pm 15 <sup>th</sup> September – end of term
Fridays	Football Club – Mr Hobson Years 6	3.15 – 4.20 pm 15 <sup>th</sup> September – 15 <sup>th</sup> December
	Netball Club – Mrs May Years 5 and 6 Please contact via your child's Contact Book	3.15 – 4.15 pm 15 <sup>th</sup> September – 15 <sup>th</sup> December

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](mailto:kids@smileyark.com)





## Keeping Children Safe in Education

Child Protection and Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. The school policy is on our website and the contact telephone number for Social Care is displayed on the Parent Board. Any safeguarding concerns should be brought to the attention of Mrs Sinclair as 'Designated Lead' or in her absence, Mrs Truss or Mrs Partridge.

One of the biggest concerns at St Joseph's is the use of technology and social media outside of school. Parents must be very proactive in monitoring what children send and receive. To support parents, Mrs Truss has organised a parents' information meeting on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017. This meeting would be particularly useful for parents who have not heard our guest CEOPs speaker Mr Wilson give this presentation.

## Meet the Teacher Meetings

These meetings provide an opportunity to put a face to the name of your child's class teacher. The half hour meeting will give an overview of the curriculum covered over the year, discuss homework expectations and class routines.



- Year 1 - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 2.45 pm
- Year 2 – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 at 2.45 pm
- Year 3- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 2.45 pm
- Year 4 - Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 2.45 pm
- Year 5 – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 2.45 pm
- Year 6 – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 2.45 pm
- Meet the SENDCo – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 at 3.30 pm

Individual Open Evenings are later in the Autumn Term. If you have any queries don't forget to use the Contact Books.



## Science Water Theme Day - Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017

This is our first theme day for this academic year. Every child will have the opportunity to take part in water focussed science investigations and work with the 'Sublime Science Team' whose mission is to make science 'awesome'. A £2 voluntary donation is requested to help meet some of the costs for this day. Every child will make and take home some slime.

## Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September – 9.00 am in the School Hall

Come and join other parents and staff for coffee and cake, as part of Macmillan's 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning'. All donations of cake appreciated, fake or bake! All money raised will go to Macmillan to support someone affected by cancer.



## **EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

### Data Collection Sheet - updates

It is essential that we hold up to date and accurate information. 'The Data Collection Sheet' must have a minimum of three emergency contacts, telephone numbers and addresses. All sections must be completed. Medical Practice and Medical Conditions must be completed. If no conditions are known, please write 'none known'. This data collection sheet will be sent out on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 for updating. Please complete and return, even if there are no changes by Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at the latest.



## **Infant Dismissal**

Infant parents are asked to stand back so children and teachers have a clear view of adults waiting. Once you have collected your child(ren) please make your way behind other adults to exit the playground, so the view remains clear for other parents. Please don't stand in the walkway.



Parents are asked to leave the playground promptly and to supervise their children at all times. Playing and running around are discouraged as this can cause upset and distraction to other families.

If you are late picking up your child(ren) they will be taken up to the School Office.

## **Absences/Lates**

Please ring the office (leave a message – Option 1 on the answerphone before 8.30 am) to give details of why your child is not in school. If the school does not hear from you we will consider this a safeguarding matter and contact you.



The gate closes at 8.55 am and children are officially late once the registers have been taken. For any lateness after 9.15 am, the children will be marked absent for that session. Being late is unsettling for your child and impacts on their learning and self-esteem. It really is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that children are on time. The office has noted it is often the same families. Please make every effort to be on time.



## **School Fund and School Funding in General**

As many of you are aware from the news, school funding is extremely tight but St Joseph's is determined to ensure your children have the 'best' not the 'cheapest' offer.

Parents can help by:

- Contributing the **£20** per family for school fund, much less than many schools.
- If you have the time, by offering to help with reading support once a week.
- Making sure that if you are entitled to Free School Meals, you register this, even if your child has a packed lunch or is in an infant class and gets a free school meal anyway.

Thousands of pounds of extra funding is available to schools via this funding stream called Pupil Premium. St Joseph's appears to have less funding than would be expected and therefore the conclusion is that parents are not claiming what they are entitled to.

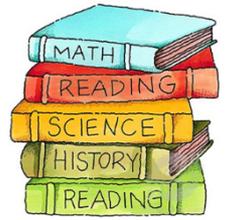
Pupil Premium supported students not only benefit the school's funding in general but there are also individual advantages in terms of subsidised trips, free music lessons and priority 1:1 tuition, whatever ability your child is. I have attached a Free School Meal application form for further information and for completion if you are entitled.

- Getting involved with and supporting the Parents and Teachers Association (PTA)



## **Homework – Some Changes**

**Reading** Don't forget reading every night and sign the Reading Record Book. Looking at the reading ages of our last Year 6 class. Children who had the advantage of being heard read every night gained an extra 5 years of reading progress.



**Writing** Parental and child feedback suggested the write and rewrite exercise had run its course. The English homework will now be to complete 'English Skills Workbooks' focusing on spelling, punctuation and grammar.

**Spelling** homework will be the National Curriculum spelling list for your child's year group. The practice will be a few spellings over and over again until the spellings are well and truly embedded for the long term.

**Maths** homework and **RE** homework remains unchanged. See teachers' weekly planner for details.



## **Infant Playground Refurbishment**

As you may remember from the last summer term letter, the infant playground was due to be re-surfaced during the summer holidays. Unfortunately the builders got behind on another project and our work has been delayed until the October half term.

## **Pupil Post**

The vast majority of communication between school and home takes place via pupil post. Parents need to be proactive in checking book bags on a daily basis.

Please be mindful that all reply slips and payments for trips etc, should be put in an envelope correctly labelled and returned via pupil post i.e. in book bags. Please make your child(ren) aware that there is an envelope to hand in.



## **'Be Proud' – The London Borough of Bexley is Looking for Local Heroes**

If you know someone who might qualify for Civic recognition please go to [www.bexley.gov.uk/civicawards](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/civicawards) The closing date is 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017.

## **School Lunches**

Menus are available on the school website. Parents who choose packed lunches are reminded that the school operates a no nut policy to safeguard children with allergies.



## **Homework – Holiday Diary**

Well done to all the children who have already brought in their summer holiday project. I have enjoyed reading your postcards.



## **Parent Helpers – Getting Desperate!!!**

The school would greatly appreciate parent help, especially with hearing children read. If you have a few hours a week spare, please consider volunteering your time. **Please write**, care of the school office, expressing your interest, giving an indication of when you would be available, requests to be sent in by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Parents do not usually support their own child's class. Parent support is also needed for occasional class trips, please write and let us know if you are able to volunteer. All parent helpers need a DBS check which requires proof of identity and a police check. The school will pay for this check to be carried out.



## **PTA**



The Parents' and Teachers' Association are a fund raising and social event organising group. The PTA is holding its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 7.00 pm in the school hall. This meeting will review the work over the last year and ask for people to step forward and support the association in various roles. It will also start to plan the year ahead. They would really welcome new members, say a

couple of representatives from each year group. Please come along, as many hands make light work!

For further information, please contact Ms Hadley or Mrs Short c/o school office.

- Get involved with the PTA lottery. For further information or to sign up please visit [www.yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk)
- A few Pantomime tickets are left at greatly reduced prices. Leaflets are available from the school office.
- The PTA has launched its own Facebook page at 'Sjs Pta Crayford'. Please take a look to keep up to date with the latest news on fundraising events.

## **Book Bags**

Parental feedback has suggested we move to the same book bag for infants and juniors the junior book bags being more robust. Therefore from this letter the office will only stock one type of book bag for all students. Old style book bags will continue as part of the school uniform until they naturally phase out. We are currently waiting for stock to come in and a note will be sent out when they arrive.



## **Attendance**

64 children received the 100% attendance badges for not missing a single day off school last year. Congratulations. Wear your badges with pride.

## Uniform

The children look very smart on their return to school. Thank you. Please note that hair accessories should be kept simple and match school uniform colours. Please avoid fashion statements, hair dye and inappropriate hair styles and beads.



If you are going to purchase a new coat for the colder months, please ensure it is suitable for school with no logos. Sweatshirts and hoodies are not allowed.

Don't forget PE kits. The teaching timetable starts very promptly and many children need PE kits straight away. Plain dark tracksuits are advisable for all age groups. Mrs May, our Sports Premium Teacher has asked that all children in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 have trainers for games lessons. Year 1 they may wear either plimsolls or trainers with no laces.

## Secondary Transfer 2017/2018 (Year 6 children)

In July, the 'Admission to Secondary Schools in Bexley 2018' was distributed detailing admission criteria and dates/times of open school sessions. If you wish to visit a secondary school during the school day, please put a note in your child's contact book and let the school office know.



Parents are reminded that the closing date for secondary applications is the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017 and it is important you don't miss the deadline. Apply online go to [www.bexley.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/admissions) and follow the links. If you do not live in Bexley you must apply to your own Local Authority.



## Term Dates – 2016/2017

Please find attached our term dates for 2016-2017 for your information.

## Year 3 First Holy Communion

If you wish your child to make their First Holy Communion, parents must contact Fr Ignatius at St Mary of the Crays. Fr Ignatius has asked that an application form and supporting letter be returned to him by Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September. The first parent meeting is at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Attendance at this meeting is compulsory.



## Curriculum Overviews - Attached

Do take the time to talk to your children about their projects as it reinforces the work they have done in school time.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Sinclair  
Head Teacher

