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

Newsletter 23rd May 2025

Dear Parents,

It has been a short half-term, but we have managed to fill it with lots of excitement, fun and learning. I hope this newsletter will give you a flavour of life at St Joseph's over the past five weeks; please do check the class pages on our school website for more information.

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	Lottie, Matei N, Gabriel F, Luca J, Scarlett, Margot, Stevie, James A, Charlotte, Rumi, Fabian, Daniel, Sean, Simon, Gabriel Z.
A	Amelia R, Joao, Antonio M, Hanson, Maple, Orla, Megan G, Amelia Mc, Eden W, Eloise, Ocean, Chiara, Isaac M, Connor.
I	Robbie, Mila, Mario, Sophia N, Vincent S, Ethan, Miriam S, Sophia D, Maisie, Eleni, Michal R, Theodore H, Jacob C, Chelsea.
N	Casey R, Ruby, George J, Harry P, Venus, Ayda, Maya G, William B, Josiah, Sofia R, Edward J, Olivia T, James N.
T	Matei K, Zoe, Aarav, Franklin, Sam L, Leonardo, Leo, Tom, Clark, Merlin, Freya, Mason, Rory.
S	Aleksander, Kevin P, Jesse, Jay, Harley M, Rosa, Abigail O, Annabelle, Tommy, Emily D, Casian, Mylene.

House points:

This half term, there were so many house points to count! We will announce the winners after half term.

Pope Leo XIV:

The children have been learning a lot about our new Pope, and I'm sure the excitement of the conclave is something that they will always remember. In a special assembly all about Pope Leo, I was very impressed with their hopes for how he will lead the Universal Church. One child in Year 2 said, "I hope that Pope Leo will be a 'good shepherd' and lead all the people in the world to God."

Loving God,
We offer our prayers of joy and thanksgiving for our new Pope, Leo XIV.
Send upon him your Holy Spirit and fill him with wisdom and peace as he embraces his new role of service and leadership for Your Church.
We pray that he will lead Your Church to greater unity, dedication to the Gospel and a commitment to building Your Kingdom of truth, justice, peace and love on earth.
Amen

Sporting News:
10 girls and 10 boys from Year 4 took part in the Saracens 4 Life Tag Rugby festival at Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club. They had a fun filled afternoon and in addition to showing some excellent rugby skills, they showed super team spirit, being supportive and encouraging to each other.

This half term has seen great success for the Year 6 football team, sporting their super new kit - coming second in the football league and third in the KAS football festival - great results.

Our Year 4s were triumphant in the Birchwood Schools Partnership Mini Tennis Competition. They will now compete against all the best players in Hertfordshire in the County finals which are held in Welwyn Garden City in June!

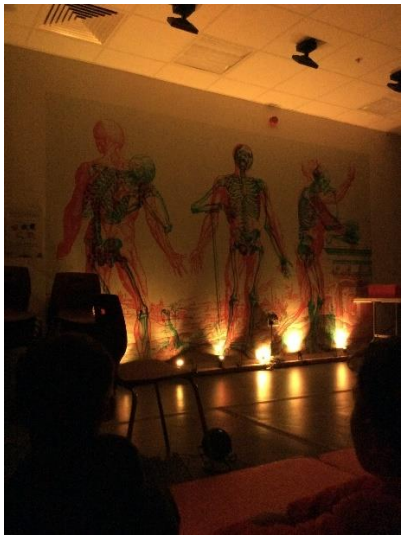
Year 6 SATs:
We are extremely proud of our Year 6 pupils for the mature way that they approached their SATs last week – they took it all in their stride, and I don't think I have ever seen a Year 6 cohort so calm throughout the week! It was lovely to be able to reward their effort, focus and determination with a surprise trip to the local park for a picnic on Friday.

School Trips:
Many of our classes have enjoyed their annual school trips this half term.

Year One visited Lee Valley Farm. It was wonderful to see them making memories. They had a fabulous time comparing animals, discovering if they were carnivores, herbivores or omnivores as well as playing together under the big top, bouncing on the large pillow and exploring the climbing equipment.

Year 3 had an action packed and fun-filled day hunting woolly mammoths, cooking prehistoric herbs, building woodland shelters and trading!

Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic day at STEM Discovery centre in Stevenage. They learnt about chemical reactions by making aromatic bath bombs, investigated forces and the power of friction, listened to stories in the star through a blacked-out room with projected night sky onto the ceiling and learnt all about Mars!



We look forward to hearing about the school trips for the other year groups, which will be taking place after half term.

<u>Summer Term Dates:</u>

Key dates for June and July:
Monday 2nd June: pupils return to school
Thursday 5th June: class photos
Friday 13th June: Open Day for parents (9.15 – 10.00 and 2.15 – 3.15) * more information will follow soon
Friday 20th June: School Association Sponsored Bounce
Monday 23rd June: KS1 Sports Day (reserve date: Monday 30th July)
Wednesday 25th June: EYFS Sports Day (reserve date: Friday 4th July)
Thursday 26th June: KS2 Sports Day (reserve date: Monday 7th July)
Friday 4th July: School Association Cake Sale
Friday 11th July: School Association Summer Disco

Friday 18th July: END OF TERM at 13.30

In addition, there are a number of events being held for our Year 6 children, which have been communicated to their parents directly.

Prayer and Reflection:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death.
Amen

I wish you all an enjoyable half term and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 2nd June.

Ann Cassidy-Jones
Headteacher