



The Federated Schools of St Joseph's Catholic Infants
and St Joseph's Catholic Juniors



Juniors Weekly Newsletter

Email: school@stjosephsjun.waltham.sch.uk

Phone: 0208 539 5971

Issue 14

Friday 10th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we lit our second Advent candle which is a symbol of peace. The second week of Advent is a time to put aside our differences and bring about peace in our hearts, lives and the world we live in. At times, the world can appear full of conflict, conflict between countries, cultures, religions, friends, partners and neighbours. Christmas is a time to reflect on how God sent his only Son who was titled 'Prince of Peace' to bring peace and love to our world. The challenge now for us is to see how we have to act as agents of peace in our own lives. Sometimes this means taking the first step to saying sorry but also always being willing to forgive those who have wronged us. As we journey towards Christmas, let us pray for peace around us and in the lives of our children.

Christmas festivities filled the air with our arts and crafts afternoon in the Juniors as well as the Christmas bauble workshop in the Infants. The Infant school also enjoyed their Christmas lunch and festive dress up day and had a wonderful day. The Junior school will have theirs next week. On Friday our Infant children also performed their Nativity to their siblings in the Juniors school. It was a wonderful afternoon for the two schools to come together.

Next week is our final week in school and please remember the early finish on Friday for all year groups. Children return to school on January 5th.

Have a restful weekend,

God bless,

Mrs D'Souza and all the staff at St Josephs'

Upcoming Dates

PE Days

Year 3 & 6 Wednesday and Friday
Year 4 & 5 Tuesday and Friday

Going Forth Mass at Church

Sunday December 12th 2021 at
10am

For Children and Parents.

Non Uniform Day

Friday 17th December - £2 donation

School Closes for Christmas Holiday

Friday December 17th 2021
(Staggered finish times)

Reception – 1pm
Nursery pm 1:30pm
Year 1&2 – 1:15pm
Year 3&4 – 1:30pm
Year 5&6 – 1:45pm

Inset Day

Tuesday 4th January 2022
(No school)

School Re- Opens

Wednesday 5th January 2022

Recent Updates

Panto Day free for all those eligible for benefits-related free school meals



Waltham Forest are putting on a range of winter activities that are free to those children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals. There are still limited spaces (for children aged 8 upwards) available for the opportunity to go along and take part in a morning of wonderful activities which will include learning a song from the panto, costume design and dance routines. Following a fun morning, children will be able to watch the Dick Whittington Panto at Leyton Great Hall. Children will also be provided with a free hot lunch during the session. This is a fantastic opportunity that we would not want our families to miss out on. For more information on how to book a place, please go to: <http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/holidays>

Attendance Matters



Any absence requests taken directly before or after a school holiday (including Christmas) will go unauthorised unless there are extenuating circumstances. Now that we are back in school, it is important that children maintain high attendance to allow them to reach their full potential and avoid falling any further behind in their learning. If you have concerns that your child may have Covid-19, please get a PCR test as soon as possible and follow the 10 days isolation rule for a positive result or return to school for a negative result.

Sickness and Absence

Sickness and Absence Please make sure that you call the school office every day that your child is sick or absent from school. Messages can be left on the answer machine which should make the procedure much easier. If you do not contact the school when your child is absent, you will receive a phone call from the school office in line with our safeguarding procedures.

Coat Collection



We have lots of unclaimed coats without names building up in lost property which we would like to return to their owners. We will be putting these out at the end of the day for parents to have a look through and collect. Please remember social distancing when looking through the coats and please wear your mask before entering the school playground. Please make sure to write the name of your child on their clothing as this makes it much easier to return them in the future. Thank you.

Holy Communion



Please can parents who want to apply for their child to have their First Holy Communion please collect a form from the Junior's office. Thank you.

Birthdays

Happy birthday to

Samanta 4K
Lorenzo 4K
Amber 4K
David-Andrei 5S
Emilia 6T
Simeon 6H



Attendance

Well done to **4T** for having the highest attendance this week-! Keep it up!



Office Hours

Please be aware that the school office opening hours are now from:

8:00 to 8:30 am

9:00 to 3:30 pm

If you need to report an absence, please contact the school office on 0208 539 5971.

Safeguarding

Please remember that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and schools have a responsibility to promote and protect the welfare of our children. If you have a concern regarding the safety of any child, please speak immediately to a member of our school safeguarding team. Any discussions are treated in confidence.

The designated Safeguarding Team at St. Joseph's Junior School is:

Mrs D'Souza	Headteacher
Mrs Subebe	Assist. Headteacher/ SENDCo
Mrs Carmody	Year 5/6 Phase Lead
Mrs Le	Year 3/4 Phase Lead
Ms Poku	Year 5 Class Teacher

In the event of a safeguarding emergency, please contact the MASH team at Waltham Forest.

Telephone: 020 8496 2310

Email: MASHrequests@walthamforest.gov.uk

Preparedness for cases of the Omicron variant

At present, all probable cases of Omicron are being investigated very intensively, and the legal requirements around isolation are greater than the current rules for general COVID. As of yesterday, there were 9 confirmed cases across London, meaning that a Waltham Forest case is quite likely in the next couple of weeks. You should be aware of the following: Any contact of a case of probable Omicron COVID is legally required to isolate for 10 days from the point of last contact. This is regardless of age and of vaccination status.

Should a case of Omicron be linked to our school, the local authority will aim to provide as much support as possible around handling the situation, communications, and necessary public health actions.

We continue to encourage staff, pupils and families to test at home for Covid in light of the rapidly increasing infections.

Overseas travel – Everyone (including those who are fully vaccinated) must quarantine and take a PCR test before the end of day 2 after they arrive in England (lateral flow tests will not be accepted). This rule applies to adults and to children aged 5 to 17. This means that pupils will generally not be able to return to school in the first 3 days after their return to England. There are different rules if you have been in a red list country in the 10 days before you arrive in England. For more information please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/red-list-of-countries-and-territories>.

Please consider carefully before choosing to go abroad as this will mean more time lost from school where children have already missed so much time in school.

Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia have all moved to the travel red list. You can only enter England from these countries if you are a UK or Irish resident. You must quarantine in a managed hotel on arrival and take 2 COVID-19 tests.

Attending Meetings and School Events

In line with our revised COVID risk assessment, please abide by the following rules when attending any school event or meeting to reduce numbers and the risk of infection:

- Only one parent/carer to attend a parent meeting for each child
- Only two parent/ carers to attend an outdoor event
- All parents / carers must wear a face covering (to reduce the spread of infection)
- Any parents/ carers who have tested positive for Covid must self-isolate and not attend
- Any symptomatic/unwell visitors should avoid attending. This would be for any symptoms, including headache, sore throat, other cold or flu-like symptoms, not just the traditional 3 symptoms of COVID.
- Any visitor sharing a household with a positive case of COVID (during their 10 days of isolation) to avoid attending, even if not legally required to self-isolate.

We strongly advise all visitors to take a Lateral Flow test on the day of the event prior to visiting. In the event that guidance changes and we are not able to hold the meeting in person, we will record the meeting/ events for you to access online and you can email any questions you have to the school office at: school@stjosephsjun.waltham.sch.uk .

Congratulations to those children who have gone above and beyond in their learning this week. Great job and keep up the good work!

3T: Savelija, Nikodem

4K: Samanta, Lorenzo

4T: Alexandra, Jake

5S: Dawid, Nathalie

6T: Nirushka, Bradley

6M: Ronan, Lina