

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oxford

"Let us protect with love all that God has given us"

(Pope Francis 19.03.2013)

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18th January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a New Year at St Joseph's. We celebrated the Baptism of Our Lord where Jesus first received the gifts of the Holy Spirit, in assembly on Monday. We explored how the Holy Spirit can help to strengthen us in day to day life using his gifts, and we asked him to bless us with his gifts and work within us to be excellent ambassadors to God.



Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations,

Through Christ Our Lord,

Amen.

Snow

I would like to remind you that, in the event of snow, we will always try to open the school, particularly as we have so many parents who work at the hospital. I always need to take into account how many staff can safely get into school. Please do not call the school on a snowy morning, check the website and the County Council website, staying aware that there are many St Joseph's- you need to look for us specifically.

Parent Governor

Following the elections for a new parent governor, I am pleased to announce that Mr Robert Tomlinson, parent to Jesiah, Cecilia and Tiffany, in class 2S, RM and 6L, was elected; we welcome him to the governing board.

Family Links

We are pleased to be running our Family Links Nurturing course for parents and carers again this term. The sessions start on Tuesday 22nd January at 10am at New Marston School. Parents and Carers from St Joseph's can attend free of charge. There are still some places available, so if you are interested please speak to Kate Stratford our home/school link worker or speak to the Office.

Oxford Christmas Lunch

Many thanks to all the families who contributed to our collections for the Oxford Christmas lunch. This year we raised a fantastic £728.24. Below is an e-mail that I received from the organiser:

Dear Sue,

I wanted to let you know what a difference your incredibly generous donation made to our 600 guests on Christmas Day. It meant that we could buy the bright red mini marquee which was made to look really beautiful with the decorating skills of some of our volunteers. This became the hub for a lot of our guests coming from O' Hanlon House and the Gatehouse.

It also meant that we could have over 1000 flyers printed which were put through letterboxes in Blackbird Leys, Littlemore and Rose Hill. This resulted in a lot of vulnerable or lonely individuals ringing me to arrange to come to the meal.

As I said at your gorgeous carol service we also spend money on hats, gloves and socks to go in the goody bags. This year we also had the funds to do special goody bags for the rough sleepers who didn't come to the lunch - these included small sized toiletries and large sized chocolate bars!

This is a link to the very short film of the day in case you haven't seen it;

<https://www.facebook.com/oxfordchristmaslunch/videos/222171411994180/>

Huge thanks and Happy New Year

Sara Strong

I was very pleased to also speak to a regular rough sleeper outside Blackfriars, who I have spoken to for several years, and he said that he had attended the lunch and gone into the marquee because he does not like being with large crowds- so first hand evidence of the difference you made.

Last term also sent £375.70 to both Children in Need and CAFOD's Emergency Disaster Fund. Very well done to the Social Justice Group who arranged and ran this so well.

Chess

We have had some fantastic results in January! Several children attended the Oxfordshire County trials, which is also a schools competition. They all did extremely well and St Joseph's was the overall winner- congratulations to them all.

The girls' A & B teams travelled to Guildford last Sunday for a full day of chess. This competition is apparently the largest girls' chess competition in the World and there were 57 teams entered. The girls did exceptionally well with the A team just missing out on qualification for the National finals achieving 10th place. The B team also exceeded all expectations in coming 31st so I am very proud of them all. This was an U11 competition and several of our players were year 4 and below.

Kingswood residential 2019

If you would like your current year 4/5 child to go to Kingswood in September please make your £60 deposit payment via ParentPay. We would like to confirm final numbers by Monday 21st January. If you need longer to pay your deposit or need to discuss financial assistance, please contact Mrs Cooper in the School Office.

Absence Reminder

Could we please remind Parents/Carers that it is essential that all absences are reported to the school office for **each day** of absence in order to be recorded on the school registers. All absences are given the correct code are then applied by the office according to the reason as outlined by the DfE.

Should we have unexplained absences on the registers a letter is sent home with your child requesting the reason; these must be completed and returned to the office for entry onto the registration system. Please ensure that you complete and return any forms you have received requesting this information.

I am sure you will appreciate that we have a large number of pupils on role and following up non -attendance issues is very timely, your help and assistance in reporting absences would be very much appreciated.

New Independent Fostering Agency Information

Have you ever thought about becoming a foster carer? Family Tree Fostering are a brand new independent fostering agency who are looking for new and existing foster carers in the Oxfordshire area. All training, support, development and allowances are provided. If you would like to find out more email enquiries@familytreefostering.com or call us on 01235 250235 or visit our website www.familytreefostering.com for more information

Stargazing Evening on Monday 11th February, 5 - 7pm, at Cheney School

The event will open at 5pm with a talk by Professor Allan Chapman. Allan is a University of Oxford lecturer and fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, who has presented TV programmes and lectures on topics such as astronomical religion in early civilisations and great scientists.

The talk will be followed by the opportunity to observe the evening sky through telescopes. Members of the University of Oxford Physics Department will be running stalls and speaking to visitors. There will be refreshments available, alongside object handling, face-painting and craft activities.

All ages are welcome. To book, please email info@irisproject.org.uk

You can find out more about Our Planet Season of events at <https://ourplanetseasonrubblemuseum.home.blog/2019/01/01/the-journey-begins/>

February Half Term 2019 Chess & Activity Club at Cumnor Primary School

The Oxford New Generation Chess & Activity Clubs team includes an experienced professional chess coach and qualified sports instructors. Dates Monday 18th February 2019, Tuesday 19th February 2019 and Wednesday 20th February 2019.

1 day (or daily) - £45, or all 3 days - £135 (Lunch not included but includes two snacks) Reduced rate for existing regular weekly members of ONG clubs. Times Drop off: 09:00 to 09:30* Pick up: 16:00 to 16:30*

* Optional early drop-off 08:30 to 09:00 and/or late pick-up 16:30 to 17:00 for additional daily fees.

Age and Ability

The club is suitable for anyone currently in year 2 (aged 7) to year 10 (aged 15) who would like to learn to play or improve at chess. For the chess lessons, children will be grouped based primarily on experience rather than age in order to receive teaching appropriate for their current level of ability.

Contact: Yanling Cheng Email: ojchessclubs@gmail.com Tel: 07855 737373

Children of the Week

Miss James – *Danny & Omar*; **Ms De Cruz** – *Pola & Aston*; **Mrs Smith** – *Emily & Daniel*; **Mrs Price** – *Ben & Marian*; **Miss MacFarlane** – *Audrey & Elisabetta*; **Mr Rowley** – *Martha & Ashma*; **Miss Cook** – *Noah & Lauren*; **Mr Ingram** – *Juliana & Luke*; **Mr James** – *Jonathan & Riley*; **Mrs Henry** – *Marissa & Woodley*; **Mr Turner** – *Daniel, Finn & Tiago*; **Miss Loynd** – *Rory*; — **Well done to all these children.**

Best wishes,
Sue Tomkys
Headteacher

Diary Dates- PLEASE KEEP THESE

25 th Jan 2019	4.30pm to 7pm	ECF Chess Regional Finals at St Joseph's
29 th Jan 2019	10.30am to 12.30	Class 6L - IMPS
29 th Jan 2019	4.15 to 6pm	U11 Chess County League match against Dragon School
30 th Jan 2019	7pm	PTA Meeting
31 st Jan 2019	3.30pm	Y5 & 6 Boys' Football against Wolvercote at St Joseph's
31 st Jan 2019	3.45 to 5pm	U9 Chess County League Match V Dragon School
1 st Feb 2019	6pm to 7.30pm	Year 4, 5 and 6 Disco
2 nd Feb		EPSCA Chess regional at MCS
5 th Feb 2019	10am to 12.30	Class 6T to IMPS
14 th Feb 2019	9.15-10.30	EYFS Open Morning
Sunday 31 st March 2019	10am to 12.30pm	National Music Festival at Oxford Centre for Music - Bayards Hill, Headington - KS2 Choir & Hand Bell Players
18th to 22nd Feb 2019		Half Term
25th Feb 2019	9am	Term starts
26 th Feb 2019	2-4pm	Y5 Maths Challenge at Cranford School
7 th March 2019	9am	NCMP measuring Programme for EYFS and Y6
8 th March 2019		World Book Day
21 st March 2019	4.30pm	Girls Cross Country
2 nd April 2019	6.30pm	LKS2 Show
3 rd April 2019	6.30pm	LKS2 Show
5th April	1pm	School finishes for Easter Holidays
8th to 22nd April		Easter Holidays
23rd April	9am	Term starts