



'Live, love and learn in a caring Christian community'

Newsletter February 2025

Dear Parents,

Unbelievably, we are halfway through this academic year! Spring Term is always the time when the children make huge strides in their learning, and this year has been no different; it has been wonderful to hear the teachers talking about the many 'lightbulb' moments that have been taking place in their classes.

I am hopeful that this newsletter will give you a flavour of life at St Joseph's over the last six weeks.

Awards Assembly

Each half term, we recognise the children who have made a huge effort to follow our school rules.

S	Safe choices and listening.
A	Always remembering to be honest, kind and gentle.
I	I do the best I can, and I help others to do the same.
N	Noticing and acting when someone needs help.
T	Treating ourselves, our community and our property with respect.
S	St Joseph's is a place where we follow in Jesus' footsteps.

This half term, we say a huge 'well done' to the following children:

S	Arabella, Hugo, Una, Courtney, Kamile, Lily J-J, Sebastian G, Nathaniel, Sharlet, Lucy, Micaela, Isobel H.
A	Ivana, Emma P, Spencer, Tanya, Reuben, Beau, Oliver D, Lily O'S, Manaeli, Bella, Talulla, Edward F.
I	Oscar, Dalia, Ruari, Philip, Jacob Cr, Jacob E, Olive, Thomas P, Joseph, Rose, Antoni G, Sabrin.
N	Fraser, Melody, Mary, Erin, Malachy, Darcy, Amelia, Oliwia R, Leah, Lenny, Milly, Maddie.
T	Dolcie, Kieran, Millie M, Jake D, Laura, Leonardo, Oliver W, Jan, Sophia R, Alan, Rosie-Anne, Penelope,
S	Emily, John, Marco, Reyna, Sebastian Ch, Ava C, Neya, Miriam, Vincent, Evie, Clarice, Nathan.

House points:

- St Margaret Clitherow – 3,663
- St Pope John Paul II – 3,951
- St Anthony – 3,190
- St Bernadette – 3,639
- St Oscar Romero – 4,168

Congratulations to the children in St Oscar Romero, we look forward to rewarding you all after half term.

Parking:

Following on from my email, I wanted to say a big ‘Thank You’ to the vast majority of our parents who park with the safety of our children in mind. I also wanted to remind you that we have access to the car park at Bishop’s Stortford College, and I have been reliably informed that there are often empty spaces to park there both before and after school. I am looking into alternatives, e.g., a walking bus, and I will update you when I have further information.

Jubilee Year - Pilgrims of Hope:



We have been celebrating the start of the Jubilee Year ‘Pilgrims of Hope’. Hope is such a powerful word and is something we want all members of our community to have. We have been sharing signs of ‘hope’ all over our school.





Year 6 Leadership Afternoon

After our Autumn term Year 6 Leadership meeting, the Year 6 Leaders decided that they would like to develop their leadership skills. They spent the afternoon with Mrs McLaughlin and Miss Curran working as a team to complete a series of challenges that were both physical and mental. The children came away knowing that good two-way communication, patience, teamwork and thinking outside the box were the skills they needed to complete the challenges. The Year 6s were presented with their certificates in assembly.



Sports news:

This half term we have competed in three events. Year 4, 5 and 6 competed at two Sports hall Athletics competitions, demonstrating super resilience and determination - well done!

The first of our three gymnastics competitions took place with our Year 5 and 6 gymnasts putting on a wonderful display on the vault and in their floor routines - fantastic work.



Next half term will be a chance for our Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 gymnasts to compete, as well as competitions in cross country, netball and hockey!

Chaplaincy Retreat:

On Monday 10th February our Chaplaincy Team travelled with other Trust schools to St Augustine's church. The day consisted of different activities, the children were encouraged to work with and engage with other Trust schools. The day was a lot of fun and the children enjoyed making friends with other schools.



Reading areas:

We have had a big focus on improving our reading areas this half term and it has been wonderful to see gardens, spaceships and under-the-sea themes appear in our classrooms. Please do ask your child about the reading area in their class.



Prayer for Hope:

*Lord our God,
we ask that you watch over us.
In the face of challenges, let our hope in you be stronger.
Enable us to embrace opportunities to help others.
In troubling times let our brothers and sisters find your light,
so we may never lose sight of you even in darkness.
Keep us persistent and hopeful,
to always find our way back to you
as we seek to build a better world.*

*In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.*

CAFOD



I wish you and your families a lovely half term break.

With best wishes,

Ann Cassidy-Jones
Headteacher