

St Joseph's Catholic Infant School & Nursery

Together we grow in God's love



Ruth Boon, Headteacher says:

St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School is 50 years old!

Papal Blessing

We have celebrated by contacting ex pupils and parents as well current parents, Governors and staff to help us celebrate our Golden 50th Anniversary. We are hosting several community events and have received a Papal Blessing.

Chigwell Nuns

St. Joseph's has witnessed some incredible changes during its existence. It is a school literally built on kindness. It was the kindness of the Chigwell Nuns that facilitated the building of the Infant School.

Catholic education for children: think big and aspire to do more

We have seen population changes, as well as technological and scientific changes, but St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School has stood steadfast in its core purpose of providing a sound Catholic education for children and investing in our future world by teaching our children to 'think big and aspire to do more'.

Multi-cultural haven

Our school is a multi-cultural haven allowing children to learn about different cultures. The children bring a wealth of experiences and languages together and the children's understanding of their faith and duty to help those less fortunate is outstanding. What makes our Infant School so special is that it provides the foundation for lifelong learning. The love and respect that every member of the community has for others make our school unique.

Caring and responsible society

In every child we see the potential to build a more caring and responsible society.



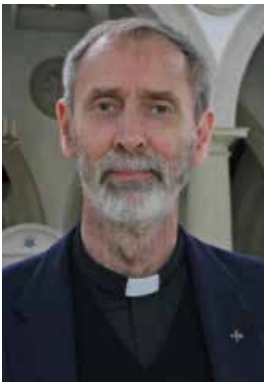
Sadiq Khan,
Mayor of London, says:

"I would like to congratulate you all on celebrating your school's Golden Anniversary, which is such a fantastic milestone. This must be an exciting time for the pupils, staff, parents, governors and other partners and friends of the school.

I hope you continue to enjoy many achievements over this year with your pupils...I wish you all the very best with your Golden Anniversary celebrations."

Alan Williams, Bishop of Brentwood, says:

For our Catholic schools, as for our parishes and religious houses, anniversaries are very important. They give us an opportunity to thank God for the achievements of the past – especially for the sacrifices made by former generations – and to renew our own commitment to share and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our own day. How wonderful it is, therefore, that St Joseph's Infant School, Leyton, should in 2019 be celebrating its Golden Jubilee.



When in 1897 what we now know as the Parish of St Joseph, Leyton, was established, there was no Catholic school. In 1900 what is today St Joseph's Junior School was opened as a school-cum-chapel, educating children during the week and serving as a church at weekends. This remained the case until 1904 when a temporary iron church was built, duly replaced in 1924 by the fine Church of St Joseph in Grange Park Road. But as St Joseph's Primary School expanded it became clear that the site in Vicarage Road was no longer sufficient to accommodate the growing number of pupils in the parish. And so it was, in 1969, that a new Infant School was opened in Marsh Lane on land behind Etloe House, then a convent of the Chigwell Sisters (Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary). What a great debt is owed to them for their generosity in making the school site available.

From its opening fifty years ago until the present-day St Joseph's Infant School, together with St Joseph's Junior School, has provided a marvellous service to the Catholics of Leyton in educating its young people. I pray that for Mrs Boon, the Headteacher, and for all associated with the school this Golden Jubilee will prove a joyful celebration, one filled with thanksgiving to God and with due honour paid to St Joseph, the school's heavenly patron.

May God bless all the staff, pupils and parents of St Joseph's Infant School on this happy occasion.

Chair of Governors says:

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Quisque tempor elementum ligula, ac volutpat enim semper vel. Nulla convallis tempus placerat. Duis leo magna, sagittis eu lorem quis, dictum pharetra odio. Aliquam faucibus nisi quis magna sagittis scelerisque eget in nulla. Integer mattis purus et ipsum blandit convallis. Fusce vel ornare nisl. Nulla posuere arcu ut leo interdum, id euismod nunc vulputate. Pellentesque vehicula quam sit amet dolor suscipit, et luctus lacus feugiat. Praesent ac justo nec ipsum pulvinar consequat eget a arcu. Nulla facilisi. In hac habitasse platea dictumst. Quisque mauris purus, tempor at sem quis, placerat pulvinar velit. Praesent vitae ex quam. Morbi lacinia mi at blandit blandit. Aenean euismod, mauris pellentesque vulputate bibendum, quam elit efficitur ligula, et euismod nulla enim et nulla.

St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School and Nursery 50th Anniversary:

from then to now

1969

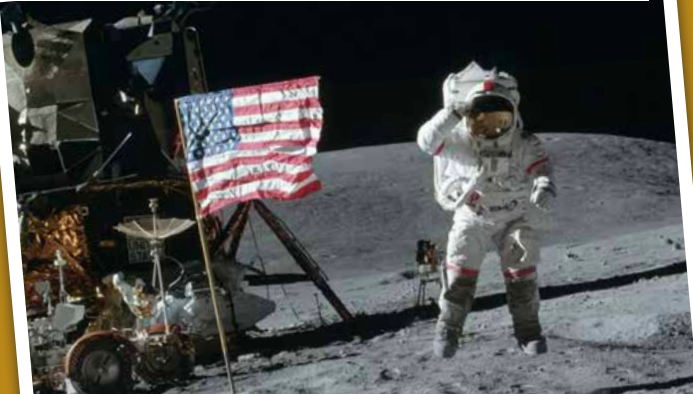


St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School opened in 1969. The blessing and official opening took place on the Feast of St. Joseph on Thursday 19th March 1970 and Bishop Casey attended. The original school log begins with the words: 'Canon Daniel Harnett was Parish Priest in Leyton for 17 years until December 1970. He planned this school and made it possible- remember him'.

180 chairs but NO tables!

On the first day that the children entered the school (September 9th, 1969) they were able to take a tour with their parents. On the first day someone from the Local Authority called to welcome the school, a person from HMI called and 'was very encouraging' and the priests came to bless the school. Even at this stage there were challenges such as 180 chairs but NO tables! By the second day the school was officially marked on the Ordinance Survey Map.

- What else happened in the 1969:
- The bestselling song was 'Sugar Sugar' by the Archies
 - Neil Armstrong was the first man to set foot on the moon.
 - The Beatles recorded their final song
 - Richard Nixon became president of the United States



the 1970's

By the 1970's there were 140 children on roll. An oil strike meant the school had to close for three days.

Our first school television

The first television at the school was installed on 10th January 1971. The school continued to receive a variety of visitors for lunch from other schools and parishes and in 1973 a group of children visited the Suntrap Centre in Epping Forest. This trip is still available and is one of the most popular trips for the Year Two Children.

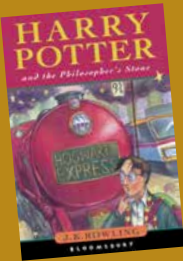


- What else happened in the 1970s:
- The bestselling song was 'Wonderful Night' by Eric Clapton
 - The Beatles broke up.
 - Apollo 13 was launched but ran into serious problems... thankfully the crew all survived.
 - The US invaded Cambodia and over 100,000 people protested about the Vietnam War
 - Hot wheels and Barbie Dolls became popular with children

the 1990's

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ABOUT THE SCHOOL FOR THIS DECADE?

Pellentesque vehicula quam sit amet dolor suscipit, et luctus lacus feugiat. Praesent ac justo nec ipsum pulvinar consequat eget a arcu. Nulla facilisi. In hac habitasse platea dictumst. Quisque mauris purus, tempor at sem quis, placerat pulvinar velit. Praesent vitae ex quam. Morbi lacinia mi at blandit blandit. Aenean euismod, mauris pellentesque vulputate bibendum, quam elit efficitur ligula, et euismod nulla enim et nulla.



- What else happened in the 1990s:
- The bestselling song was 'Candle in the Wind' by Elton John.
 - Nelson Mandela was released from prison and became President of South Africa after the first multi-racial elections.
 - The Channel Tunnel was completed.
 - The first Harry Potter book was published.
 - The search engine Google was founded.

the 1980's

During the 1980s the school had to close for the Caretaker's National Strike. It is recorded in the log as 'A day of action (or inaction)', and two staff members marched down Hoe Street behind an NUT banner "in front of communists".

Our first school fish tank!

The Junior School sent a gift to the Infant School of a fish tank. The journal states that there will be 'No jumble sales, No Christmas Bazaar as we are here to education and not raise funds. For the first time we will be able to deposit £200 in our account and be financially secure'.

- What else happened in the 1980s:
- The bestselling song was 'Come on Eileen' by Dexy's Midnight Runners
 - Video Games were introduced, alongside the Rubik Cube.
 - The Chernobyl nuclear reactor exploded in the USSR.
 - The Berlin Wall was torn down at the end of the Cold War.
 - Students in China protested in Tiananmen Square.



the 2000's

School celebrated the exciting new millennium with a special Assembly.

Olympic Torch

Leyton has continued to thrive as an area. In 2012 people filled the street to see the Olympic Torch being carried down the High Road.

Top 8% of schools

St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School has continued to thrive. In 2017 our school was in the top 8% of schools nationally for Phonics. We are still a diverse community, but it is a community built on kindness. We are a school that welcomes and nurtures every child.

- What else happened in the 2000s:
- The bestselling song to date is Happy by Pharrell Williams.
 - The 9/11 attacks took place and indicated a changing world.
 - Barak Obama was elected President of the United States of America.
 - Pope John Paul 11 died.



Teachers say:

Ewelina, parent and Teaching Assistant:

“St Joseph’s Catholic Infant School is a very special place. Everyone works so hard here to ensure the children make the best possible progress. Our School has a very special family feel where staff, children and parents feel welcome and valued. Everyone here is so supportive, helpful, kind and friendly.

“We have an outstanding quality of teaching by dedicated teachers who care about each and every child. This is the best school for my children and they are always happy to go and learn. They have learnt so much here. I feel very privileged to be working in such a friendly, supportive and welcoming workplace. St Joseph’s is GREAT! Thank you.”

Mrs Nogales, parent and Class Teacher:

“I have worked in this school for four years and each day I look forward to coming to work. The staff share their love and passion for teaching and children are always at the centre of every decision we make. The children show enthusiasm for learning and it has been wonderful to watch them grow starting from Nursery and through to Year 2.

“School feels like my second home!”

Mrs Hill, Teaching Assistant and parent of child who attended our school:

“The school is special because we care about each and every child. We are warm, understanding and helpful and we go way beyond what other school’s do. The children trust us completely. It is lovely to see them when they grow up as they are so polite and always stop to chat. I would not want to work anywhere else. I love my job and the children. The school is a happy place now.

Parents say:

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