

St. Joseph's Specialist School & College Newsletter



Amlets Lane, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 7DH
Tel: 01483 272449 Fax: 01483 276003
Email: Office@st-josephscranleigh.surrey.sch.uk
Web: www.st-josephscranleigh.surrey.sch.uk



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Letter from the Principal

Dear Families and Friends

This week we held our Pentecost and Ascension Day Liturgy. This was only celebrated by our KS1/2/3 learners and staff but was, nevertheless, a very moving occasion.



It is hard to believe we are approaching the end of June already. Transition plans and goodbye celebrations for our leavers are well underway, and of course preparations for the visit on our Sports Day by the Countess of Wessex, are in the final stages of planning. We hope to see many of you at one or other of these coming events.



Last week I took the opportunity to join the Family Learning Coffee Morning in the Forest Schools area. It was great fun - the learning activities included fire building, cooking sausages and toasting marshmallows. As not as many families as Harriet had hoped could make it, she will run this activity again in early September – look out for the date.

Last week governors joined school leaders and Maria our School Improvement Advisor for our annual Team Building Evening around research awareness. This was ably led by teachers Jonathan and Tom, who made sure everyone joined in!

By the time you read this newsletter, KS4/5 learners on Activity Week will have safely returned. They have been very lucky with the weather and I know they will come back with lots of stories to tell and just that little bit more self-confidence.



For the whole of next week we have an Associate Professor, Dr. Phyllis Jones, with us. She is visiting from the Special Needs Department of the University of Southern Florida. As well as coaching and mentoring our staff that are engaged in action research to improve learner progress and wellbeing; she will lead a number of Research and ASD related workshops that other professionals have also been invited to.

I look forward to reporting how this went in our next newsletter.

Thank you, as always, for your support of St. Joseph's.

With our prayers and best wishes,

Mary Fawcett





Staff News

Congratulations



As reported in our last newsletter **Suzi Prior**, pictured below, will be taking part in the Vierdaagse (International Four Day Marches) in Nijmegen from 15-18 July. We incorrectly reported that Suzi would be walking a total of 40km when in fact she will be walking 40km per day making 160 km in total!

Suzi will be raising money for equipment for the School's Nurture Room and Sensory Room. Her shopping list includes, DVDs, cars, bubble mixture and glow in the dark toys. If you would like to make a donation her giving page can be found on:

virginmoneygiving.com



Congratulations to Tom Milson, KS 1/2 Leader, for being appointed a Specialist Leader of Education (SLE) for SEND with Inspire Teaching Schools Alliance.

Specialist Leaders of Education focus on developing leadership capacity. This role is about developing other leaders so that they have the skills to lead their own teams and improve practice in their own schools.

This may be done through one-to-one or group support and could involve a variety of activities, such as: data analysis; coaching; facilitating and training or joint action planning.

The role lasts for 4 years, at which time there will be a review.



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STAFF PROFILE



Emma Dasey
Care Team Leader

What type of person are you?

Describe yourself in five words:

Organized, hard-working, supportive, encouraging and a good listener (I know that's two words but didn't think nosy sounded as professional)

What's top of your to-do list?

I love lists and have many floating around – both in group and at home (which the JPH team and my husband all enjoy).



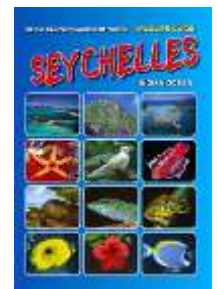
Top at the moment is save, save, save (very boring I know).

What's your favourite biscuit?

Tesco finest ginger stem cookies – they're the future

What's your top holiday destination?

Would love to go to the Seychelles but anywhere that's hot and would be able to go snorkelling



What wouldn't you do for £1 million?

Sing – completely tone deaf

Who would play you in the film of your life?

Kate Winslet – she seems down to earth



Complete the following sentences

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

David Attenborough – he knows what he's talking about and loves what he does - and who doesn't like animals.



As a child I wanted to grow up to be:

A vet until I was told I wouldn't be able to save all animals (I cried when Bambi died, there was no hope for me)



My most embarrassing moment in school:

Looking back now – my obsession with Take That – on all of my text books.

If I've learned one thing, it is:

To be encouraging – you'll never know if you don't try.



I shouldn't be telling you this, but



I'm still not going to tell you *Hehe!*

Tell us your best joke

What's brown and sticky? A stick



Key Stage 3 Trip to Boulogne

Report by Lucy Spiers & Sylvianne Smart

From Tuesday 10th - Friday 13th June 9 Key Stage 3 learners took a trip to Boulogne in France. We took the Eurotunnel and then drove to Boulogne stopping for a picnic lunch on the way, with beautiful views of the sea.



The group took part in: searching for prices of items in the market, walking around the old town, cycling 5k uphill to freewheel back down (one of the highlights!), visiting the Aquarium where we saw a sea lion show and various trips to shops and restaurants to practice our French language skills.

The learners (and staff!) thoroughly enjoyed the trip and practiced ordering lots of things in French. Well done to everyone for making the trip so successful and thank you to the staff for their support.



Last week we received the fantastic news that Toby's Pencil Heads animation had been chosen as one of the Digital Animation finalists for **Create! Art for Autism 2014**.



Create! Art for Autism is open to all young people aged 11-25 years who are formally diagnosed with an ASD. The competition aims to dispel the myth that people with autism cannot be creative and to show that art can significantly improve their quality of life, facilitating experiential-based learning and instilling life-long skills. Young people with an ASD are invited to enter the **FIVE** main categories: 2D Art, 3D Art, Digital Photography, Digital Animation and Poetry.

Finalists of the competition are invited to attend a high profile awards ceremony in Cardiff, on Friday 18th July, where the final winners of each category will be announced. The finalists' artwork will then be displayed on the Create! Art for Autism website and form part of the launch celebrations for the Competition in 2015.



There is also a 'People's Choice Award' on the website that all entries are automatically loaded on to, so could you please follow the link below and firmly hit the **VOTE NOW** button underneath his film, it requires no subscription and will take 20 seconds max. The more votes Toby gets the better his chances of winning an award.

<http://www.createartforautism.com/peoples-choice-award-2014/entry-1495/>

Ascension & Pentecost

Report by Annie Sutton



Ascension and Pentecost are traditionally celebrated together at St Joseph's. We recall how Jesus ascended into heaven whilst his disciples watched, how they then became afraid, and went into hiding. God sent the Holy Spirit like a fire to give them strength and energy to go out into the world and spread the Good News about Jesus.

There was certainly lots of strength and energy at our liturgy as learners who had made 'flame' hats paraded around boldly. After listening to the two Gospel readings everyone took a helium filled red balloon and went out into John Bosco garden where we released them all together to represent Jesus ascending into heaven.

Everyone was captivated watching the beautiful red balloon rise higher and higher in the sky eventually becoming too small to see anymore... (much as the disciples must have done as Jesus rose up until he disappeared from sight in the clouds).

Notices & Reminders



Reminder from the Surgery Team

The Surgery Team would appreciate your help by sending in the brand of sun cream your child usually uses. Please send it in in, a plastic bag, clearly labelled. Also remember to send in a sun hat for your child to wear when going outside.



Thank you



Please can you help us by sending in donations of bric-a-brac, books, toys, DVDs, toiletries, tombola items and raffle prizes for the Fun Day on the 9th July.



Reminder



If you haven't done so already and plan to attend Sports Day on Wednesday 9th July, please contact the School Office and let them know you will be attending.

Remember you will need to bring your invitation with you.



Dates for the Diary

- 9th July Sports & Fun Day - in the Presence of HRH The Duchess of Wessex
Timings and other details will be sent out next week
- 9th July Transition Event (KS 3 → KS 4) *will take place during the afternoon of Sports & Fun Day*
- 10th July Full Governing Body Meeting - 7.00pm
- 15th July KS 1/2/3 Presentation Evening - 6.00 - 7.30pm
- 16th July Family Learning Coffee Morning 10.30am - 12.00 noon - *hand massage demonstration and ideas for the holidays*
- 17th July Leavers' Mass and Tea - 2.00pm
- 18th July Leavers' Sandown Presentation - 10.00am - 12.00 noon.
- 18th July Leavers' Prom Night - 6.30 - 9.30 pm at the Parkbarn Day Centre, Guildford
- 22nd July KS 4/5 Presentation Evening - 6.30 - 9.00 pm
- 23rd July Last Day of Term - leavers finish at 1.00pm

The next newsletter will be published on 11th July 2014