



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

www.stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk

JUNE/JULY 2016

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



HEAD TEACHER MISSION AWARDS

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

Ash - Lexi & Emily
Beech - Zofia & Ieva
Cedar - Isabella & Anna
Elm - Sophia & Aiden
Fir - Valentin & Yana
Hazel - Gabriella & Janey
Maple - Gabriel, Megan, Liam & Amelia
Oak - Eleanor & Chiara
Pine - Ben & Will
Sycamore - Anais & Robert
Willow - Scarlett & Abbie



Congratulations to Francesca and Euan who received the Jack Fielder Scholar Achievement Awards.



This year's Father Hanton Citizenship Awards went to Dominic and Lydia. This award is voted by the pupils in Year 6 and given to the boy and girl who the pupils think best represent the mission statement of our school. As always the pupils picked two young people who are a credit to the school and their families.



The O'Carroll cup for Excellence in Religious Education was awarded to Igor.

DINNER MONEY FOR JUNIORS

Please note: Dinner money must be paid for either weekly or half-termly IN ADVANCE. School meals for the new term will be £2.35 per day, £11.75 per week. If you wish to pay in September for the first half of the Autumn term the cost will be £79.90. 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 not the school **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.

ATTENDANCE

If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, please call the school on the first day of absence before 9.00am. There is an automated service available for you to leave a brief message and this reassures the school that your child is safe and that you, the parent, are aware of the absence. Many thanks for your kind co-operation in this matter.

ATTENDANCE REPORT

Enclosed with your child's annual report was their attendance at the school for the year. The percentage figure relates to their attendance up until May half term. Please remember that the absence figures represent the sessions missed, with two sessions in one day – morning and afternoon. If you arrive once the registration period is officially closed, then the Government would class that as missing the whole session. If your child has missed 11 sessions, then that equates to five and a half days of absence. Congratulations to all those pupils who achieved more than 96% and above attendance during the year, and particularly those who we celebrated in assembly with attendance of 99% and above.

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.



OWL DAY



Key Stage 1 children had a fabulous Owl Day as their school trip. We stayed in school and were visited by Eden Falconry who brought in 4 owls. The children saw some feathers, an egg and some owl pellets. The owls they saw were: Mr Falls - a Tawny Owl, JC - a

Striped Peruvian Owl, Nanook - a Great Horned Owl and Big Alice - an Eagle Owl. These silent and beautiful birds flew across the hall and over the heads of the children which was met with great excitement. The children then made some related crafts, hats, handprint owls, cupcake case owlets and owl pictures from natural materials found in our forest. The children enjoyed a picnic on the field. A great day, whooooo!

INSTRUMENTAL WORKSHOP AT BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

On Wednesday 15th June a group of children attended a special instrumental/orchestral workshop afternoon.

They joined together with pupils from other local primary schools along with pupils from Birchwood High school to rehearse and perform 3 pieces in a short concert. The music was challenging but fun and it gave our children a marvellous opportunity to participate in an orchestral setting. Well done to all who attended.

K Roper (Subject Leader)

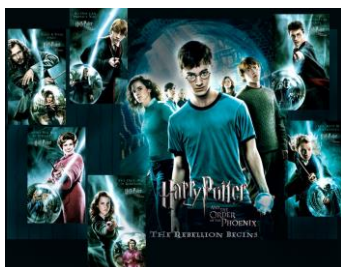
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2016

Children in Year 3 and 4 made their first Holy Communion in June. The children involved celebrated this by sharing their experience and outfits with the school and parents at a special assembly to mark the occasion.



HARRY POTTER TRIP

On Tuesday 7th June, 90 pupils from UKS2 visited Warner Bros. Studios in Watford. During the visit, pupils were able to learn about the making of the Harry Potter films and see actual props from the various movie sets. The children (and adults!) loved every minute of the day.



SECONDARY TRANSITION

Throughout this half term, pupils in Year 6 have met with staff from their respective secondary schools. Many of our pupils will be making the transition to St Mary's with a few attending the other local secondary schools. The secondary transfer day took place on Thursday 14th July.

PARENT WORKSHOPS

Thanks to the School Association for funding two parenting workshops this term. 'Transition from Year 6-7' was well attended by parents from Years 5 & 6. 'Hit the Pause Button' was popular with parents throughout the school.

LIFE BUS VISIT

As part of our ongoing work to develop the resilience of our pupils, we hosted the 'Life Bus' in school from 8-10th June. Each class attended a 45-minute workshop, which encouraged each pupil to reflect on how they could take better care of their social, emotional and physical well-being. Many thanks to the School Association for funding this event.

SPONSORED BOUNCE

Very well done to all our pupils for taking part in the annual sponsored bounce. Thanks to the efforts of all £2,600 was raised and will be donated equally to the School Association fund and the Alzheimer's society.



The top bouncers in each class were :

Alazne 109 Carter 101
Agata 100 Pablo 99 & Hugo 99
Elisha 105 Brian 100
Riley 97 Oliver 86 and Santiago 86
Karolina 93 Isabella 93 and Ciaran 93
Grace 103 Dillon 110
Grace 114 Luca 118
Ben 122 Gabriella 106
Alice 110 Matthew 129
Amy 140 Zane 119
Rohana 139 Sonny 133
Steffi 117 Tristain 126
Abbie 190 Joe 141

'OH I DO LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE SEASIDE'

On Friday 1st July the seaside came to the Early Years!

Nursery and Reception children enjoyed a day of seaside themed activities from decorating shell boxes and flip flops to making boats and seagulls. The sunshine came out for the event and the children were even lucky enough to have been visited by an ice cream van!



The day was a huge success and the staff would like to say a big thank you to all the parents who helped.



SUMMER TERM INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT

On Monday 4th July over 40 pupils took part in our instrumental concert in the school hall. They performed solos and group pieces rehearsed on a variety of instruments including the violin, recorder, harp, guitar, flute and saxophone.

Again the standard of musicality was very high and we wish to thank all the teachers who helped the pupils prepare for the concert and their Summer exams too.

Congratulations everyone!

K Roper

Subject Leader

Singing Club Concert

On Wednesday 20th July the singing club presented 'The Emerald Crown' to their parents and supporters. The children narrated, acted and sang solos or in groups to promote the preservation of our world's rainforests. Well done everyone. It was a great show!

See you next term.

K Roper

ALADDIN TROUBLE

This Year 5 /6 production was one of great excitement, teamwork, hard



work and dedication. The dress performance and final production were exciting and left the audiences enthralled. All of the pupils involved should feel very proud of themselves.



SAFE TRAVEL

This term, the children of KS1 spent a week learning how to be safe travellers, both as pedestrians and on a scooter. They all enjoyed the week enormously and were even able to teach their teachers about how to stay safe when they are near roads!

On Friday 24th June, 2 PSCOs led an assembly on Road and Personal safety. Pupils were invited to think about how they can keep themselves safe online and real dangers that they face in everyday life.

On Friday 1st July, pupils from Year 6 participated in Distraction Training which was led by 2 members of the Safe Travel team from the Local Authority. Pupils learnt about the potential hazards on their route to and from school and how to limit everyday distractions for their own safety.

CHAPLAINCY TEAM NEWS

Congratulations to Conor and Anna who won prizes in the design a logo competition for the Bishop's Stortford Food Bank. They attended a special prize-giving celebration with their families last week.

Thank you very much to our wonderful Chaplaincy team this year. You have taken on a real 'servant's-heart' approach to promoting the Spiritual life of the school and fund raising for the Year of Mercy.

K Roper

Retreat Day

On Friday 8th July, our pupils in Year 3/4 were very lucky to have a Retreat Day at the parish centre, which was organised and led by Mr O'Connell, Miss Connor and some sixth form students from St Mary's School. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day, where the activities were based on the film 'Inside Out' and the children looked at similarities between themes from the film and bible passages. Particular focus was put on the range of emotions felt by Jesus at various points in his life. The children also prayed and learned some new hymns. Ben from Hazel Class described the day as 'unbelievable'. A huge thank you to all involved for such a wonderful day.

SPORTING NEWS

Another sporty year it has been! Thanks to all the pupils for their keen participation and all the parents for their attendance, encouragement and lifting to and from events.



Sports Day was a fabulous day which was enjoyed by all our children, including nursery! Despite being so warm, the constant movement in and out of doors meant the children were not too hot, unlike the brave parents who stayed the whole day.

 We were busy this half term in the last competitions in our partnership events. We played in two rugby competitions.

Some year 5 and 6 pupils went to the St Mary's netball and football competition and did themselves proud there with the boys taking home the



silverware. The girls and boys who played in the BSP league did really well only narrowly losing 2 matches. The girls looking really smart in their new skirts! Our cricket team also won their league so there is hope for England in the future!

The school has maintained their silver sports award this year, so well done!

There will be some new clubs next year, so keep an eye out for emails/flyers.



YEAR 6 LEAVERS' MASS

On Thursday 21st July, our Year 6 children, together with their families and the staff, came together for our wonderful Leavers' Mass which was celebrated by Father Fortunato.

Our current Year 6 children have been super role models and have achieved so much academically, musically and on the sports field. They will be greatly missed.

COLLEGE CAR PARK DROP OFF

A huge thank you to the parents that have kept the drop off open this academic year. To continue in September we need more volunteers please. Pupils in Years 3 to 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. This has proved to be a successful way of easing some of the congestion outside the school but there is plenty of capacity for more parents to use the drop off.

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/20F0E4BAAA62EA1F49-drop

Please note that the drop off will not be open on days when we do not have two volunteers.

YOUR SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

With firm favourites such as cake bakes, discos and fayres through to parents hanging off the Harlow Water Tower and children bouncing for charity. The School Association have had both a busy & successful year. As the school year comes to an end it is a good time to highlight the money raised at each of the events that have taken place over the past academic year.

Fundraiser	Amount Raised
Discos (excludes Summer Disco)	£1,053
Christmas Fayre- Dec 2015	£2,265
Cake Bakes	£475
May Fayre	£5,000
Sponsored Bounce (50% donated to The Alzheimer Society)	£2,600
Sponsored Abseil (50% donated to The Alzheimer Society)	£3,120
100 Club	£600

This is an amazing achievement and the money raised has already been put to excellent use throughout the school for all our children and we look forward to considering new funding requests when we return in September.

We were also delighted that we were able to make a significant contribution to the Alzheimer Society following the money raised through the sponsored abseil & the sponsored bounce.

After all the hard work raising this money we wanted to share with you some of the ways that the money has been allocated over the last few months to benefit all of the children at St. Josephs.

Items Funded	SA Contribution
Playground equipment	£13,850
Christmas Pantomime	£800
Picnic Benches	£913
School Books	£3,025
Leavers Bibles	£536
Magic Show	£180

Additional contributions were also made towards the cost of the coach that took Year 5 & 6 pupils to Harry Potter World in June.

All of this fund raising success is only possible with the fantastic commitment of the parents, staff and children. Thank you so much for your generosity and support. We hope that you can see the positive benefits that our School Association is able to provide, not only through funding items that benefit the children, but also the role the Association plays in hosting events for the enjoyment of all.

To help us continue the work of the association, please do think about getting involved in any way you can. We always need help! Our email address is - stjosephsschoolassociation@hotmail.co.uk

Just a reminder that if you shop online, you can make a free cash donation to the school with every purchase if you join www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk. It's really simple, you enter your favourite shops via The Giving Machine and a percentage of your shopping bill is converted into a cash donation for the school, at no extra cost to you. With over 1,500 stores participating including Amazon, John Lewis and Tesco taking part, you can really help make a difference.

SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY 15th OCTOBER - QUIZ NIGHT

Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 13th September 2015, 7.30pm

From all the School Association, we wish you a wonderful Summer Break!

St. JOSEPH'S GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Thank you to every member of staff at St. Joseph's who have helped to make this another very successful year for the children. We continue to take steps to pursue our 5 to 10 year plan to re-build the school and make it a 2 form entry school. This would provide an additional 15 spaces per year which we could fill now if we had the space. The Diocese of Westminster supports us in this endeavour but money is the problem as usual. As we informed you previously, we put in a bid for funding under PSBP2. There was an independent survey of the school building but we have not been told if we are going to be offered funds to repair the building or a complete rebuild. There is going to be a structural survey in the autumn term and a decision is to be made following that. We will keep you informed. Our detailed work is carried out in our Sub-Committees and by our individual Governors with specific responsibilities. We meet as a Full Governing Body twice per term to make decisions as a corporate group.

Premises, Finance, Health & Safety and Critical Incident Committee

The new 3 year Budget has been agreed and presented to Herts County Council after recent detailed review meetings and, throughout the year, control of costs, contracts and insurances to maintain best audited value for the school. The school has realised early benefits from the new classroom and efficiencies from the new boiler and window walling, projects which have been completed in the past year. As always, the committee looks toward the future in terms of improving the school's assets, including buildings, resources and technology, by pursuing opportunities as they arise within the controls of safety and value for money.

There is a continuous review of all issues to provide a safe school. It is the committee's role to be in contact with any external parties on issues which could potentially impact on safety, including road safety. In addition, the committee tries to reduce carbon emissions by a variety of projects including energy conservation, collections of materials for re-cycling and reduction in the use of vehicular transport to and from school e.g. Walk to School projects.

Admissions Committee

The Committee reviews the School's Admission Policies in light of Diocese and Local Authority requirements. We administer the School's admissions criteria for applications for Nursery and for Reception. There are 45 places in each. Nursery and Reception places are considered separately because Nursery is not compulsory and some parents opt for a full time Nursery due to work commitments. Attendance at our nursery therefore never guarantees a place in our Reception. Whenever we use our oversubscription criteria the process is witnessed by an independent person who is not an employee or a Governor at the school. Minutes are taken by a paid Local Authority clerk. Legal requirements are followed strictly. We do not have any discretion to stray from the oversubscription criteria.

Personnel Committee

As a Voluntary Aided Church School, the Governors are the employers of every member of staff. We are responsible for appointing and performance management and pay of all staff, including our Headteacher. During this year our Deputy and all 3 of our Key Stage Leaders have found promotions. The Committee has ensured that we have recruited internally and externally for the continuing improvement of the school under Mr Coldwell's excellent leadership.

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee's main role is to review, challenge and support teaching and learning at St Joseph's school. Over the course of a two year cycle, we review all subjects and the Special Educational Needs Disability (SEND) provision. We also review school policies such as Assessment and Children Looked After. To carry out a subject review, we examine the policy, results, development plan, reports on work sampling, differentiation, training and resources prior to the meeting when we question the subject leader about their work and report. We also speak to children about each subject. This last part of the process is particularly rewarding; it is always a joy to speak to our polite and confident pupils about their learning. The subjects we have reviewed this year are Maths, RE, English, Languages, SEN, Science and Computing and we have heard from a range of pupils from Years 1-6, all of whom spoke with pride and enthusiasm when discussing their work.

Promotions & Publicity Committee

The Committee has overseen the completion and launch of the new website. Thank you to all who helped during the development of the site. We have also had a number of 'good news' items in the local press and in the St. Joseph's Church magazine and we hope to continue with this in the new school year.

Equality Duty Committee

The Committee has the responsibility to annually review the Inclusion Policy as well as the Equality & Accessibility Plan. The improved classroom space has been completed and alongside this provided a resources room and additional meeting space. Higher fencing has been erected in the nursery area. All the planned changes to the website have been completed to ensure that it is dyslexia friendly and has Google translate. The school has welcomed advice, by means of visits, from an outreach worker from Amwell View Special School and a member of the Team for the visually impaired. Two members of staff have undertaken training in Makaton.

INFANTS: Reception to Year 2

Boys:

- Light blue polo top with or without school logo (a short sleeved top, not a polo neck top)
- Navy blue sweatshirt with school logo or navy blue V-neck jumper
- Grey trousers or shorts

Girls:

- Light blue polo top with or without school logo (a short sleeved top, not a polo neck top)
- Grey skirt/pinafore dress
- Navy blue sweatshirt with school logo or navy blue V-neck jumper/cardigan
- Girl's tights – plain navy blue or plain grey- no patterns or designs
- Girls summer dress – blue and white striped or gingham

Both:

Outdoor Shoes: Black or navy blue shoes (no coloured logos)

Indoor Shoes: Black or navy blue indoor shoes

Ideally velcro or buckles

Non- marking soles only

Indoor shoes do not have to be exclusively plimsolls

JUNIORS: Year 3 to Year 6

Boys:

- Blue shirt
- School tie
- Navy blue V-neck jumper with or without school logo
- Grey Trousers or shorts

Girls:

- Blue shirt
- School tie
- Navy blue V-neck jumper/cardigan with or without school logo
- Grey skirt
- Girl's tights – plain navy blue or plain grey- no patterns or designs
- Girls summer dress – blue and white striped or gingham

Both:

Outdoor Shoes: Black or navy shoes (no coloured logos)

Indoor Shoes: Black or navy indoor shoes – NOT TRAINERS
(non- marking soles only)

PE & Games Kit FOR INFANT AND JUNIOR DEPARTMENTS

- White cotton T shirts and navy blue PE shorts
- Navy blue tracksuit/ sweatshirt and jogging bottoms
- Outdoor footwear for outdoor games- trainers are suitable for this activity
- PE bag-named
- Shoe bag- named

EARINGS/STUDS

Children should only wear stud earrings to school. However, they are a safety hazard when children become involved in PE/Games/Music and Movement and accidents that previously occurred resulted in painful discomfort to children. If earrings are worn, **the child** should either remove them for activity lessons or cover them by appropriate plasters which should be provided from home.

HAIR ACCESSORIES

All children with long hair should have it tied back.

OUR UNIFORM SUPPLIER IS MRS. LIZ PARRISH ON 01279 656675 or
lzparrish@yahoo.co.uk SHE VISITS SCHOOL ON THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH
MONTH AT 3.00pm

St Joseph's Nursery Uniform

<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Light Blue Polo Shirts (with or without school badge)• Navy Blue Jogging Bottoms/ Trousers• Navy Blue Sweatshirts/ Jumpers/ Cardigans (with or without school badge)• Blue and White Summer Dresses• Practical and comfy shoes suitable for inside and outdoor activities (does not have to be school shoes/ no laces or open toes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Light Blue Polo Shirts (with or without school badge)• Navy Blue Jogging Trousers• Navy Blue Sweatshirts/ Jumpers/ Cardigans (with or without school badge)• Grey School Shorts• Practical and comfy shoes suitable for inside and outdoor activities (does not have to be school shoes/ no laces or open toes)
<p>Please note Nursery uniform is not the same as the school (e.g. No grey pinafore dresses, skirts, tights or long grey trousers, blue cotton shirts)</p>	

- No open-toed or laced shoes if possible
- Children with pierced ears should only wear studs.
- Long hair needs to be tied up.
- Uniform can be purchased from our school uniform shop run by Mrs Parrish or any high street store
- Please name all clothing and footwear. (Name label order forms are available from the nursery)
- In Nursery the children do not need indoor shoes

PE Kit

The children do not need a PE Kit when they first start nursery. We will let you know later on when your child will need one.

PE Kits

- Plain White T-Shirt
- Navy Blue Shorts
- Plimsolls
- Drawstring Bag

The School Uniform Shop run by Mrs Parrish, is at our school on the first Thursday of each month. 3.30pm
Mrs Parrish can also be contacted on 01279 656675 after 5.00pm or email lzparrish@yahoo.co.uk