



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

www.stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk

MARCH 2016

"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 – Joseph Sullivan & Sorcha Adams
Beech – Maya Wojcik & James Hackney
Cedar – Karolina Sosnowska & Elizabeth Boylan
Elm – Ava McConn & Kai Scheffer
Fir – Harriet Izzard & Neil Strange
Hazel – Eva McLornan & Eva Carey
Maple – Megan Strange, Gabriel Brault & Tia Haupt
Oak – Anna Wilkinson & Lyla Wilkerson
Pine – Lilly Sloan & Joe Crockett
Sycamore – Jake Foster & Igor Bogdanowicz
Willow – Aniela Stoker & Caleb Conway

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 summer half term will be £75.90. 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 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.



YEAR OF MERCY / LENTEN PREPARATIONS



During Lent we are continuing to remember that Pope Francis has made this year a special time for us to think about God's forgiveness and

mercy. Some representatives of our Chaplaincy Team attended a 'Year of Mercy' Mass at Westminster Cathedral with children from all over the diocese. They found the experience very uplifting! We also have our 'Holy Door', which has been blessed by Fr Fortunato, hanging in the front entrance. As the doors are always open, they represent God's arms: always open and ready to forgive us.

On Monday, KS1 and KS2 children participated in the Stations of the Cross which were led by Mr Coldwell and Miss Cassidy-Jones. The children have been learning about the Stations of the Cross in their R.E. lessons and were able to show a deep understanding of this important tradition.

CLASS AND SCHOOL MASSES

We are very grateful to Fr Fortunato, who has taken time to lead Class and School Masses this term. On Ash Wednesday, he led a Service where we were encouraged to think about the wrong choices we have made and consider ways that we can put these right by praying, fasting and alms-giving. Mass also took place on Friday 18th March as we celebrated St Joseph's Day a day early!

WORLD BOOK DAY

On Thursday 3rd March, St. Joseph's pupils and staff all took part in the annual World Book Day by dressing up as their favourite book character.

During this day they all came together in the hall to admire each other's wonderful costume efforts and to celebrate our love for reading. They also spent much of their afternoon focusing on how they can develop their reading skills with their class teachers and at home with their parents.

The money raised from this day is being donated to Walking With The Wounded - a charity which our recent speaker, Ibi Ali, works for.

BOOK FAIR

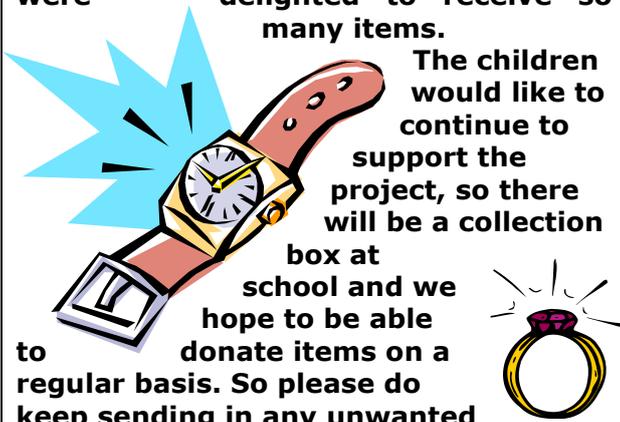
Thank you to you all for your participation in our recent book fair. We can confirm that we gained lots of points for the school which we can use towards educational books. Also a big thank you to all of the helpers who gave up their time to support the running and organisation of the event. The fair was a huge success and we hope that your child's love for reading will continue to flourish.

THE JEWELLERY PROJECT

The children from the School Council would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who donated their unwanted jewellery. The collection was a huge success and St Elizabeth's, who run the project at the Cross Galleries in town, were delighted to receive so many items.

The children would like to continue to support the project, so there will be a collection box at school and we hope to be able to donate items on a regular basis. So please do keep sending in any unwanted or broken jewellery, watches, beads etc.

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. Please consider using the drop off and volunteering. It will only take 20 minutes of your time once a week/fortnight. The rota for next half term is now available at: www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E4BA-AA62EA1F49-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.

FOUNDATION STAGE

Early Years has had another very busy, short half term. On Thursday 10th and 17th March we had an exciting trip to Epping and Ongar railway. The children had a fantastic day, which included a trip on a train, a tour of the station and a visit to an old route master bus. The children really enjoyed the day and finally we were lucky with the weather. This half term has also seen more work carried out in the EYFS garden. We have had an extra slide put on the mound and this area has been re-turfed. The garden also has a vegetable patch next to the bottle greenhouse where we are currently growing runner beans. We have also moved the mud kitchen, which now has a sheltered canopy.

Our half term has ended with a number of Easter events including Easter egg hunts, baking and the annual Nursery Easter bonnet parade. We are all very much looking forward to the summer term and to enjoying the fine weather in our new garden and working with the children on their transition to Reception and to Year One.

ALIVE TODAY LKS2 EASTER SHOW

On Thursday 17th March the children in Hazel, Maple and Oak classes presented a wonderful Easter show to their parents. This showcased a wide variety of narrating, acting, singing and dancing skills from our talented lower juniors. The children performed superbly and reminded us of the Good News of Jesus Christ whose resurrection we celebrate this coming weekend. Thank you to all the staff who helped with the production.

WRITING COMPETITION

In a recent assembly, the children were told about a writing competition linked to the new design of our library.

Key Stage 1 children were asked to think of a name for the new castle found in our junior library, and Key Stage 2 children were asked to write an imaginative story using the castle, the dragon and the knight.

During the Easter holidays please encourage your children to take part in this competition as it will be beneficial for their creative writing skills as well.

Miles Kelly Publishers will kindly donate a prize for each Key Stage and will present this after Easter in a whole-school assembly.

All entries should be handed to Mrs Casey or Mrs Reed by Monday 18th April, 2016.

NOTE FROM GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors take our legal responsibilities to ensure Equality and Accessibility very seriously. In 2014 we put together our Plan for 2014-2017 and this has been recently reviewed. We are pleased to say that work on the website has been completed, delivered in a dyslexia friendly font, with Google translate and a high visibility facility for all those who need this. Two members of staff have received Makaton training. Makaton is now being used in the Early Years Classes enabling our children who are learning English and our non verbal children to fully access the learning environment and improve communication. In addition, Comic Sans font is being used in all the classrooms as this is considered to be dyslexia friendly.

Following the decision that we needed more class room space for Key Stage 2, the larger classroom for Hazel Class has been created and along with this a resources room.

We have a duty to constantly ensure that the school is safe and accessible for all. To this end, work has been completed in the reception area and fencing erected in the nursery area.

If you have any concerns or suggestions in relation to an Equality or Accessibility issue then please contact us through the office or by email

governors@stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk

We are very pleased to announce that we have completed some of the recruitment process and the Governors have appointed Miss Ann Cassidy-Jones as our new Deputy Headteacher from September 2016. In addition, we have appointed a new class teacher to start in September following Miss Squires' departure. We must now congratulate Mr Price who has been appointed as a Deputy Headteacher elsewhere from September and so we will be seeking a new Early Years Leader and a Key Stage 1 Leader next. We have a record at St. Joseph's of recruiting very good teaching staff and they progress rapidly under Mr Coldwell's guidance and leadership.

SPORTING NEWS

The boys have completed their football league with great success. They won it comfortably. All the boys played well as a team and demonstrated good sportsmanship; they should be proud of their achievement! The girls played in a friendly tournament and also fared well against the visiting schools.

The year 5 and 6 children are coming to the end of their term of tennis with Ali. A letter has gone out inviting year 1 and 2 children to attend the before school club starting after Easter.

Six children from KS1 and six children from LKS2 represented our school at the BSP Gymnastics competition. This is a very daunting competition as the calibre of performance is high and there is

individual pressure. The children are expected to memorise 2 routines and then perform these individually in front of a judge. Both teams did well and again should be proud of their work.

Summer term is upon us with lots of competitions and sports day so – get out and get active!



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

At parents' evening you received your child's attendance record for this academic year. The government classes an attendance figure below 90% as 'persistently absent' and schools are being judged and measured against this. This equates to nineteen days off per school year. If this happened every year, your child would be over two terms behind in their learning at the end of Year 6.

I WILL WALK WITH JESUS

I will walk with Jesus

-But you may be betrayed

I will walk with Jesus

-But you may be abandoned

I will walk with Jesus

-But you may be given a cross too heavy to bear

I will walk with Jesus

-But you cannot know where that may lead

I will walk with Jesus

-Then may Jesus walk with you through life and through death

Please find attached academic year dates for 2016/17.

Academic Year Dates 2016/2017

Autumn Term 2016:

Thursday 1 st September	INSET- No Pupils
Friday 2 nd September	INSET- No Pupils
Monday 5 th September	<u>Pupils Return</u>
Friday 21 st October	INSET- No pupils
Monday 24 th October – Friday 28 th October	Half Term holiday
Wednesday 21 st December	Last day of term (13.30 finish)

Spring Term 2017:

Thursday 5 th January	INSET- No pupils
Friday 6 th January	INSET- No pupils
Monday 9 th January	<u>Pupils Return</u>
Monday 13 th February - Friday 17 th February	Half Term holiday
Friday 31 st March	Last day of term (13.30 finish)

Summer Term 2017:

Tuesday 18 th April	<u>Pupils Return</u>
Monday 1 st May	Bank Holiday
Monday 29 th May - Friday 2 nd June	Half Term holiday
Friday 21 st July	Last day of term (13.30 finish)
Monday 24 th July	Occasional day- No pupils or staff