

# Our Lady & St Joseph Primary School Newsletter

October 16th 2020

Newsletter 1165

**Dear parents: ....** In a remarkable show of unity and support every governor attended our first meeting since the death of our Chair of Governors, Derek Vitali from Covid-19 in May. Most attended in person and those who were shielding or could not attend did so virtually via Google Meets. A large amount of business was conducted in an efficient manner once early technical glitches were sorted out. October has for many years celebrated Black History Month.Our previous chair was SE Asian BAME heritage. Now we too can celebrate our first ever black chair of governors in Mr Paul Mokwenye. Vice-chair is now Mr Julian Vennis. Mr Rapture Orafu has also joined the governing body bringing expertise in ICT, health and safety and first aid training all skills greatly needed in 2020. Congratulations to them and my public thanks to all governors and members of the senior leadership team who attended last night. Lots of news below so please read on ...including remarkable attendance this week. 98% last week and Thursday 209 out of 210 children are in school. Hackney average is around 88% ... really good news so well done everyone..

## **Prayer for Black History Month A Prayer for Mercy**

Spirit of the Living God, We have gathered in this place this morning, allow your spirit to fill our very being. Most gracious and loving God, we remember the struggles of our people, black people, people of African descent,

your people and thank you for your grace,

your love, and your mercy.

We thank you for leaders that you continue to place in high places and ordinary places.

Inspire each of us to work more faithfully for justice and dignity of life everywhere.

Lord God, we remember the hurts of exclusion and prejudice, but we know that you can raise our vision above all barriers and give us wisdom and courage to make this a better world. As you give us yourself in the Bread of Hope and the Cup of Mercy - show us how to give ourselves to those who are without hope and to those who cry for mercy.

Lord God, rule over our spirit in this hour that we will go from this worship with the freedom of those who trust in you. In the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

#### School news ... next week

Wednesday - virtual assemblies on our website from all classes.

Friday - INSET Day school closed.

### Parent consultations —-virtual ones.

Only 4 families did not have either a phone call or a virtual Google Meets last week.

The top class for Google meets was Year 1 with 90% on Google and 100% attendance. Years 3 and 4 also had Google attendance in the 80%s and the only ones that need more support are Year 5 so we will work on this for next time. Feedback has been positive and we will have another one before Christmas to catch up as there are no assemblies or class visits just now.

#### Pics of the week:

Left to right: Chair Paul Mokwenye - Vice-chair Julian Vennis and Mr. Rapture Orafu new governor.







and finally ... next Thursday a special Autumn Leaves - Fall Day. Children can come in wearing the colours of Autumn leaves (brown or red colours) before they fall. When they come back after half-term all the leaves will be gone so last chance. Bring only £1.00 and all money goes to London Catholic Worker Foodbank a genuine good cause. New head boys and girls just been announced and pictures next week ...well done on one of the closest fought and even tempered contests in years, a lesson for America ..... as predicted last week traffic chaos continues with the blocking off of Culford Road and making getting around London almost impossible with gridlock everywhere. This cannot be right and is causing far more pollution ...... anyway half-term coming up and almost nowhere left to visit in the world so try and enjoy your weekend some good matches on and I can use my new cooker again .... braised ox cheeks with bone marrow slow cooked, buttery mash and some greens too .... soon be November and sadly no Fireworks Night Party ... so roll on Christmas and New Year we are planning lots of special events for the children so read on.