



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

www.stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk

JAN / FEBRUARY
2015

"TO LIVE LOVE AND LEARN IN A CARING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY"

NURSERY ADMISSIONS

If your child is born between 01/09/2011 and 31/08/2012 you will need to apply online to the council and fill in a St. Joseph's School supplementary information form by Friday 20TH March 2015 if you wish your child to join our Nursery. The application forms are available from the school office and can be downloaded from our website.

DINNER MONEY FOR JUNIORS

Please note: Dinner money must be paid for either weekly or half-termly IN ADVANCE.

School meals for the second half of the Spring term will be £2.15 per day, £10.75 per week. Parents can pay weekly in advance every **Monday** morning or, if preferred, pay £62.35 for meals up to the Easter holidays, payable as soon as the children return to school. Our standard method of payment is by WisePay. If you cannot pay by WisePay, please put payments in your child's book bag in a SEALED ENVELOPE. On the envelope, please write "Dinner Money", your child's name, CLASS and AMOUNT enclosed, making any cheques payable to Herts Catering Ltd.

Note: For weekly payers, it would be most helpful to the office staff if the payments could be made by **Monday morning** as this gives the office staff the necessary time to allocate the payments to the correct week.

SCHOOLCOMMS

The new Schoolcomms system is now up and running and has replaced the old Parentmail. Many thanks for updating your contact information. Use of the text facility is currently limited to certain urgent messages. For the time being please do not use this method to contact the school unless you have been specifically asked to do so, e.g. if you have been asked to reply to a text which has been sent personally to you by us. We expect to develop our use of the system over time and will keep you informed of any developments.

YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP

A reminder to Year 6 parents that the deadline for payments for the PGL residential trip is Wednesday 1st April. Payments can be made in instalments of any amount you choose up until that date. We recently issued payment records to all parents giving details of payments made and any balance outstanding. If at any point you wish to check your balance, this can be accessed on WisePay by clicking 'My Account' and then the 'i' symbol next to any payment you have made.

If you have not yet made a payment since you paid the deposit, please do take advantage of the facility to make small regular payments so as not to be faced with a big payment at the deadline which could fall at an inconvenient or difficult time.

YOUNG VOICES

On Thursday 29th January 2015 Miss Roper took 38 children to the O2 Arena, London to take part in this year's Young



Voices Concert. The children had been learning the songs for this event since Mid-September, only taking time out to prepare for St Michael's Carol Service. The concert programme included an Andrew Lloyd Webber medley, a pop medley, show songs and stand-alone items. We certainly made it a night to remember! When the light went out and the tiny torches lit the arena the children learnt the true meaning of the much used term 'awesome!'

Thank you to the 100 parents and relatives who came along to support us and to enjoy the evening and to Mrs Nicholson and Mrs Sanders for accompanying us. It is always a lot of work organising our participation in an event like this but when I hear affirming comments like "It was the best day of my life!" from a child, it makes it all worthwhile.

MOVIE NIGHT



Thank you for supporting the Rwanda Project. The children enjoyed the movie night and hopefully you were able enjoy a couple of hours to yourselves. Thank you for your generous donations. This night has raised a total of £456.20.

DOG TRUST

St. Joseph's were fortunate enough to receive two visits from Jo Bains from the educational services department of the Dogs Trust charity this half term.



She came into classrooms and explained how the children should: look after dogs; behave around dogs; feed dogs and highlighted how dogs can have such positive influences in our lives. The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed their sessions and learnt a lot.

We donated four full boxes of dog food/treats/bedding to Jo and she was blown away with our generosity. Each year we would like to donate to the Dogs Trust as we can see what a direct impact it makes.

Thank you to all the children, parents and staff who kindly donated.

YOUR SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

It has been a quiet start to the New Year for the School Association, however we have a number of upcoming events planned for the next few months so please save the dates in your diaries.

Spring Disco- Friday 20th March. KS1 5 - 6 pm and KS2 6.15 - 7.45pm

Easter Cake Bake Sale- Wednesday 1st April (straight after school)

St Joseph's Sponsored Marathon - Thursday 23rd April

May Fayre - Saturday 16th May 12-4pm

Summer Disco - Friday 3rd July 6-8pm

In April, Leigh Castle, a parent of children at St Joseph's will be running in the London Marathon to raise money for both Great Ormond Street Hospital & the School Association. In order to support her fundraising efforts the children will be asked to join together in a sponsored run that will take place on Thursday 23rd April. Leigh has been training hard and I know you will all join us in wishing her every success in this amazing challenge.

It was lovely to see so many new faces come along to the first School Association meeting of 2015. It is great that we continue to benefit from the support we receive from all the families at St Joseph's.

SPORTS NEWS

This half term has been difficult with sport as the weather hasn't been favourable. However, we have been busy indoors. We have all had golf sessions each week.



Hopefully some children have taken advantage of the free coaching on the back of their PE lessons. Please do let me know if you would be interested in your child attending a club after school (chargeable).



Our speed stackers are still at it and will be doing their second timing session soon

after half term.

Football training has continued with a few fixtures being able to happen. We drew against Summercroft 5 - 5 and beat Little Hallingbury 3 - 2, with our B team drawing 2 - 2.



The team are doing well and have gelled better after having played more often as a team now.

Next term we will be doing our sponsored event. This year it will be linked to the place our School Association secured in the London Marathon. Each child will be running a mile (or as close as possible) so that each class can run a marathon in total. In doing this we will be raising money for GOSCH and the school. Leigh Castle is running regularly and looking forward to her marathon too.

I will be starting up a netball club post half-term and would very much appreciate any parental support. The day has yet to be decided, so please do let me know what suits you best.



Keep active!

Kim Foster

VOUCHERS

Please do remember when shopping we are collecting and the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers.

DATES FOR NEXT HALF TERM

Monday 23rd February - Pupils return

Tuesday 3rd March - Parent consultation

Thursday 5th March - Parent consultation

Thursday 19th March - St. Joseph's Day

Tuesday 31st March - Lower KS2

Performance

Thursday 2nd April - End of term 1.30pm

COLLEGE CAR PARK

Please DO NOT park on the grass verge in the road leading up to the College Pre-Prep. We have received complaints from the college that cars bumping up onto the verge have damaged the curb.

DROP AND GO

A huge thank you to the parents who have volunteered on the college car park drop off over the last few weeks. Please consider using it if you have children year 3 and above, as it is helping to ease the congestion. The rota for next half term is now available at :

www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E4BAAA62EA1F49-drop .

Have you benefitted from using the drop off? Could you help at least one day a week for twenty minutes? Volunteers are needed to ensure the continued success. Please note that the drop off will not be open on days when we do not have two volunteers. The link can be used to check whether the drop off will be available.

TEXTILE COLLECTION WEDNESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY

Our next textile collection is booked for the Wednesday after half term. Bags and leaflets explaining what can be donated have been sent home in bookbags. Please put your filled bags in the cycle shed after half term. Thank you in advance for your donations which will provide points to enable the school to purchase science equipment.

BUILDING NEWS

The Governors have been successful in a bid from the Diocese to extend the resources room to create a new classroom for Hazel class. Works are due to start this half-term.

In addition, the school has also been accepted onto a DfE building scheme for 2015-2021. There are very little concrete!! details to share at the moment. We would like a re-build and expansion, but this may not be possible. We are one of two primary schools in the County selected, and one of only 217 schools chosen nationally. A huge debt of thanks to Nicola McManus our School Business Manager for organising the bid with surveyors and governors to this point.