

Dates to Remember



- 3rd Feb Nursery PM at Pizza Express
- 4th Feb **Tempest School Photography**
- 4th Feb Y1/2 Handball Mixed @ Vicarage
- 5th Feb Requiem mass for John James Grattan-Former Deputy Headteacher
- 6th Feb Boys Football Match vs. Dersingham @Flanders
- 10th Feb 10:10am Reception Assembly
- 10th Feb Chess Tournament @ Ellen Wilkinson
- 12th Feb Whole School Mass
- 12th Feb Y5/6 Basketball Mixed @Brampton
- 13th Feb Girls' 6 a side League

16th February to 20th February - Half Term - School Closed

- 23rd Feb Topic Information Morning
- 26th Feb Y1 Hot Potato Tournament @ Central
- 3rd Feb Freshwater Theatre - KS2 - all day
- 3rd Feb FOSJA meeting @ 3.30pm

FOSJA



Friends of St. Joachim's Association
"Friendship Rules"

Thank you to all the parents who came to the last FOSJA meeting. We appreciate your help. We will be holding another meeting next week on Tuesday 3rd February at 3:30pm. We hope to see more parents.

Upcoming Meetings:

3rd February at 3:30pm

Mini Vinnies

Non-Uniform Day and Cake Sale



Thank you to all the children who contributed £1 for non-uniform day and the cake sale. We raised a total of £265 for Mini Vinnies Charity.

Termly Punctuality and Attendance

Attendance since 5th January to 17th January 2015

Class	Attendance %	Punctuality %	Number of lates
YR	97.8	0.56	3
Y1	98.7	0.37	2
Y2	97.4	0	0
Y3	98.9	1.11	6
Y4	98.5	0.18	1
Y5	97.9	1.32	7
Y6	98.9	0.38	2



Brilliant attendance by Y3 and Y6 ~ Champions
Superb punctuality by Y2!!!

Don't forget parents that children must be in school at 8.45am, or even earlier if they attend one of our morning clubs.

From the Headteacher



Dear Parents and Friends,

We have come to the end of our annual Citizenship topic. Hopefully all our children have been working hard at home and beyond 'serving' others. We will be awarding badges hopefully next week, bronze, silver or gold depending on the level of service children have given. The ultimate aim of the project is to get children to understand that giving is one of the most important things we should do as Catholics. Next week we will be starting our new RE topic which the theme is the Holy Eucharist. This topic will last for 4 weeks and will teach the children about Holy Communion and how it links to the death and resurrection of Jesus.

I would just like to thank parents who have so far returned a gift/donation for Fr. John who is leaving us at half term after over 8 years of being our school chaplain and parish priest. You still have time to return the small envelope to the school office if you wish to contribute. We will be making a presentation to him at our final celebration Mass with him on Thursday 12th February. All parents are welcome to attend.

Thank you.

James Allen

Homework & Musical Instrument Practise



As a parent of 3 young children I realise how difficult it is to support children in their homework. Miss Pape has been providing English lessons for parents, organised through PEACH each week. These lessons appear to be popular with the parents. They are designed to help parents support their children's learning and homework. There are still a few places available and a crèche is provided also.

Homework is an important part of consolidating a child's learning. In other words 'practise makes perfect!' For younger children, reading daily to an adult is the most important part of their homework. We expect all children to read daily their school reading books from Reception to Year 6.



With regard to **written homework**, children should do this themselves but parents can check and advise children how to improve the quality of the work. Children should take care and pride in their work. For maths work, you can check over some of the answers and if your child has made mistakes then talk through with them where they have gone wrong. Try to get them to find where the problem is. Don't answer the questions for them. Children who are supported in this way at home often make the **best progress**. Learning homework can be very challenging for some. For those who find this more difficult, break it down into chunks by learning for example 3 words of the spellings first thoroughly and then learn another 3 and so on.



Musical Instruments - Children cannot progress well unless they practise their instrument every day. I know this with two of my own children learning violin and piano. They must practise 15 minutes minimum every day. The 30 or 40 minute lesson that they receive just teaches them a new skill. They must practise every day at home until their next lessons.

As part of growing up children need to take more responsibility for themselves such as ensuring that they have their musical instruments and homework brought into school on the right day. Parents obviously need to check their children have done these things. If your child has difficulty in completing homework then please let the teacher know or the Learning Mentor. **Mr Allen**

Sports News-Upcoming Events

4th Feb Years 1/2 Handball Mixed @ Vicarage
 12th Feb Years 5/6 Basketball Mixed @ Brampton
 13th Feb Girls' 6 a side League

Results

Handball:

Semi-Finals					
Aldersbrook	4	V	1	St Joachim's	St Francis
The Final			3rd & 4th Place		
Aldersbrook	2	V	4	St Helen's	St Francis
			2 V 4 St Joachim's		



Football:

The year 1 and 2 boys took part in a football competition on Wednesday 21st January. They finished second in their group and qualified for the knockout stages of the competition. Unfortunately the boys lost on penalties in the quarter finals. Well done David, Kajus, Qaiyan, Lordperseus, Nii Tettey, Jayden, Alexis, Sefe, Chuckwuebuka and Prosper.

REMINDERS:

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS:
 Wednesday 4th February 2015

- Please remember that children must wear full school uniform next week, on Wednesday 4th February 2015 for their individual photographs.

FATHER JOHN'S LEAVING PRESENT:
 Contribution by Friday 6th February 2015

- If you would like to contribute to Father John's leaving present, please send in the green envelope (already provided) by Friday 6th February.



Paris Trip 2015



Once again, we are organising our very popular Paris Trip. This year the school is taking 40 children from year 3, 4, 5 and 6 to Paris on 5th June 2015. The purpose of the trip is to give our children the chance to use French, the language they have been learning, whilst at the same time gain a valuable cultural experience.

Cost: £40

Governors' Fund

As the school has to contribute 10% towards the cost of any building projects, your **contribution of £28 per family for the whole school year is the amount we request.**

You can pay by standing order (*forms available at the school office; £6 initially then £2 every month*), which we would ideally prefer parents to do. Cash or cheques (payable to **St. Joachim's Governor's Fund**) can also be paid to the school.

Thank you very much to the parents who have already contributed to our Governors fund.

Year 3 City Hall Trip



As part of Citizenship Week Year 3 visited the GLA. We were very lucky to have the opportunity to sit in on a meeting which was being held in the City Hall on Thursday morning. All children were very well behaved as we watched from the balcony. As a reward at the end of the day each child got a goodie bag to take home. It was a very interesting trip and we found out lots of information about Boris Johnson's job from transport to policing in our local area.

Brilliant Club trip to Oxford

On the 29th January twelve Brilliant Club participants went to Oxford University. It was a spectacular day for all of us, especially because we got to explore the university that is divided into colleges. At the graduation ceremony we were all very proud to be awarded our certificates.

By Aaron Lardi

