

# 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

Volume 3  
Friday 10th  
February 2017



## Letter from the Executive Principal



Dear Families and Friends of St. Joseph's

Goodness me this half term has flown by! It barely seems any time since Christmas!

As you'd expect our children and young people in our residential houses have enjoyed the traditional Pantomime season and have been to see Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves performed by the local amateur dramatic theatre company Ewhurst Players.

We've seen a return of Warburtons who provide schools with a fantastic workshop about bread. Which reminds me that our Leaver's have been busy producing hand crafted delicious breads. The smell of the baking drives me to distraction and worst of all is that they are currently working at complete capacity with more demand than they can cater for. This means that I am unable to get in on the act and buy any of the fabulous rolls or loaves that are packaged up and delivered to various lucky customers.

St Joseph's took part in the NSPCC National Number Day with various activities helping to raise funds for this worthwhile charity. We will also be joining in Number Week after the half term break so look out for the posters when we get back.

I'm sure you'll join in congratulating our residential staff for their continued dedication and professionalism being recognised by our recent Ofsted Care monitoring visit in which the service has been considered to be 'Increased Effectiveness'.

Over on the Education and Therapy side of St Joseph's this week, we welcomed our Surrey Local Authority for their monitoring visit too. When the two inspectors fed back at the end of their very busy day, the first thing that really struck them was the quality of the interactions between staff and students. They felt a real and very strong warmth in all the encounters that they observed, be that between staff, between students or between staff and students. They thought that St Joseph's was an extremely positive and welcoming community.

January and February are such cold, dreary and dark months, especially after all the excitement of Christmas. It's so heartening to finish this half term on these two measures of success, that remind us how hard the staff work to make St Joseph's a truly special place for everyone.

I would like to wish you all a happy, and dare I say, a relaxing break, over the half term holiday. Staff will be returning early to attend two days of training and professional development and I will look forward to welcoming you all back to school and college on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Please don't forget that first days back are a little bit later to allow for the longer distances that many students have to travel, so I'll be out in the carpark at 10:15am to find out how you have spent the week.

Stay safe and return to us refreshed. Our next half term will take us into the season of Lent as we prepare for Easter, and we should begin to see the signs of Spring as the days start to lengthen again.

Best Wishes to you all,  
our love and prayers,



ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

# STAFF NEWS



**New Staff - photos not available**

**Business & Admin Dept**    Sally McClarnon - HR Admin Assistant

**Supported Living Homes**    Springvale - Mark Godfrey    Long Barn - Rachel Stacey



Andreea Tiboaca



Christina Francis

## Contents

Inside this  
issue

Page 1	Letter from the Executive Principal
Page 2	Staff News + Contents
Page 3	Curriculum News: Warburtons' Bakery Visit
Page 4	Staff Profile: Fern Geeson - Speech & Language Therapist
Page 5	Staff News: Professional Successes + Outstanding School Conference
Page 6/7	Fundraising News: Mandela Day Book Donations + Phil the Bag Appeal
Page 8/9	Fundraising News: Community Gardeners + Activity Week + Capital Appeal update + NSPCC Numbers Day
Page 10/11	Residential News: Trip to Ewhurst Pantomime + Chapel Furniture
Page 12/13	Work Related Learning and Work Experience
Page 14/15	Therapy News: Makaton + Puzzle Corner + S&L App + OT Tips
Page 16	Dates for the Diary

## CURRICULUM NEWS

### Warburtons' Bakery



Through our Enterprise Initiatives, Key Stage 5 students operate a very successful Bakery called "The Roll Models Bakery".

Their enthusiasm and success has obviously rubbed off on our youngest classes and Francesca Arocas, Key Stage Leader for Stages 1&2 organised a visit to school from representatives from Warburtons Bakery.

The visitors arrived on Wednesday 25th January and staff and learners were keen to get started. The focus of the day included the many different elements which are required when preparing a healthy snack.

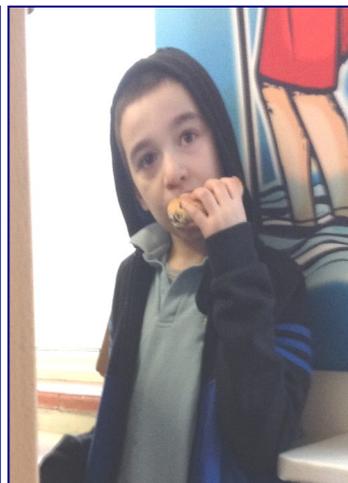


To begin with everyone was encouraged to observe good hygiene when handling food, this included washing our hands and making sure our preparation area and plates and utensils were all clean and germ free.

The Warburtons' visitors had arrived laden with aprons and hair nets which were great fun to put on and everyone certainly felt the part. The visitors had also brought knives, chopping boards and a wonderful array of fresh ingredients including salad fillings, cold meats and cheeses. There were also lots of different options of bread products, including gluten free bread, for us to choose from.

Each of the ingredients were appropriate when preparing a healthy snack. The children were able to choose the fillings for their sandwiches, make them and eat them as a healthy snack.

Eating the snack was really good fun. The students and staff had all had a fantastic time and picked up some new cooking skills!



## Twelve things about: Fern Geeson Speech & Language Therapist



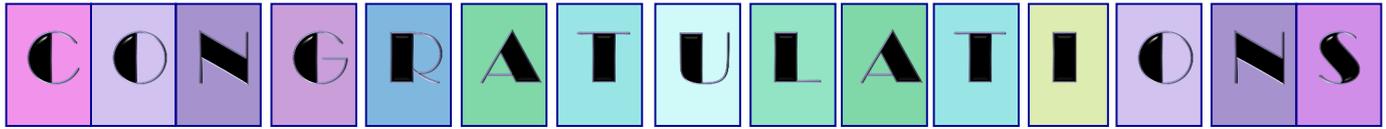
### WHAT TYPE OF PERSON ARE YOU?

<b>Describe yourself in five words:</b>	Fun, smiley, calm, kind, friendly
<b>What's top of your to-do list?</b>	Buy more Lego
<b>What's your favourite biscuit?</b>	Chocolate hobnob
<b>What's your top holiday destination?</b>	Anywhere with good food.
<b>What wouldn't you do for £1 million?</b>	Jump off anything high
<b>Who would play you in a film of your life?</b>	Ellen Page

### COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES

<b>The celebrity I'd most like to have as a teacher at my school is:</b>	Hugh Laurie
<b>As a child I wanted to grow up to be:</b>	A Firelady
<b>My most embarrassing moment in school:</b>	Falling asleep in a history lesson, while sat at the front of the class
<b>If I've learned one thing, it's:</b>	Chill out, what's the worst that could happen?
<b>I shouldn't be telling you this, but:</b>	I can eat a family sized bag of crisps in one sitting.
<b>Tell us your best joke:</b>	Why does Snoop Dogg carry an umbrella? Fo drizzle

## STAFF NEWS



Martin Johnson, Class Teacher of St. Cecilia's Class, was delighted to be advised by Russell Andrews, Deputy Director at the National College for Teaching & Leadership (NCTL), that he had successfully passed his National Professional Qualification for Middle Leadership (NPQML). This award recognises Martin's leadership development and professional achievement as a middle leader.

Philippa Francis and Renee Ruffles from Education were also notified by Babcock that they have achieved their HLTA status.

Staff from the catering department have also been successful in their training endeavors with Vikki Brazier passing her Diploma in Hospitality Supervision & Leadership Level 3 and Sarah Gent passing her diploma in Kitchen Services Level 2.

St. Joseph's staff and governors are pleased to congratulate Martin, Vicky, Sarah, Philippa and Renee on their well deserved success.



## Outstanding School - SSAT

On Thursday 26th January St Joseph's Specialist School & College hosted a conference for the SSAT network. The focus of the conference was to share our knowledge & experience of being an outstanding school.



The meeting at St. Joseph's was the third in a series of events; the first two events covered *Outstanding Leadership and Management* and *Outstanding Teaching and Learning* respectively.

The focus for our event was *Personalisation and Well-Being*. Fairley and Francesca, our Acting Deputy Headteachers, created an agenda for the event which covered this aspect from St. Joseph's unique viewpoint.

The delegates came from as far away as Manchester and Derby and were very impressed with all that they saw particularly the fabulous lunch that Alison and her team provided!

The delegates joined in a wide range of activities throughout the day including a fascinating talk on PDA, a presentation on the unique way we use Therapies, a Mindfulness demonstration, a Forest School workshop and a session in our Roll Models Bakery.

The feedback from the delegates included many compliments, of our fabulous grounds and how we are using them, the dedication and skills demonstrated by our staff, the delicious food offered by the Enterprise Students.

Their feedback will direct Francesca and Fairley in future presentations especially since we will be holding two more similar events later this year. The delegates and the School Leadership Team were particularly appreciative to the members of staff who showcased some of the things that make St Joseph's so special.

## FUNDRAISING NEWS

### Mandela Day - Book Donations



You may recall last Summer as part of our Mandela Day celebrations we invited staff, students and families to donate books for children at Bimbila, Northern Region, Ghana.

The response was very generous and Lauren and Harriet were joined by learners from College who packed Harriet's car and the book cargo began its journey to Ghana.

Other organisations and schools had been invited to donate to a Christmas Appeal for toys and clothes, and these were added to our donation of books. The cargo of books and toys has arrived and been received with thanks by families living with Special Needs in Ghana. Harriet who has been coordinating this fundraising initiative is delighted with the news of their arrival.

Each of the beneficiaries of these gifts have given consent for their photos to be shared with our school community and used in our school newsletter.

*We established contact with the Special Needs Department at Akuse Government Hospital in the*



### Akuse Government Hospital

*Eastern Region of Ghana. This linked us with a number of families with children and young people diagnosed with varying Special Needs. Most of these families live in extreme poverty in an abandoned settlement. Most of the families needed the charity making the donations to provide food for the day as well as transportation for their ferry ride to the hospital and back to their homes.*



## Karisa Orphanage - SEN and Neurotypical Children and Young People



We also had a request for support from an orphanage (Karisa Foundation) which supports a mixture of children, young people and young adults both neurotypical and those with special needs.

Another home-based charitable organisation supporting children with special needs in their learning also ended up on our list. Most of the books have ended up at this setting as most of the books were more age appropriate for their young people. The first donation has been made and a date for the second donation to the remaining families is being arranged for March.

The orphanage has a desperate need for books and any learning materials and are very grateful for what they receive. These resources help keep the centre running as no support is provided by the Government.

As you can see the books, toys and clothes have found great new homes. Harriet was asked to extend the following message to our staff, students and families **“from all the beneficiaries and Sparklers Charity; thank you very much for all the support provided by St Josephs. Your help has made it possible to meet the needs of more than 60 families this past Christmas.”**



## ‘Phil’ the Bag™



Francesca and Becky have arranged for a collection in the Spring Term of recyclable textiles. If you are busy tidying up after Christmas and find yourself with items that can be recycled, please send them in. This fundraising venture has certainly been successful for us in the past and everyone is welcome to take part. Although **black sacks** are best, please do not let this stop you, we welcome and are happy to receive any type of bag! Or why not fill up an old pillow case? The more they weigh, the more we are paid!

Please “Phil the bag” with your unwanted clothes, shoes, household linen, belts, hats and handbags. Please bear in mind that the request is for recyclable textiles and that any clothing is for re-use and should be in a wearable condition.

**Collection Date : Monday 20th March 2017**



## FUNDRAISING NEWS

### Community Gardeners



Spring is still a way off but our Community Garden is having a bit of a makeover in readiness for the new growing season ahead.

Thanks to our fundraising efforts a lovely, large, new and most importantly dry shed has arrived and will soon be home to lots of tools, seeds and wellies. When the Community Garden plots were first formed our gardeners inherited one of our existing storage sheds, which despite their efforts has gradually rotted so I'm sure they will enjoy this new arrival. Later this year we plan to install a toilet in the Horticulture area, making a community garden plot at St Joseph's a very desirable place to grow fruit and veg!

If you are interested in finding out more about the Community Garden as we currently have a small number of plots available contact: Jan Durrant (Horticulture Teacher) or email [jdurrant@st-josephscranleigh.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:jdurrant@st-josephscranleigh.surrey.sch.uk)

## Activity Week - Information

### Activity Week 8th – 12th May

In these dark winter days the thought of Activity Week may still seem a long way off, but planning is well underway to ensure each and every student benefits from this amazing opportunity. The enthusiasm and energy which accompanies the students and staff returning from the previous trip is quite infectious and teachers and administration staff begin agreeing dates, activities and potential costs almost a year before.



This year, many of the students in Key Stage 4 and 5 places have had places reserved with the PGL Company at their Marchants Hill Centre in Surrey. Further details of the location and facilities provided can be found on their website [www.pgl.co.uk](http://www.pgl.co.uk). The site also includes the range of activities on offer i.e. high ropes, challenge course, kayaking, climbing and low ropes. Our own Education, Therapy and Residential staff will work together during the second half of the Spring term to prepare students for the trip. Many will accompany the trip to support PGL staff to deliver a wide range of activities, selected so that they are challenging yet suitable and safe for those with learning difficulties or mild physical problems.

Each year nearly all students exceed their own personal ambitions as they overcome the myriad of challenges posed by so many new experiences and skill development. It really is an experience of a lifetime. In order to reserve places, consent, contact and medical forms need to be returned as soon as possible or contact [dheading@st-josephscranleigh.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:dheading@st-josephscranleigh.surrey.sch.uk) if you have misplaced them and need duplicate copies sent home.

The cost for each child is £324.00 (which can be paid by instalments) and for those who are in financial need there is The Peter Gordon Lawrence Bursary scheme which might be able to help. But with applications needing to be made 12 weeks before the Course, time is running short see [www.pgl.co.uk/en-gb/school-trips/resources/teacher-guide/pgl-bursary](http://www.pgl.co.uk/en-gb/school-trips/resources/teacher-guide/pgl-bursary).

## CAPITAL APPEAL - UPDATE



### Workskills and Enterprise Centre plus a new 8 bed Residential Unit

Dan Fletcher from Kingston Associates has been working with Shirley Illsey our Fundraiser at St. Joseph's to examine the options for funding a wonderful but ambitious new building programme at St. Joseph's. As reported in a previous Newsletter, the Capital Appeal Working Party meets periodically and are happy to share updates, the most recent is as follows:

Work on the fundraising towards these fantastic new projects is gathering momentum, with the Appeal Committee meeting again this week. We are still looking for more representation from families (particularly those with experience of our residential provision) to join this group, so if you're interested or would like more information, please contact:

Shirley Illsey on [fundraiser@st-josephscranleigh.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:fundraiser@st-josephscranleigh.surrey.sch.uk)

At this stage of the Appeal all the work takes place behind the scenes, with our first approaches to funders already underway. Having outlined the need for these new buildings, along with their costs and plans, we've been met with some very positive feedback which is encouraging and helps us fine tune our plans for the rest of the campaign.

Having sent outline plans to the local Council in January, we're just waiting to hear if they have any comments before we submit the paperwork for the formal planning process. Although this process is likely to take another couple of months, it's vital we have all the consents in place before we can move to the next stages of our negotiations with potential funders.

## NSPCC - Numbers Day

Last Friday schools up and down the country celebrated the Annual NSPCC Numbers Day.

With a busy school timetable, each class was encouraged to approach the event so that it fitted in with their existing structure.

Alison and Vikki in the kitchen got busy baking and students from our leavers classes', St Francis', St Cecilia's and St Nicolas' were busy selling the cakes to staff across the whole school site. On Monday, staff were able to wear clothing that sported a "number", in a break from their usual uniform and donations of coins were added to the cake money. When the students have time, they will be measuring, weighing and banking the money and the total raised will be included in the next Newsletter.



# RESIDENTIAL NEWS

## PANTO TIME !!!! - EWHURST PLAYERS

### ALI BABA & THE 40 THIEVES



During December, we received an invitation from the Ewhurst Players to attend their gala night performance of their pantomime; "Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves".

We have been fortunate each year to be invited to this special show and this year it fell on Thursday 2nd February. Jo Cox, Deputy Head of Care was busy coordinating which children and young people wanted to go and obviously the staffing arrangements. When all the numbers were in; we were not surprised to see that yet again we oversubscribed our ticket allocation, and (thankfully) yet again Ewhurst Players managed to still squeeze us all in.



The Ewhurst Players complete their successful season with a special event evening, starting with a disco and final performance and a closing party. We are always delighted to be invited to this special evening and arrived full of excitement at 6.45pm for the pre-show dancing. This is certainly popular with all the young people, especially Emily, Joanna and Holly. Emily in particular cut a very psychedelic figure on the dance floor!



## Panto Time!!!!



The Pantomime itself started at 7.45pm and although some of our children and young people had gone home after the dancing, those who remained were certainly ready to join in, in true panto style.

There was plenty of enthusiastic interaction with the cast and our staff joined our children and young people in rousing calls of **“he’s behind you!”** and **“oh no he didn’t!”**. There were occasions when the staff were the most noisy, but of course our children and young people were more than ready to rise to the challenge. It isn't often someone allows you to yell at full volume, so the opportunity was well and truly enjoyed.

Everyone was wonderfully exhausted at the end of the night. When we arrived back at St. Joseph's just before 10pm, we had to complete bedtime routines in double quick time.



## New Chapel Furniture

Visitors to the Chapel this week will have noticed a huge purple “O”. This unusual piece of furniture is a welcome addition since it offers 2 distinct functions and has a unique and already popular appeal to our students and staff. The “O” is a cleverly combined reading bench and bookcase.



The internal seat is very comfortable and can fit 2 people for collaborative reading or, of course, can be enjoyed alone. The books to read are also not far away since they are displayed on the outside of the “O”. The “O” was fully funded by the Sir Harold Hoods Charitable Trust and Shirley, our fundraiser, has sent our thanks for this generous and wonderful gift.



# WORK EXPERIENCE

## Internal Postal Service

### There is no I in TEAM

St. Joseph's have an extensive postal network, with twice daily visits from postmen and postwomen from The Royal Mail. This brings a red bag of external mail which requires sorting and delivering. The various administrative processes within school generate a lot of inter-office mail too. Ensuring all the mail is moved securely between the offices and in a prompt and timely fashion is very much an important part of the role of the Work Experience - Internal Postal Service Operatives.

Dominic is part of the Internal Postal Service team and with a number of months experience is now very familiar with the process.

The Internal Postal Service was recently expanded to include a new recruit, Barney. Barney was keen to join the team and didn't want to wait until Caroline was free to train him, so he jumped at the chance of some early training from Dominic. Dominic understood the huge responsibility of training our newest recruit to the Internal Postal Service but was more than ready for the challenge.

Dominic started in the main office and explained how the pigeon holes were used. He helped Barney locate the right ones as they posted all the mail that had been left in the red Royal Mail bag. It's quite a tricky job and lots of problem solving has to be done and decisions made.

They then took internal mail up to St Peter's cottage with a quick chat to the horses on the way. Dominic then explained where each of the plastic wallets, full of mail, needed to go and advised Barney that he could only go into the offices if the green spots were on display.

Flip (Finance Office) was in but on the phone so they had to wait for her to be free to receive her mail. Following this they returned to the main office with mail generated from the staff of St Peter's



**Teamwork**

Cottage.

Dominic delivered a good training session and was very proud to explain all the expectations of a postman. On the following day Barney took up his job as "Thursday's Postie". He loves his new role and let's hope the weather stays fine for him, it's not so much fun in the cold and rain.

## ENTERPRISE - WORK RELATED LEARNING

### Roll Models Bakery

**1<sup>st</sup> in the technical round and Star Baker!**

'Roll Models'  
The Leaver's  
Bakery



Joel has now taken on the role of "Chief Baker" within the "Roll Models Bakery," which is run by the students in St Francis's class every Thursday. Joel is now an expert baker and he undertakes all the baking tasks independently. He is always keen to begin; starting with collecting his uniform and washing his hands. He then collects his recipe, utensils, bowls, scales and ingredients without any prompting.

Joel has the responsibility of deciding each week who from his many enthusiastic fellow bakers will make which dough and he makes sure we have enough variety and volume of dough to fulfil the orders the bakery has received. He is very versatile and likes to make all the rolls and focaccias that we sell.



Joel is an expert onion slicer

but, along with bakers everywhere, he hates it if any of the onion juice gets in his eyes! He follows the recipe instructions carefully and always measures the dry and liquid ingredients accurately. He gets the water temperature just right and kneads the dough effectively.

Part of our quality control is to check each dough regardless of how experienced our baker is, but Joel instinctively knows when his dough is kneaded enough and proceeds to prepare it for proving. He is also quick to offer to do extra doughs. It isn't just the busy baking elements that Joel will get involved with, his commitment extends to all the jobs in the kitchen and he will routinely set himself the washing up task when he has finished dough preparation.

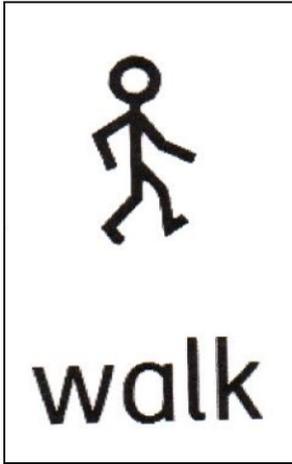
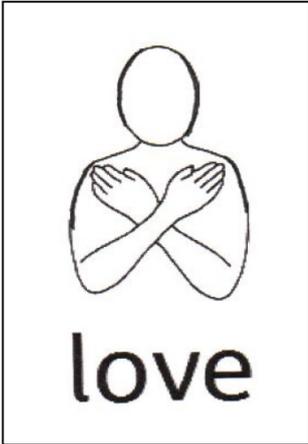
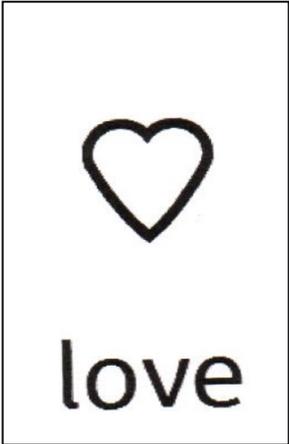
In fact as you can see in the photos, Joel is now a multi tasker in the extreme. Whilst frying his onions he was planning ahead and decided to collect all he needed to start his dough ready for the onions.

Joel is always willing to help fellow students and offers help whenever it's needed. We are really proud of Joel and the progress he has made whilst working in the bakery. It really isn't a surprise that his



# THERAPY NEWS

## Makaton Signs of the Week



# PUZZLE CORNER



For those who prefer a literacy based challenge, this term we are offering a word puzzle which invites you to make as many words from a word or phrase offered each term.  
 This term the phrase is  
 "St. Joseph's School"

	4			1	5		9	7
	7	2		9	6	4		
			7					
		4	1	3			7	
3	1		6		2		5	4
	6			7	4	2		
					7			
		9	4	6		5	2	
5	3		9	2			4	

For those who prefer a numeracy based challenge, this term we see the return of the sudoku.

We hope you have fun over the course of the term, working your way through the puzzles.

All entries are welcome, please take some time to complete and send your replies in to Lauren or Kial via the main office - please note your letter or email Re: **Puzzle Answers**.

Office email is [office@st-josephscranleigh.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-josephscranleigh.surrey.sch.uk)

The puzzles are just for the fun of it, but we will be happy to publish the names of the winners in the newsletter. Please note that the closing date for this terms puzzles is Friday 24th March; apologies that the last newsletter indicated a different date.

## THERAPY NEWS

### Speech & Language - App of the Week



iLearnWith Boing: Language! Grammar and Vocabulary <http://www.ilearnwith.com/our-apps/language/>

A language development game. Targets vocabulary (nouns, verbs, prepositions), listening comprehension and sentence formation.

Kids Preschool Learning Games - Kids Educational Games [www.ilearnwith.com](http://www.ilearnwith.com)

Fun grammar and vocabulary learning games for kids in Preschool and Kindergarten. Practice basic language skills.



## A Reminder of the Role of the Occupational Therapist

Occupational Therapy is a health profession concerned with how people function in their respective roles and how they perform activities that are required of them. The profession focuses on promotion, restoration, maintenance and skill development; where all internal and external factors are analysed. An OT will visit their clients in their own homes, childcare centres, schools, hospitals, communities and private agencies, prisons, clinics etc.

OTs promote independence in all daily activities. For an adult, this may mean looking at the areas of leisure, self-care and work. For children and young people this would include playing, self-care and schoolwork.

The OTs at St. Joseph's focus upon sensory processing, motor learning and behavioural issues and devise programmes and interventions to support skill development.

If sensory integration is impaired a student could have difficulty writing because they may be uncomfortable with the touch of paper, or may have difficulties attending to a task because they are highly distracted by other activities in the classroom.

If the student has poor motor planning abilities, they may not be able to direct movements of the pencil to appropriately form the required letter shapes.

If the student has immature sitting balance, the height of the desk and chair will require analysing and possibly altering to facilitate maximum stability.

OTs are guided by the theory of sensory integration, but they also utilise other theories and techniques. They take a holistic view of the child and will employ an extensive array of strategies to meet the child's individual needs.

## Dates for your diary

Spring Term	
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
Monday 20th /Tuesday 21st	Staff CPL Days
Wednesday 22nd	<b>First Day of Term - Students arrive 10.15-10.30am</b>
<b>MARCH</b>	
Wednesday 1st	2.45-3.15pm Ash Wednesday Liturgy (All Key Stages)
Thursday 2nd	World Book Day (All Key Stages) Theme - Time Travel and Favourite Character from History
Wednesday 8th	10.30am Liturgy of Reconciliation (All Key Stages) 11.00-11.45am Sacrament of Confession for staff
Wednesday 22nd	St. Joseph's Day
	10.00am Feast Day Mass (All Key Stages)
	11.00am -12.00noon Family Coffee Morning
	Feast Day Celebration - tbc
Friday 24th	Comic Relief Day
Saturday 25th	10.00am - 12.30pm Spring Grounds Day
Monday 27th	2.15pm Palm Sunday Liturgy (All Key Stages)
Wednesday 29th	2.30-3.15pm Last Supper Liturgy (All Key Stages)
Wednesday 29th	7.00pm Work Related Learning/ Experience Evening
Thursday 30th March	<b>Last day of term - Students finish 1.00pm</b>

**The next newsletter will be published on Friday 10th March 2017.**