



Diocese of Clifton

Faith, Hope, Love

# St Joseph's Catholic School Newsletter

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23rd January 2020 Term 3-1



Happy New Year! On behalf of ourselves and all of the staff, we would like to thank all of the families that sent us Christmas cards, good wishes and gifts. While Christmas is now a distant memory, we hope that you had a great time with loved ones and wish you all a happy and healthy New Year!

We returned to an impressive change to the entrance to the school. The builders have worked tirelessly to get ahead as much as they could while we were off site. The senior leaders' office is now finished. Mrs Harris, our financial officer, is in her new office and Miss Gardiner and Miss Harper are currently working out of what will be a meeting room once the main office is completed. Thank you all for your patience and understanding while the work is being carried out and to the office staff who are working in a small space with limited resources. We all look forward to the completion of the project!

This term got off to a flying start for our Year 5 class with a visit to We the Curious. They came back full of what they had seen and done. This will be the basis of the term's learning. Thank you to Miss Crisp for organising the trip and to Mrs Ferris and Mrs Stewart who went along to support and enable the trip to happen. For the parents who have yet to pay for the trip, please could you do so promptly, it would be good to start the year with the bank balancing!

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January was the last of the KLB cross country races and didn't we do well! Lots of children were placed as individuals and teams! Individual placings were Sadie (1<sup>st</sup>) Isabelle D (6<sup>th</sup>) Ted (7<sup>th</sup>). Teams - Senior boys: Ted, Joseph and Leo T - 3<sup>rd</sup> Senior girls: Matilda, Isabelle and Naomi - 1<sup>st</sup>! Junior girls: Sadie, Maya B and Ava - 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our Junior boys were not placed but said that they tried really hard and enjoyed themselves, Harry P, Harry G, Lawrence and Reuben S.

We came second overall - amazing! Well done to everyone who committed to this event. We were so proud of the children's performance and the support that they showed for each other. Thank you also to the parents who have supported their children and others through the season, whatever the weather. Congratulations to Mr Price who won the parents race by an impressive margin!

After school clubs have begun, Dance and Cheerleading are back as well as Hockey and Football. We'd like to say a huge thank you to Ms Noone, again, for running hockey club. There are some evenings that she is unable to do. If you are able to help and or would like to run the club on a couple of occasions, please get in touch with the school office. If your child has been invited to join the Y2 or Y6 maths clubs, please try to support this - it is for the benefit of your child.

Play and lunchtimes continue to be successful with no impact on learning after lunch. We'd like to say thank you to Mrs Freckleton for working closely with the children to develop their ideas and make them a reality. Also to her supportive team for the great opportunities that are provided at lunchtime. Having spent some time outside this term it's great to see how happy and engaged the children are. Just a reminder to Year 5 and 6 - bring your wellies and you can have free run of the school field! The children are always keen to share their ideas, equally as parents if you have any, I'm sure she'd be delighted to hear them, please do catch her in the playground.

House singing is fast approaching... song learning has begun and small groups of children can be found rehearsing across the school at lunchtimes! We are currently trying to secure some judges. After the feedback from last year, we are working with the School Council and House Captains to come up with a way, that they consider to be fair, to distribute tickets - which will be restricted (as per last year) due to Health and Safety regulations. When they have made a decision, they will write to you to invite you to the event, informing you of their decision for ticket distribution.

Our fabulous PTA are again working hard to plan events to raise money to support the children's learning. They regularly subsidise the class trips in order to keep the cost manageable for parents. There is a list of planned PTA events so far this year overleaf.

Everyone is welcome to join the meetings, you don't need to be part of the committee. Any help that you are able to offer, however small will be gratefully received.

Mrs D'Arcy received an impressive letter last week from Orla and Joseph S. Orla has been following the news about the fires in Australia and wants to do something to help save the animals. As I'm sure you are aware, half a billion animals have died. She has asked if we would help her to support them. The charity that she would like to help is WIRES, because all of the money raised will go towards helping the animals. So, on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January we will be having a non-uniform day. She has suggested that children pay a pound to wear their own clothes.

Finally, we would like to thank all our staff for their flexibility, hard work and commitment to our children and doing the best that they can for each and every child. Miss Jones and Miss Crisp were reporting to the governors last night about the changes that we have made to the maths curriculum.

The governors were so impressed by the enthusiasm of the staff and the quality of work in the books. Thank you also goes to our parents who work with us to support their child to REACH and be the best that they can be.

## In Your Prayer

God of light, shine in our hearts so that we can bring joy and hope to other people, especially those who are frightened, sick, lonely or hungry. Amen.

## **Class News!**

St Mary	Otis likes to play with Edward, they pretend to be policemen and chase about. Bobbie likes to play babies with her class mates.
St Joseph	Isla H says she does lots and lots of work every day—she is making a lion lever puppet. Bertie likes maths he is counting up to 30!
St Peter	Theo enjoys MOT - maths is his favourite subject and in literacy the children have been substituting the story about the Gruncher.
St Patrick	Alfie L likes football club with Mr Walton on a Monday. He is enjoying the story about the Abominable Snowman, in which the characters go to a hotel and sneak in and sleep on the top floor. Amelie has started football this term; so far so good! She is practising her violin lots and lots and is learning to play Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.
St George	Harry H has been learning about electronics and circuits. He loves football after school on Mondays; he normally plays any position but his favorite is right wing! Hector plays jailbreak with his friends Reuben and Michael at play times.
St Teresa	Year 5's topic is space—Eliza's interesting fact about space is that when its in winter the earth is on its axis away from the sun and when it's summer it is facing the sun! Tilly enjoys piano lessons with Mrs Innes on a Monday. She is learning to play World Symphony!
St David	Lily has a great time at Out of School Club— she makes cakes, enjoys colouring, playing with the Barbie dolls and the train puzzle. She likes to sit on the air seats. Leo said Y6 are learning about light and how it bounces off mirrors and how it is visible. The class shone torches through cardboard which had slits in it and then put this into the mirror and so the children could see the reflection on the tables.



Weekly R E A C H Awards  
13th, 20th December 2019  
10th and 17th January 2020



Silver collections for The  
Marah Trust after Nativity  
and Carol Service was  
£310.65. Thank you.

St Mary	Emilia, all of the class for the Nativity, Bobbie, Finlay, Oliver, Otis, Olive and Kian.
St Joseph	Rory, Nicholas, James, all of the class for a super term, Kacper, Nicholas, Rory and Sidney.
St Peter	All of the class for the Nativity, Lucy, Georgia, Tabitha, Raffy, Toby, Lauren and Jacob.
St Patrick	Alfie L, George, Freya, Stanley, Harvey, Alfie M, Isaac and Sophia.
St George	Maya, Hamish, Oliver, Michael, Millie, Harry P, Harvey and Benedict.
St Teresa	Caleb, Amber, Fitch, Niamh, Oscar, Laila, Elsa and Zac.
St David	Freddie N, Prudence, Layla, Connor, Dylan, Emilia, George and Ava.

**Attendance**—the updated policy was emailed to all parents/carers last term together with **Request for a leave of absence during term time form**.

If requesting a leave of absence during term time parents/carers will need to complete the special form available from the school office setting out the reasons. The form must be completed at least 7 days before the start of any leave. If the holiday is not considered to be an exceptional circumstance it will not be agreed. If you nevertheless take your child out of school for the leave of absence this will be recorded as unauthorised leave and you could receive a Penalty Notice.

### SCHOOL TRIPS

*Lots of exciting trips and events have been planned for the children please pay promptly by PARENTPAY. We thank the PTA for subsidising these events.*

*Y5 WW2 Experience Day on 1st April 2020—£15 per child  
Y4 Slimbridge Wetlands on 14th May 2020—£13 per child  
Y5 Sir William Romney experience day on 15th June 2020  
—£5.50 per child*

*38 dinner accounts are in debit please try to keep your child's dinner account in credit. Too much admin time is spent chasing payments.  
THANK YOU*

Christmas Jumper Day raised £86.20 in aid  
of Save the Children.  
THANK YOU.



### OOSC Holiday Club 2019/2020

Feb half term 18th-20th Feb - Bookings now open

Easter holiday w/c 6th Apr

Summer holiday w/c/ 3rd & 10th August

Club will run three days each week. Full details available on the school website under Holiday Club.

### Forthcoming events

13th Feb House Singing Competition  
14th Feb End of term 3  
24th Feb Term 4 begins  
25th Feb Lent Retreat  
26th Feb Structured conversations  
26th Feb Ash Wednesday

**ST DOMINIC'S CHURCH QUIZ**—Saturday 15th February at 7.30pm. All proceeds to the chosen charity **Clifton Refugee Sponsorship**. Tickets are £8 each to include food from the local fish and chip shop in Kingshill, Dursley. For more information see flyers at church or speak to Miss Gardiner. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

**PTA EVENTS**—full communications on each event will follow at the appropriate time.  
Monday 3 February 3pm: Second hand school uniform sale in the school hall with refreshments available.

Friday 7 February 5.45pm drop off, 8pm pick-up: Film Night at school

Friday 6 March 6pm to 7.30pm: School Disco

Wednesday 18 March 7.30pm: PTA AGM at school

Sunday 29 March 1.30pm-4.30pm Easter Egg Hunt

Congratulations to  
Georgia and  
Roman who won the  
yummy cake  
recently.  
THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR  
SUPPORT!



Feedback Slip for newsletter (23.01.2020)