



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

www.stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk

NOVEMBER/
DECEMBER 2015

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



HEAD TEACHER MISSION AWARDS

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

Ash - Elsie & Jack
Beech - Isabel & Santiago
Cedar - Amelia & Max
Elm - Jeremiasz & Ala
Fir - William & Shannon
Hazel - Ryewin & Liam
Maple - Alice & Gabriel
Oak - Amy & Imogen
Pine - Luke & Holly
Sycamore - Abbie & Rosie
Willow - Isobel & Lydia

DINNER MONEY FOR JUNIORS

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

School meals are currently priced at £2.30 per day, £11.50 per week. If you wish to pay for next half-term in advance, the cost of school meals up to the February half term holidays will be £64.40. If you prefer, you can pay any amount of your choice to keep your balance in credit. Please pay online using the School Gateway system or by cash or cheque, making any cheques payable to Hertfordshire Catering Ltd.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE CATERING MANAGER : Two weeks' notice in writing to Mrs Thompson is required for any changes to the children's dietary pattern.

MILK ORDER

Don't forget that milk is now available to all age groups through the school. If you would like your child to receive mid-morning milk please just visit www.coolmilk.com to register and place your order.



FOUNDATION STAGE

PRIMARY ADMISSIONS 2016-2017

If your child was born between 1st September 2011 and 31st August 2012, you must have applied for a Primary School place to start in September 2016 by January 15th 2016.

Our School Information Form (SIF) is available to download from our school website: <http://www.stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk/schooladmissions.html>.

NURSERY ADMISSIONS 2016-2017

If your child was born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013 you will be able to apply for a Nursery place from 9th February 2016. Our forms will be available from that date on the above website address.

SINGING CLUB

On Tuesday 8th December the Year 5 and 6 children in the Singing Club participated in the Bishop's Stortford primary schools' carol service at St. Michael's Church.



Following an excellent afternoon rehearsal the children returned in the evening to lead carols and perform 'The Little Drummer Boy' as a solo school item (with our own drummer!). Following the service several people commented their congratulations to us and said that we always sing with such musicality!

We wish to especially congratulate our two readers: Ben Foster and Georgia Randall and our two soloists: Dominic Hodgson and Abbie Ambrose.

HAZEL, MAPLE & OAK TRIP TO FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM.

On Tuesday 8th December and Wednesday 9th December the children from Hazel, Maple and Oak visited the Fitzwilliam museum in Cambridge to study the artefacts in the Egyptian galleries. The children really learned a lot from the trip and as usual they were a real credit to the school.



Children in the Foundation Stage have had a very busy first term in both Reception and Nursery. All the children have settled into school and it has been a real privilege to see them grow in confidence.

The children enjoyed another successful show and share session, showing their parents their classroom and some of the work that they do in school. Thank you to all of the parents that were able to come, we look forward to hosting another session next term.

The morning Nursery children enjoyed a trip to Pizza Express. The children had the opportunity to be chefs for the morning and sample lots of potential pizza toppings. The children then made their own pizzas and were lucky enough to take them home for lunch!

The Reception children earlier this half term had a lovely but wet day at Hatfield Forest! The children enjoyed exploring the forest and creating forest art. This half term we have all been very busy getting ready for Christmas as well as performing our nativity 'A Miracle in Town' to a packed out hall of parents. The children performed fantastically and all the staff in Early Years were proud of each and every one of them.



PRICKLY HAY

KS1 wowed a packed hall on the 11th of December with their Nativity 'Prickly Hay'. As Mr Coldwell said, he wasn't sure how Nashville would blend with Bethlehem but it did! All the children sang their hearts out and remembered their dances and gestures too. A big thank you once again to parents for providing such wonderful costumes. All the adults in the KS1 classes are proud of their 'angels'. Well done!



RWANDA PROJECT

Sister Susan and the children in the new school in Rwanda sent us Christmas wishes and thanked us for all our support and for the lovely Christmas cards our children had made and sent out to them.

Sister Susan said "I would like to wish you and all the staff and students at St Joseph's a very happy and Blessed Christmas. May we celebrate our Saviour's Birth by sharing His love and His Peace with all. God bless Sister Susan"

PANTO TIME !!

This year we decided to book two different pantomimes for the children, so that they could be more suited to their age groups. The Key Stage 1 children enjoyed watching a production of Pinocchio and the Key Stage 2



children laughed their way through Cinderella. Thank you to the School Association for funding the pantomimes again this year.

SPORTING NEWS

The football league continues and the boys are doing exceptionally well.



The year 3/ 4 children enjoyed their term of tennis and showed some Wimbledon wonder! Next term the club will be open to year 5/ 6 children. Letters have gone out and places will be given on a 'first come first serve' basis.



Year 1/ 2 children have had some professional dance tuition in PE and this featured in their performance in their Nativity show. Next term there will also be gymnastics for year 3/ 4 pupils. This will be in PE and a before school club.

Despite the cold weather, please do keep active! Enjoy the Christmas season.

SPARE CLOTHING

Foundation Stage would be most grateful for donations of any spare socks and plimsolls which would be very useful for those little emergencies! Many thanks

COLLEGE CAR PARK DROP OFF

Thank you to the small dedicated group of parents who have been running the drop off. Pupils in Year 3 to Year 6 can be dropped within the coned area any time between 8.40am and 8.55am where they will be seen through the gate to make their own way to class. If we are to make this a success please consider using the drop off and volunteering. It will only take 20 minutes of your time once a week/fortnight if we can get enough volunteers. The rota for next half term is now available at: www.signupgenius.com/go/20FOE4BAAA62EA1F49-drop

Please note that the drop off will not be open on days when we do not have two volunteers and unfortunately we may have to review whether it continues if we are unable to get enough volunteers each week.

NOTE FROM GOVERNORS

You will all now know that our Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Nicholson, has been promoted to Headteacher at a new school from September 2016. We have a strong record of advancing our Senior Leadership Team at St. Joseph's and we wish Mrs Nicholson all the best in the future. The Personnel Committee will deal with the advertising for a replacement in January and we will be assisted by the Diocese in this important process. As a Church School, the Governors are the employers of all staff (not the Local Authority as in other schools). The Personnel Committee will interview the prospective candidates and hopefully appoint a worthy replacement in plenty of time.

We have been joined by a new Church appointed Foundation Governor, Stephen Eccles. Stephen brings a wealth of knowledge in terms of managing building works and so we are pleased that he responded to our last request for such skills.

Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year to all at St. Joseph's.

SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

This school term has flown by and here we are at Christmas already! It has been a great term for the School Association with the successes of the school disco, cake bake & Christmas Fayre.

November also saw the School Association AGM. Thank you to everyone who attended. It was great to see some new parents come along. The new committee was voted in and reports given by the Treasurer and the Chairman on the activities of the Association in the last year. In the 2014/15 academic school year £16,000 was raised through our fund raising activities. This is an amazing achievement & is thanks to the support and generosity of volunteers, parents & staff. Working with the school, the Association are committed in ensuring that every penny raised is spent on items and activities that benefit each & every child who attends the school. The minutes of the AGM and details of the new committee can be found on the School website.

A visit from Santa in his magical grotto, Chuck a Turkey, Tinsel Pull and the Chocolate Tombola were, to name a few, some of the activities that took place at our Christmas Fayre at the end of November. This event is aimed at the children & families to get into the Christmas Spirit and to have some fun in a festive atmosphere. We hope you all agree that it was a fantastic evening. An event like this takes months of planning and preparation and a wonderful team of staff and parent volunteers helped to make it all happen. Thank you all so much.

Don't forget the Christmas Savings Club is starting again in the New Year - let us know if you require any further info or are interested in signing up to start saving towards Christmas 2016! stjosephsschoolassociation@hotmail.co.uk

The St Joseph's 100 Club is also now up & running...details can be found on the school website for those parents/carers who are interested in joining. We have already had many happy winners!

Looking ahead to 2016 the School Association is busy co-ordinating the installation of new play equipment in KS2 playground. We are also hoping to arrange some new fund-raising events...more details to follow next year. The next School Association meeting will take place in January...please look out for the date & time and do consider coming along & getting involved. Finally, the School Association would like to thank the family of St Joseph's for your continued support and we wish the children, parents and staff a very Happy Christmas and New Year!