



# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

www.stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk

FEB/MARCH 2015

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

## HEAD TEACHER MISSION AWARDS

At the whole school assembly in February, we presented the Headteacher Mission award certificate to the following pupils who have been actively living out our school mission statement:

Ash	Max & Ava
Beech	Harry, Gioia & Kathryn
Cedar	J.J. & Tilly
Elm	Anna N. & Matthew
Fir	Marta & Jacobbe
Hazel	Aeryn & Harrison
Maple	Ethan & Isabella T.
Oak	Ava & Lucas
Pine	Caleb & Maddie
Sycamore	Tanya & Claudia
Willow	Dominic & Leah

The children who received the Headteacher Mission award at our assembly yesterday were:-

Ash	Tommy & Ella
Beech	Elise & Ethan
Cedar	Lily-Rose & Katie G
Elm	Ramsay & Isabella F
Fir	Freya & Josh
Hazel	Chiara & Steffi
Maple	Sam & Lilly
Oak	Darragh & Genevieve
Pine	Eloise & Sonny C.
Sycamore	Cinzia & Theo
Willow	Liam M. & Igor

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Last year our school attendance improved slightly to 96.2%. However attendance in primary schools nationally has risen and is 96.1%, meaning we are now classified as having 'average' attendance. We are not an 'average' primary school and our attendance must reflect the high goals and aspirations that we set for ourselves. Attendance across the school needs to improve in every class and the LA Attendance and Improvement Officer will be involved in ensuring pupil attendance improves.

Current Class Attendance:

Ash - 98.3%	Beech - 98.3%	Cedar - 97.5%
Elm - 93.4%	Fir - 96.1%	Hazel - 97.1%
Maple - 97.5%	Oak - 96.5%	Pine - 95.9%
Sycamore - 96.6%	Willow - 95.8%	

## DINNER MONEY FOR JUNIORS

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

School meals for the first half of the Summer term will be £2.15 per day, £10.75 per week. Parents can pay weekly in advance every Monday morning or, if preferred, pay £51.60 for meals up to the summer half-term 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.

## KS2 GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ AT THORN GROVE.

Pupil representatives were:

- Yr 3 - Genevieve
- Yr 4 - Eleanor
- Yr 5 - Dominic
- Yr 6 - Luca



They all made a valiant start and were in contention for the win but dropped a little towards the end. Better luck next time!

## WORLD BOOK DAY

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March it was World Book Day and children and staff dressed up as their favourite book character. It was very much enjoyed by all who took part, really getting into the spirit of the event, and a very impressive £260.00 was raised for CAFOD.

## BOOK FAIR

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March we held a very successful Scholastic book fair in school. Children had the opportunity to visit the fair with their class, within school hours, and after school with their parents. £1588.06 was raised and the school earned £952.84 worth of Scholastic vouchers to spend on resources for the school.

## EYFS NEWS!

Nursery have had a very busy term! The children have learnt first-hand about life cycles by hatching chicks in time for Easter. Nursery welcomed 5 chicks after a 3 week wait. With the help of a life cycle exploration kit the children learnt how an egg develops into a chick. The children were lucky enough to watch the chicks hatch right in front of their eyes! The chicks are now settled into their new home.

EYFS children have enjoyed a visit to Standalone farm this half term. The children were lucky enough to see lots of new life as the farm has recently welcomed piglets, calves, chicks and lambs. The children enjoyed learning Nursery Rhymes about many of the animals they saw. A highlight of the trip was a milking demonstration! Staff would like to thank all of the parents who came with them on the trip.

This half term EYFS have enjoyed another successful show and share session. We received great support from parents who attended the session to learn more about what their children enjoy doing in school. Thank you to all the parents who came and showed their support.

The last day of term for Nursery saw their annual Easter bonnet parade. The children were all tasked with making an Easter bonnet at home and what a fantastic job they did. The children all enjoyed visiting the other classes in school to show off their hard work.



## SPORTING NEWS



We have had an extremely sporty half term.

Our school football team have done really well, coming second in their league. They played away and did their

school really proud with their ability and behaviour. Our boys then went on to play in a tournament at Howe Green School to finish the season off. The Year 3/4 team won their tournament in the morning followed by the year 5/6 team being victorious in the afternoon. Well done for bringing home the silverware!



As part of the Birchwood Schools Partnership we took part in a number of competitions. The first competition was High 5 netball. We entered two mixed teams from year 5/6. The A team came third in their group and the B team won the plate event. After this we participated in the Quick Sticks hockey competition where we were third in our group. Our final competition was Gymnastics. There were 2 competitions, one for our LKS2 classes and one for KS1. Both teams performed excellently in a very individual, competitive day. They had to do floor routines, body management routines and a vault. We have yet to receive our final overall placing. The speed stackers have been timed for round 2 now.

On Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April we will be doing our sponsored event. We hope that you are busy gathering sponsors for your child. It will be a fun day where all the children will be given the opportunity to run. 5 laps will be equivalent to a mile. Our intention is for each class to run a marathon of accumulated miles. That will be 11 marathons in 1 day! If you can help your child's teacher on that day, please do let them know.

During the summer term there will be a netball, football and cricket league for the UKS2 classes. More information will follow shortly. We have booked for Paul to do a golf club after school on a Friday. If you are keen for your child to attend, please give their name in to myself or the office.

Keep active!

Kim Foster



## SUPPORTING ST. JOSEPH'S

Did you know that St Joseph's runs a Stop & Drop scheme every morning from 8.40-8.55am in the College Car Park?

I am one of the parent volunteers who help to run it. There are about 10 of us but we work in pairs so we have just enough if we each volunteer for one morning a week.

On my day, we arrive at 8.35am, slip on our (very glamorous!) neon yellow jackets and supervise the KS2 children to walk safely from their parents' cars onto the school grounds. Steve very kindly sets up every morning before we arrive and it only takes a minute to put everything away.

There are usually 15-20 cars using the Stop & Drop each morning, which means 15-20 fewer cars parking in the College car park or out on the main road.

This makes the morning trip to school safer for our children and more convenient for our parents. It also reduces the congestion which upsets the wider community. These are all altruistic, charitable reasons for supporting the Stop & Drop.

However, it also means that on the days when we aren't volunteering, we can make use of the Stop & Drop ourselves! For me, this means being able to drop off in the College car park at 8.40am and being 10 minutes into my journey to work by the time the bell goes for the start of the school day.

I also love the big smiles and cheery greetings from the St Joseph's families I see when it's my morning to help!

At the moment the volunteers are all helping on at least one morning each week to keep the scheme running. If you could spare 20 minutes every few weeks, it really would make a difference to a lot of people.

Even if you can't help run the scheme, please consider using it!

To sign up please visit:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4baaa62ea1f49-drop>

## ST. JOSEPH'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

To commemorate St Joseph's day on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, Fr Peter celebrated mass with our KS1 and KS2 pupils at the school. The Chaplaincy team took a leading role in the Mass by sharing readings about and reflections upon the life of St Joseph. As part of the Mass, pupils sang 'St Joseph's Song' which Miss Roper co-wrote with our KS1 pupils last year.

## LKS2 CONCERT - HE IS ALIVE!

A huge congratulations to all of our performers from Lower Key Stage 2 who gave us such an amazing Easter show on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Mr Coldwell commented that he thought he'd arrived at a performing arts school for the evening and that he was very proud of all of the performers and singers. Thank you to all of the staff who contributed to the success of the show and to our wonderfully enthusiastic audience!

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

As part of our preparations for Good Friday, the children in KS1 and KS2 attended 2 separate services at the school, so that they could reflect upon Jesus' journey through the Stations of the Cross. Fr Peter led the KS2 service.



## KS2 PARENT WORKSHOP

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 40 parents attended a KS2 parent workshop on 'Managing my pre-teen boy/girl'. Feedback from the parents who attended was very positive and they would like similar workshops to be arranged for the future.

## GREAT BOOKS FOR BOYS

A couple of parents have raised the question about books which may inspire their sons to read more. The School Library Service published several years ago a couple of useful and free downloadable guides for getting boys into books - they are long but give a synopsis of every book listed:

Boys into Books 5-11 <http://tinyurl.com/lmlvd55>

Boys into Books 11-14 <http://tinyurl.com/pb38l2g>

In addition the following website have recommendations of recently published books for boys aged 5-13:

<http://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/genre/gr8/Books-for-Boys.html>

Why not make a visit to the library and see if they have any of these in stock?

## NOTE FROM GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors take our legal responsibilities to ensure Equality and Accessibility very seriously. To this end we have a rolling 3 year plan of consultation, action and review. Last year we consulted and we put together our Plan for 2014 - 2017. In the Plan we decided that we needed a new website to be able to better communicate with everyone. We are pleased that the new website is close to completion and due to go live in May. The website will have Google Translate available; it will be delivered in a dyslexia friendly font and will have a high visibility facility for all those that need these. Further to our aim to better communicate with every parent, there are now translators available at parents' evenings when requested. In the Plan we also decided that we needed more class room space for Key Stage 2. We are pleased that the newly extended resources room is soon to become a much larger class room for Hazel Class (hopefully by May half term). The current Hazel Class will then become the teachers' resources room. We have a duty to constantly ensure that the school is safe and accessible for all. We occasionally have to seek expert advice and recent changes have been made in the nursery to this end. We will review the Plan again next year and report back then. If you have any concerns or suggestions in relation to an Equality or Accessibility issue then please contact us through the office or by e-mail [governors@stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk](mailto:governors@stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk).

We are delighted to be able to tell you some potentially exciting news. In our attempts to pursue our 5 to 10 year plan to re-build the school and make it a 2 form entry; which would provide an additional 15 spaces per year group; we made a bid under the Priority School Buildings (PSB2). We have been selected and past the first hurdle despite great competition. What we do not know though is what they will actually agree is necessary. We are awaiting a building inspection any day now. We are supported by the Diocese in our attempts to be a 2 form entry but money is always the challenge. We believe that the time is right to pursue our aims, with the additional thousands of houses about to be built in Bishop's Stortford, but we have to convince the Local Authority to invest in our school as well. Much work needs to be done.

## SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

This school term has flown by and here we are at Easter already!

A big thank you to our teachers who have kindly given up their own time to come along and oversee the school discos. Over 200 children came along to dance their socks off! We are aware that changes to events suit some families and not everybody but the feedback on the new separate 'children only' disco has been positive. With Mother's Day in mind the School Association arranged for a photographer to come into the school over a weekend & capture some precious family moments. Over £200 was raised so thank you to all the families who supported this new fund raiser - we hope you love your photos!

We have lots of events coming up next term...

### Sponsored Marathon - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

In April, Leigh Castle, a parent of two children at St Josephs, will be running the London Marathon to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital & the School Association. This year to support Leigh in her massive endeavour the sponsored event for the children will be to take part in a Class Marathon. Sponsorship forms have been sent home or alternatively the children can be sponsored online via <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/StJosephsMarathon> (don't forget to leave a good luck message!)

Extra funds will also be raised through gift aid. If you are a UK tax-payer it would be great if you remember to gift aid when a donation is made.

Money raised from this event will help fund planned playground improvements. I am sure you will all join us in wishing Leigh the very best of luck on marathon day - we are very proud of you!

### May Fayre - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May

This is the biggest event in the School Association Calendar and takes lots of planning. We really need volunteers to make it a success - either in the preparation or on the day or both! If you have any new ideas, can help source/donate raffle prizes please do let us know! The email address is [stjosephsschoolassociation@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stjosephsschoolassociation@hotmail.co.uk)

### Wild 'N' Wacky Softplay - Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May

An evening fund raising event is planned for the children in the May Half-Term holiday at Wild 'n' Wacky Softplay in Harlow. Details to follow after Easter.

### Summer Disco-BBQ Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

Let us hope the sun will have appeared by July and all the family can come and enjoy the outside Summer Disco & BBQ in the evening sunshine!

From all of the School Association we once again thank you for your continued support of the events we hold and wish you all a Happy Easter!