

St. Joseph's Specialist School & College Newsletter



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Volume 5
Friday
2 May 2014

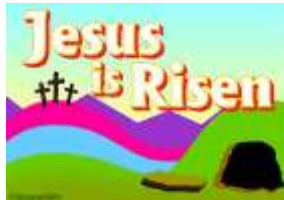
Letter from the Principal

Dear Families and Friends



Welcome back to a 'wettish' first few weeks of the Summer Term – but wasn't the weather over the Easter break glorious. I hope you were able to make the most of it.

During the first week back we ran a family e-safety workshop. The few who attended commented on how brilliant it was and we are now looking for ways to share it with more of you. Any ideas of how we could do this to Sarah Kennedy, Home School Link Worker.



Our Easter Resurrection Liturgy had a real celebratory feel to it, with small nut free chocolate eggs for all as they left the chapel.

This week I have attended two days training to be a Team Leader for national Autism Accreditation Reviews. I have for the past 8 years worked as a team member on up to three reviews each year. The first review I will actually lead is just before Half Term, at a special school in Teesside. I am quite excited but a little nervous too. Being part of the review team is not only an opportunity to share St. Joseph's expertise in autistic spectrum disorders but also to bring details of innovative practice back to the school and college. St. Joseph's next full review is not until June 2015, but it will arrive soon enough. Dawn Phillips is our lead in this area so if you need any advice, drop her an email – nothing is too small to ask!



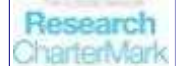
It was great to see so many smiling faces on Thursday when the school photographer was here – we hope you will be pleased with the results and help us raise much needed funds by ordering a pack or two.

Today saw the official opening of the sculpture trail by NADFAS representatives and Bishop Kieran who is rightly very proud of his contributions to both sculptures. You may remember he took part in our Arts Week Sculpture workshops back in October. See photos inside this issue.

A reminder that this weekend is a three day weekend and learners should return to school at the usual time on Tuesday 6th May. Only 52 and 38 week boarders will be at school on the Monday May Day Bank holiday. Have a good one!

With our best wishes and prayers,

Mary Fawcett



Staff News welcome to ...



Francesca Arocas
Class Teacher
St. Christopher



Alex Ratcliffe
Senior Assistant Vice
Principal



Darren Bantick
TA



Emma Breden-Smith
TA



Christina Francis
Care Administrator



Hannah Jarvis
TA



Andrea Murray
TA



Maria Puerto-Molina
TA



Charlotte Taylor
52 Week Residential
Care Worker



Gillian Tree
TA

Inside this issue



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STAFF PROFILE



Maria Landy
School Improvement Advisor

What type of person are you?

Describe yourself in five words:

Experienced, Enthusiastic Special Needs Educator

What's top of your to-do list?

Stay up to date with Educational changes and requirements.



What's your favourite biscuit?

Ginger



What's your top holiday destination?

Now the Caribbean but my best holiday was trekking in Nepal in the foothills of the Himalayas.



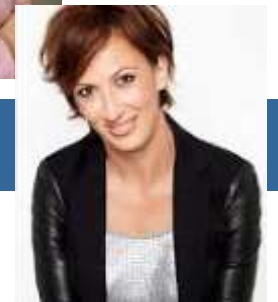
What wouldn't you do for £1 million?

Harm my cats Whisper and Tabatha!



Who would play you in the film of your life?

Julie Andrews



Complete the following sentences

The celebrity I'd most like to have as a teacher at my school is:

Miranda Hart



As a child I wanted to grow up to be:

A teacher

My most embarrassing moment in school:

When I fell and cut my knees – both of them the first day in a new school!

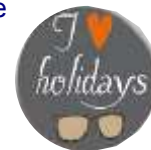


If I've learned one thing, it is:

Special people make a difference

I shouldn't be telling you this, but

I love to go on holidays



Tell us your best joke

joke



I am awful at remembering jokes – my favourite is too rude to print but the first joke I remember hearing is really a riddle!

“What is black and white and red all over?”

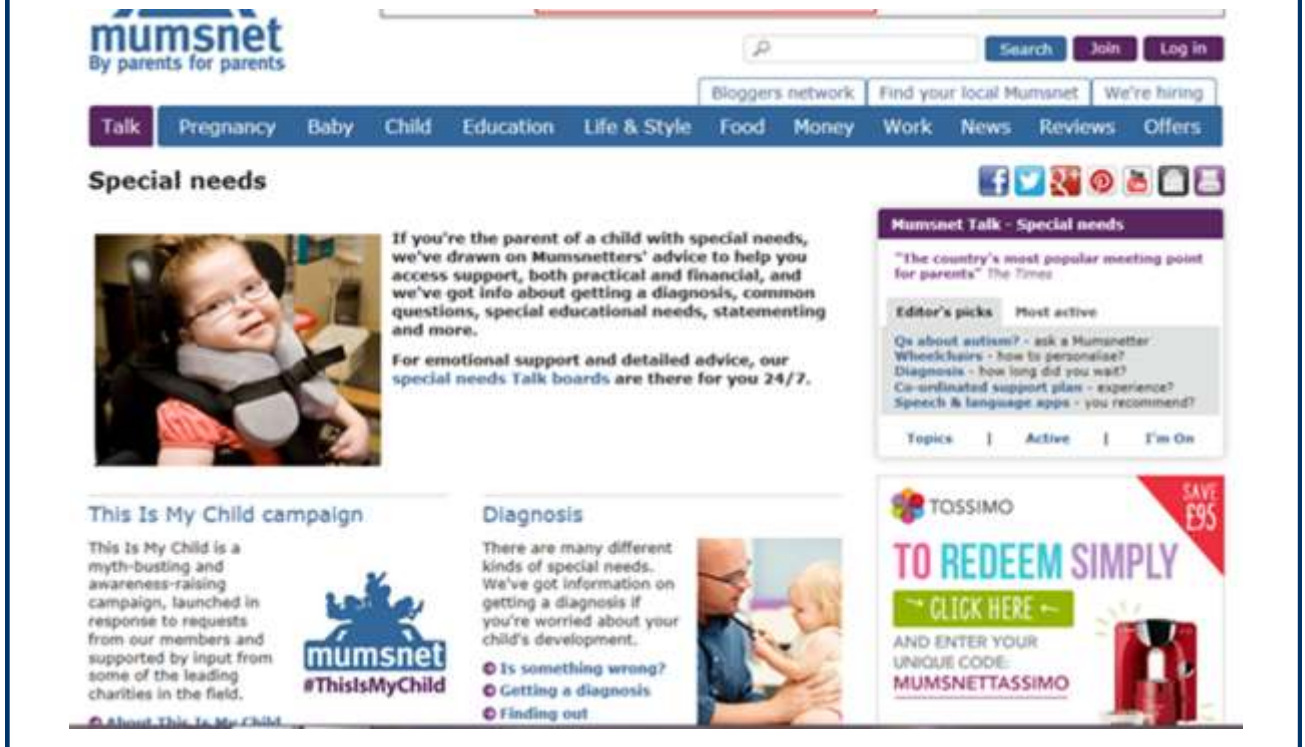
Answer: Yesterday's newspaper (of course it should be read all over!)

If you have not already visited **mumsnet** it is a brilliant online resource offering advice and guidance on all things parent related. The website details are: <http://www.mumsnet.com/>



The pages dedicated to special needs have information on diagnosing disorders, statementing, education, benefits, additional support, behaviour management and a forum to ask other parents for advice.

The website is an excellent resource and covers all aspects of parenting right through from pregnancy to the teenage years!



RDA - Sponsored Ride

On Good Friday, Lorraine and Chief, pictured right, completed the 11 mile sponsored ride across the beautiful Surrey countryside to raise funds for Cranleigh Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) She is delighted to say that the amount she has raised currently stands at £240, which doesn't include the total in gift aid the RDA will be able to claim on top of this.

They completed the ride in 3 hours and 40 minutes, and had a lovely time on the ride. Lorraine would like to thank all those who have supported her and helped raise such a huge amount, which will be greatly appreciated by the RDA.



Sculpture Trail Official Opening

Today saw the official opening of our Woodland Walk Sculpture Trail. The trail will be continued to be added to over the coming months and years and will provide an invaluable multisensory experience for all our learners to enjoy.

Work started on the sculptures in the Autumn Term during Arts Week and learners loved helping create both the **Green Man** and the **Deer**. The finished pieces are fantastic and are a real delight. See photos below. The Green Man was only installed last week but already a bird is making it it's home and building a nest.

Staff and learners were joined by Bishop Kieran and members of Cranleigh NADFAS during the formalities.

Congratulations to Anthony C and Hania who chose the names for the deer *Spartacus* and *Uhu* (*Farsi* for deer).



Learners working on the **Green Man** during Arts Week



Learners working on the **Deer** sculpture during Arts Week



Sports News



Table Cricket Report by Mick Feury

Earlier this week St. John's class participated in the South East regional heats of the 2014 Lords Taverners UK Table Cricket Tournament.

Table cricket was designed to give non-ambulant and special needs people a competitive opportunity and a genuine cricket experience. St. John's class really enjoyed the day and every learner was able to experience hitting a ball for 6!!



Cross Country Race Report by Fairley Allan

On Wednesday 21st March we sent a team to take part in the annual Surrey Special Schools Sports Association Cross Country Running Competition. It was hosted by St. Nicholas School in Merstham, on a mile long course through their grounds.

Some fourteen schools took part, fielding about 150 runners. We took a team of 11 and competed in the Under 14 and 16 Boys, Under 16 Girls and the Open Race.

I'm delighted to report that not only did everyone finish their race, but we took second, third and fourth in the Open Race and a joint third in the Under 16 Girls. Not only that, but Lewis was so keen that he ran in both the Under 14 and Under 16 races!

The results were:

Open Race - Second: Alex, Third: Lukas, Fourth: Lewis

Under 16 Girls - Joint third: Shaunna

Other members of the team were: Dominic, Tim, Toby, Aaron, Ben and Kelsea. A really impressive performance by all!



Cross Country Race Photos



Enclosed in this week's newsletter you will find a copy of a letter from Edward Timpson the Minister for Children and Families at the Department of Education. The letter outlines the new arrangements for supporting Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.



Dates for the Diary

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|------------------|---|
| 5th May | Bank Holiday (school closed except for 38 week and 52 week residential learners) |
| 7th May | Mary the Mother of Jesus Liturgy (time tbc) |
| 9th May | Choices & Decisions Day for KS 5 learners |
| 15th May | SSSSAT Girl's Football Training & Tournament at St. Joseph's |
| 16th May | Food Revolution Day |
| 21st May | Family Learning Coffee Morning 10.30am - 12.00 noon - <i>Forest Schools</i>
Theme run by <i>Harriet Agbenowu</i> |
| 23rd May | Break up for Half Term - Learners finish at 1.00pm |
| 2nd June | Learners return to school between 10.15 - 10.30am |
| 8th June | Greenpower Car at Central South Heat at Goodwood Motor Circuit |
| 11th June | Ascension & Pentecost Liturgy - <i>details tbc</i> |
| 12th June | Transition Evening (KS 3 → KS 4) 6.30pm |
| 18th June | Family Learning Coffee Morning 10.30am - 12.00 noon - <i>details tbc</i> |

The next newsletter will be published on 23rd May 2014