



# St Joseph's Primary School Newsletter

## A New Year!

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year on behalf of the staff of St Joseph's. We move into a new year with confidence that it will hold great achievements and happiness for our children and their families.

As always in St Joseph's we have the attainment and wellbeing of your children at the centre of everything we do. If you would like to contact us regarding any concerns or questions then please feel free to call the office 0141 570 7380 or email [headteacher@st-josephs.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@st-josephs.e-renfrew.sch.uk)

We look forward to a happy, successful 2018 in St Joseph's and we thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Suzanne Martin  
Head Teacher

## A special blessing

On Monday 15th January we had a very special visit from Bishop John Keenan. Bishop John spoke with all the children during 2 special assemblies and blessed our school and Parish as we start out on a new chapter in the St Joseph's story. Bishop John will return to St Joseph's after Easter to meet with our P7 Confirmandi.



## Daily Mile

Thank you to all our parents who turned up to support the launch of our Daily Mile. The feedback from the children and staff was very positive and hopefully we will be able to see the benefits of this initiative in the near future!



January/February  
2018



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## Building works

Over the next few weeks we will be undertaking a programme of painting and flooring works. The children's toilets will be painted and new flooring will be put down, management offices will also be painted and floored as well as all staff toilets. The children are delighted that they were able to pick the colour scheme for their toilets and I am sure, lilac, baby pink and light blue will look lovely in the respective toilets! In addition, our main reception will be repainted and a new seating area will be put into place.

East Renfrewshire Education department have also confirmed that our MUGA will be resurfaced with astro turf. This should take place after the Easter break, our children are very excited about this!! Work has already started on a new drainage system in our infant playground so hopefully we will be able to use all areas of the school grounds.



## 1+2 Languages



As part of the authorities provision for foreign languages we currently have two Foreign Language assistants with us on a Thursday (French and German).

Our French FLA will be supporting P7 in French Lessons and running fortnightly French Club on Thursday Lunchtimes until May.

Our German FLA is currently providing support for P5 and will then work with P4. She will also be organising a weekly German Club on Thursday lunchtimes for P4 + P5 until mid March.

We also hope to have a Portuguese FLA starting in March who will co-run a Masterclass with Miss Fusaro.

## Catholic Education Week



This year the theme we are focusing on for Catholic Education Week 2018 is

"Serving the Common Good"

St Joseph's staff and children will be exploring this theme through many activities. We have invited visitors to work with a number of classes. In particular Primary 3 and 4 will be working with the Salesian Sisters. Sr Bernie and Sr Gill will be working with classes to celebrate 100 years of Catholic Education in Scotland. They will be focusing on the dream of Don Bosco to help us reflect on how we can educate and bring out the best in others. The Primary 5, 6 and 7 children will be working with Archdiocese of Glasgow Arts Project co-ordinator Stephen Callaghan on 'The Joy of the Gospel'. They will be participating in faith based drama and discussing their faith and the impact that faith can have on communities.

Through exploring the themes taught, children will write a practical action they could take to live this theme in their everyday lives.

*"What makes the Catholic school distinctive is its attempt to generate a community climate that is permeated by the Gospel spirit of freedom and love"*

*Declaration on Christian Education (Gravissimum Educationis), 1965*

### Class Blogs

Our Teachers are updating class blogs on a regular basis so please make sure you log in and have a peak at what your child has been learning.



Please follow us on Twitter @StJosephsERC Get the inside track on your child's school day by following our up to date tweets.

## Outdoor Learning

It's been a very exciting time for outdoor learning this term. We have purchased waterproof all in one outdoor suits and wellington boot stands for the infant children to allow us to access outdoor learning in all weather. Our outdoor storage shed has arrived and will be assembled in the next couple of weeks. We're looking forward to storing and having easy access to all our new construction equipment and loose parts. Learning outside the classroom supports the development of healthy and active lifestyles by offering children opportunities for physical activity, freedom and movement, assessing risk and promoting a sense of well-being. In our outdoor settings, we have observed that the children are more motivated to work together in groups helping to improve their social skills. They have been learning to manage conflicts, communicate, and cooperate with their peers in a more effective manner.



## Parent Council

St Joseph's Parent Council are very active and committed to improving outcomes for our children. The next Parent council meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th February at 7pm in St Ninian's high School. We would be delighted to welcome any Parent/ Carer who is interested in joining the Parent Council or if you would like more information then please come along.

## Picking up your child

Can you please ensure you pick your child up at the end of the school day. Failure to pick your child up on time can cause unnecessary stress and anxiety for your child. We also can not guarantee that there will be an adult present in the building after 3.05pm to look after your child.

## Road Safety

Please help us keep your children safe when coming to and from school. If children are walking please ensure they cross at a safe place, do not have head phones in and do not cross behind parked cars.

If you drive your child to and from school I would ask that you avoid parking close to pedestrian crossings as this can block the line of vision for children crossing.

Walking to school or parking and striding are always the preferable options and support your child's health and wellbeing!

## 2018 Centenary

In 2018 we will reach the centenary of the 1918 Education Act. This was the Act that saw Catholic schools transfer from Diocesan control to State governance.

During 2018 we will rejoice in the academic, cultural, civic and social achievements of pupils who have attended Catholic schools in the last one hundred years. It is a chance to mark publicly the ways in which Catholic schools are not just good for Catholics, but good for Scotland.



## Dates for your diary

Date	Time	Event	Stage
Sunday 28 Jan	10am	Education Sunday Mass—St Joseph's Parish	All Welcome
Tuesday 30 Jan	2pm	P5 Class Mass	P5 and Parents
Thursday 1 Feb	12.35pm	German club	P4 and P5
Friday 2 Feb	3.10pm	Football Club	P3 and P4
Friday 2 Feb	7pm	Scottish Family Night (St Joseph's Church hall)	
Tuesday 6 Feb	7pm	Parent Council St Ninian's High	All welcome
Thursday 8 Feb	12.35pm	German club	P4 and P5
Friday 9 Feb	<b>In Service Day</b>		
Monday 12 Feb	<b>Holiday</b>		
Tuesday 13 Feb	<b>Holiday</b>		
Wednesday 14 Feb	9.30am	Ash Wednesday prayer service	P1-P7
Thursday 15 Feb	12.35pm	German club	P4 and P5
Friday 16 Feb	3.10pm	Football Club	P3 and P4
Friday 16 Feb	9.30am	Baldy Bane Theatre Company	P6
Tuesday 20 Feb	8.15am	Lenten Mass - Gym hall	All welcome
Thursday 22 Feb	12.35pm	German club	P4 and P5
Friday 23 Feb	3.10pm	Football Club	P3 and P4
Sunday 25 Feb	All Masses	P4 mass of enrolment	P4 and parents
Tuesday 27 Feb	8.15am	Lenten Mass - Gym hall	All welcome
Tuesday 27 Feb	9.30am	Cross Country - Rouken Glen	Selected children
Tuesday 27 Feb	2pm	P3 class Mass	P3 and Parents
Wednesday 28 Feb	1.45pm	Masterclass Week 1	P1-7

[Excellent website for Literacy and Numeracy for all stages](http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/)

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