



October 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

OCTOBER 2017	
Monday 2 nd	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 rd	3.30 pm – Meet the SENDCo – letters to follow
Wednesday 4 th	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 th	Black History Month Assemblies – led by CARJ
Friday 6 th	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 th	Year 5 Trip to Royal Observatory – Stargazers Topic 2.15 pm – Parent Induction Meeting for parent helpers
Wednesday 11 th	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 th	9.15 am – Year 4 Class Assembly – parents invited Year 5 and 6 Able Writers Day – invited pupils
Friday 13 th	Year 1 Trip to Museum of Kent Life – Read All About 'Animals'
Wednesday 18 th	8.30 am – Rosary before school in Prayer Room – parents and children invited Year 6 School Journey
Thursday 19 th	Year 6 School Journey 2.00 pm – 4.30 pm Years 3 and 4 Handball Tournament at St Columba's
Friday 20 th	9.15 am – Year 5 and 2 Class Mass in church – parents invited Year 6 School Journey
HALF TERM	
Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October 2017	
Monday 30 th	School Photographer – smart winter uniform please!

NOVEMBER 2017	
Wednesday 1 st	9.15 am – Holy Day of Obligation Mass – Feast of All Saints in church – parents invited Townley Grammar Science Workshop – invited children
Thursday 2 nd	9.15 am - Year 5 Class Assembly – parents invited Guest Speaker visiting Year 4 – Harley Davison American bike rider
Monday 6 th	Each class to bring in 'junk' for recycling as advised in separate letter Year 5 and 6 Team Sports All Athletics competition at Townley Grammar - tbc
Wednesday 8 th	Nasal Flu Vaccinations – Year R, 1, 2, 3 and 4 in school – letters to be sent home
Thursday 9 th	9.15 am – Year 6 Class Assembly – parents invited Year 3 'Animal Days Out' – a workshop in school
Friday 10 th	SWAC Team – Environmental Workshops all day Mindfulness Pupil Workshops Year 5 and 6 Team Tag Rugby Fun – Old Dartfordians After School Discos organised by the PTA (letter to follow): - 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm - Infants - 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm – Juniors
Monday 13 th	Anti-Bullying Week – All Different All Equal
Tuesday 14 th	Open Morning for prospective parents 9.15 am presentation followed by a guided tour – let friends know
Wednesday 15 th	Year 6 Girls Football Team away game at Northumberland Heath
Thursday 16 th	3.00 pm – 4.30 pm – Year 5 and 6 Handball Tournament
Friday 17 th	Eco-Warrior Workshop
Monday 20 th	Internal Test Week
Friday 24 th	Children wear own clothes – bring a bottle for St Mary of the Crays Christmas Bazaar
Saturday 25 th	St Mary of the Crays Christmas Bazaar
Monday 27 th	Year 3 and 4 team Speed Stacker competition at Hurstmere 7.00 pm – PTA meeting
Wednesday 29 th	Townley Science Club – invite only
Thursday 30 th	St Andrew's Day – clubs wear own clothes (Beavers, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies)
DECEMBER 2017	
Tuesday 5 th	2.30 pm – 3.00 pm - Years 5 and 6 Carolthon at Bexleyheath Broadway
Wednesday 6 th	3.30 pm – 6.30 pm - Open Evening – appointments to be sent nearer the time
Thursday 7 th	Year 5 boys invite to St Columba's to meet leading author – Dan Freeman 3.30 pm – 6.30 pm - Open Evening – appointments to be sent nearer the time
Friday 8 th	9.15 am – Years 3 and 4 Class Mass in church – parents invited
Monday 11 th	2.30 pm – Infant Nativity – Years R, 1 and 2 – parent invited – ticket only event – look out for information nearer the time
Tuesday 12 th	pm – Christmas Show – Beauty and the Beast at school
Wednesday 13 th	Christmas Party Day – children to wear own clothes, school Christmas dinner 1.30 pm - Christmas Discos
Monday 18 th	1.30 pm - Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Carol Service – parents invited
Tuesday 19 th	CRIBS Christmas Play
Wednesday 21 st	Last day of term

Christmas Holidays
Wednesday 21st December 2017 – Tuesday 2nd January 2018
(children return on Wednesday 3rd January 2018)

JANUARY 2018

Wednesday 3 rd	Children return to school
Thursday 9 th	Year 4 Trip – Blue Reef Sea Life Centre, Hastings
Friday 12 th	9.15 am – Year 3 and 4 Class Mass in church – parents invited
Thursday 18 th	9.15 am – Year 6 Class Assembly – parents invited 2.00 pm – 3.30 pm – Basketball Competition
Wednesday 24 th	Year 5 Trip – Hall Place
Thursday 25 th	9.15 am – Year 1 Class Assembly – parents invited
Wednesday 31 st	Townley Science Club – invited pupils only
FEBRUARY 2018	
Friday 2 nd	PTA Quiz Night – keep the date!

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



NEWSLETTER



Norovirus

Please be advised that whilst we seem to be over the worst of the sickness bug in school, parents must still be vigilant. It is absolutely critical to keep your child off school for 48 hours, even if they appear to be well. Fruit break re-starts from Monday 9th October 2017. Thank you for your co-operation.

Parents and Teachers Association (PTA)

The Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday. Mrs Hadley was re-elected as Chair, Mr Price stood down as joint Secretary, however Mrs Short will continue along with newly elected Ms Crawley. Mrs Beard stepped down as Vice Chair and Mrs Harris was elected. Mrs Roze was re-elected as Treasurer. A number of parents stepped forward as Committee members and other parents offered to support school events.



I would like to say a massive thank you to all Committee members for their support of the school on everyone's behalf. Their next big project is the refurbishment of the infant playground and the launching of 'Tuck Shop Friday'. Watch this space!

The donations to school last year included: cameras, Leavers' Books, extra outdoor electrical sockets.



Gold Award – Promoting Healthy and Safe Travel to School

After a very busy calendar of events year on year, the schools efforts have now been recognised with the award of a 'Gold Star' for our Travel Plan. I would like to thank staff for the time, energy and commitment needed to organise Big Breakfasts, Pedestrian Road Safety training, Cycle Training, Scooter Schools, Competitions ...

Thank You

Thank you for the marvellous response to our harvest collection. The harvest display reminded the children to give thanks for the wonderful bounty God gives us. The food was donated to the local food bank. Officers from the Salvation Army spoke to all the children about the meaning of Harvest in assemblies this month.



£137.00 was raised at the Macmillan 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' last week by staff and parents. Tea and cake were enjoyed by all. Particular thanks to parents who contributed such stunning home baked creations (Ms Pulford's fresh cream and strawberry sponge cake is hard to beat!).

The children also displayed their own 'Great St Joseph's Bake Off' designs in the school hall. Many well designed and very tasty!





School Fund Contributions

Thank you to those parents who have already paid the school fund. If you still need to pay, please send your £20 school fund contribution as soon as possible. We rely on parents to send this amount in at the beginning of the Autumn Term. The money collected is for the extra expenses the school has to incur during the year, this includes end of term treats, discos, subsidy for outings, in-school guest speakers and theatre productions.

Secondary Transfer 2018 (Year 6 children)

Parents are reminded that the closing date for secondary applications is the 31st October 2017.



Your Appointment

Date: _____ Time: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Medical Letters for Absence

Please be advised that parents who take their children out of school for medical, dental, optician or hospital appointments will be asked to bring in the appointment card/letter so that this may be placed on their child's file.

Also, I would like to remind parents, that after any absence a note in the Contact Book confirming reasons for the absence should be written to the class teacher so that the teacher is aware of any issues/support that needs to be put in place.

Emergency Contact Information and Nasal Flu Vaccinations

If you haven't already done so, please could you return your Emergency Contact details back via your child as a matter of urgency please so we can update our computer records. Also for children in Years R-4, please could you return your Nasal Flu Vaccination form. Thank you.

Winter Uniform

Please be advised that after half term, winter uniform must be worn. Please remember to label all uniform. A reminder of the school uniform is on the parents' noticeboard and school website. The children look very smart in their uniform and the wearing of school coloured hair bands completes the overall look. Your co-operation is appreciated.



Primary Reception Places – September 2018

The Bexley online site has now opened – www.bexley.gov.uk/admissions (for Bexley residents) and <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places> (The application period for Kent residents opens on 6th November 2017 and closes on 15th January 2018).

The school will hold an information and Open Morning on Tuesday 14th November 2017. A 9.15 am presentation by the Head Teacher will be followed by a guided tour of the school. Please remind friends and neighbours to put this date in their diary. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2018.

New Mandarin Teacher

St Joseph's welcomes Ms Chen who will be offering Mandarin language enrichment this year.

WELCOME





Love in a Box

Following the success of previous years, St Joseph's is again taking part in the fundraising event for disadvantaged children in the world. A 'Love in a Box' leaflet is attached. Please note that the donation needed in order to send your shoe box overseas is £4.00 (per shoe box). Please put your donation in the pre-printed envelope supplied with the leaflets (attached). We urge all families to take part in this exciting Christmas appeal. Boxes need to be back at school by Friday 3rd November 2017. Thank you in advance for your support.

School Lunch Menu

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



Term Dates – 2018-2019

Please find attached the holiday dates for the academic year 2018-2019 for your information.

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. September's winners were:

Year R	-	-	-
Year 1	Fiyin	Ashleen	Jude
Year 2	Daniel P	Kosi	Yuki
Year 3	Julia	Clodagh	Isaac
Year 4	Imani	Aimee	-
Year 5	Emma	Carissa	Adolph
Year 6	Chidera	Jessica	Francesca



Yours sincerely

Mrs J Sinclair
Head Teacher