



Dear Parents,

It has been another busy half term at St Joseph's!

Congratulations to our Year Six pupils who approached their SATs with the determination, focus and positive attitude that we knew they would. It was so encouraging to see the children smiling at the end of each test, knowing that they had given their best. The SATs are only one way of measuring a child's attainment on a given day; they do not show all the children's attributes and God-given gifts that make them the amazing and unique individuals they are. We are so proud of them all.

I wish you all a happy and healthy half-term break, and I look forward to seeing you when we return on Monday 3rd June.

Miss Cassidy-Jones

HEADTEACHER AWARDS – May 2024

Cedar

Victoria - For developing a positive attitude towards all that she does, showing great enthusiasm with all her learning and for being a kind and helpful learning partner and always following out our school mission.

Finleigh - For his kind and caring nature and always trying his best. For making really good progress in your work this half term, particularly in your reading. Keep up the brilliant work.

Cherry

Una - for showing her caring nature whilst working with a learning partner and for being very diligent with her school council duties.

Adam - for approaching all his work with maturity and for being very diligent with his school council duties.

Elm

Ayda - for always being a brilliant role model. Hardworking, funny, and caring in all areas of school life!

Ethan - for the huge effort he is making in his reading and comprehension skills. He is working very hard at school and at home!

Fir

Eddie - Eddie is a kind, caring and helpful member of Fir Class, who strives to live out our School's Mission Statement both in his thoughts and actions.

Harley - For approaching challenges in Maths with a positive attitude and a smile, he has shown great determination this term. Keep it up!

Hazel

Sophia - For the respect and kindness you show towards your friends in Hazel Class.

Teiran - For your positive approach to your learning every day in Hazel Class. You always strive to do your very best.

Sebastian - For being very sensible and thoughtful when our Year 6 were taking their SATs. You were very quiet and considerate when walking around outside of the classroom.

Maple	<p>Maeve - For her effort and enthusiasm with her work in class. Maeve has grown in confidence this year and is an enthusiastic contributor to learning in Maple class.</p> <p>Maisie - For her sustained effort this year with her learning. Maisie enjoys seeking out a challenge, especially in maths, and is constantly challenging herself to do better.</p>
Oak	<p>Benjamin – for living out the mission statement every day. He is a kind and helpful member of the class. He has a positive attitude to all his learning and is a great role model to his peers. He is sensitive to everyone in the class and actively makes a conscious effort to promote happiness in our community.</p> <p>Amelia – for her determination, hard work, and resilience to persevere with her handwriting. She has a positive attitude to all her learning and is a kind, sensitive member of our class who always lives out the mission statement.</p>
Pine	<p>Hannah - For her fantastic growth in confidence, giving her all to every subject and for being a wonderful friend.</p> <p>Harel - for consistently trying his best and challenging himself in all subjects and for being a calming influence on his classmates.</p>
Poplar	<p>Jacob - For his kind and gentle personality in the classroom. Also, for being a great learning partner who helps others to excel as well as himself.</p> <p>Antoni - For his positive attitude towards his learning and for his contribution to the supporting life of the school. He daily demonstrates his kindness and his consideration of others.</p>
Rowan	<p>Maddie - for fully applying herself in all learning activities and taking pride in her work. She is an enthusiastic and helpful member of Rowan class.</p> <p>Joshua - for consistently demonstrating a keen approach to learning and engaging in all class discussions.</p>
Sycamore	<p>Holly - For the love and care she always shows all members of our school community. You are the perfect role model for the younger children. Well done too for your application in the lead up to SATs and your fantastic progress.</p> <p>Cian - For his hard work and determination over the past few months which has contributed to him making great progress across the curriculum! Well done too for being so polite and well mannered both inside and outside the classroom.</p>
Willow	<p>Olly - has shown real maturity this term, whether it be when representing our school as the captain of the Gold football team, or when applying himself for his SATs. He has worked very hard and is a shining example of if you believe, good things happen. Well done, Olly!</p> <p>Grace - for being a lovely, kind young lady, who is an excellent ambassador for not only our class, but our school. She aims consistently to do the best that she can and be the best version of herself. This was shown through the hard work for her SATs. Well done, Grace!</p>

RE

In the first half of the summer term, we have been continuing our journey with Jesus. We know that his death was not the end and the celebration of Pentecost with the dramatic presence of the Holy Spirit was just the beginning!

Pupils across the school have revisited the accounts of Ascension and Pentecost.

Pupil voice...

Year 1

- Is RE an important subject in this school? *" Yes because we think about Jesus."*
- Tell me about your favourite RE lesson: *"Learning about the Bible. When God created the world."*

Year 2

- What do you enjoy in RE. Is it easy or difficult?
"I like learning about God. Sometimes it is difficult but once I get the hang of it, it's great."
- What helps you to learn? *"By talking about Jesus and reading the Bible."*
- Tell me about your teachers in RE. *"My teacher makes RE interesting and fun. They explain the stories very well. We use art, music and drama to understand them."*



Year 2 work on investigating temples. We built our own temples.



Year 3

- What helps you to learn? *"Listening to the Bible, planning and writing the stories."*
- Do you know how to improve your work? *"Yes, my teachers talks through my ideas and work with me."*

Year 5

- Tell me about your RE lessons *"We read the Bible, listen to music, we draw and we write about our faith."*
- Tell me about your RE books *"They are special, we keep them in a special place, they are decorated. They are different to all our other books."*

House Points

A big well done to all the children of St Joseph's for this half-term's wonderful house point tally. Your House Captains are very impressed with all your hard work.

1. St Oscar Romero - 3687
2. St Bernedette - 3065
3. St Anthony - 2785
4. St Pope John Paul 11 - 2394
5. St Margaret Clitherow - 2332

SEND Parent café

We recently held our half termly café for the parents of our pupils with SEND. We enjoyed networking, sharing experiences and discussed Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs). All this whilst enjoying some delicious, sweet treats!

I would like to thank the parents for attending and to Suzie Carpenter, our SEND Governor, for running the session with me.

We will be running the next café on Monday 17th June 2024 at 9.05am. Nicky Chaperlin from Space Hertfordshire will be coming into to talk about all the amazing work they do for families of children who are neurodiverse. Please visit the link for more information:

<https://spaceherts.org.uk/>

If you would like to attend, please contact me via the school office, it would be great see you there!

Have a wonderful half term break and thank you for all your continued support.

Mrs Rogers - SENCO

Eco Council



This half term, the Eco Council lead a whole school assembly during which they spoke about Walk to School Week and Clean Air Day.

Sporting Events

We have had a sport filled half term, with football, rugby and tennis competitions.

Football

This half term's sporting events began with the Year 6 girls Kitteridge All Sport football festival which took place at Manuden Community Centre. The girls played brilliantly in the qualifying matches and progressed to the quarter finals. At the end of two very close matches St Joseph's just missed out on moving onto the semi-finals. Throughout the afternoon the girls demonstrated excellent skills, superb teamwork and kindness and encouragement to other teams.



Our Year 5 and 6 boys did an excellent job of representing us at the Boys Football Festival. They battled through rain, hail, wind and sun to compete and gave every game their absolute best. We came 4th and 5th across the leagues, which was an outstanding achievement considering the conditions and the effort they had placed into winning both the Gold and Silver leagues earlier in the term. Really well done to our Year 6 boys, and we look forward to our Year 5s taking on the challenge next year.



Our Year 4 children also enjoyed taking part in the football festival despite the rain! All three teams played extremely well and we were very proud of their sportsmanship. Our A team made it through to the final after Peyton made an incredible save when it went to sudden death penalties in the semi-final. The final was won by Northgate 3-0, but St Joseph's put in a brave performance and were commended for their determination as they received their silver medals.

Rugby

Twenty pupils represented the school at the Year 3/4 Tag Rugby festival at Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club. Both teams performed extremely well showing promising rugby talent and great sportspersonship throughout with one of our teams being undefeated throughout the entire festival! Well done everyone!

Tennis

Our team were outstanding at the Bishop's Stortford Year 3/4 mini tennis competition. After 32 games three schools had finished in first place and it came down to a point score to decide who came overall first. We missed out by one point coming second overall - a fantastic result. Special mention to Evie who was undefeated and Rafael D for serving like a professional! Well done to all the team.



A big thank you to all staff who supervised children in the competitions and to parents for transporting the children to and from the events – we really do appreciate your support.

Year 2 Trip

On the 15th May Year 2 enjoyed a fun filled day at Hertfordshire Zoo. We went back in time and learnt about the dinosaurs!



We looked at all the animals our favourites were the tigers, sun bears and of course the meerkats!



Year 4 Production – Jonah and the Whale

The Year 4s entertained family and friends this week with a truly fantastic performance of the Biblical tale, Jonah and the Whale. The audience were stunned by the amazing acting, singing and production of the show. Well done to all the children for the hard work and enthusiasm they displayed throughout – they were all stars.

Thank you also for your generous donations - over £250 was donated to the School Association at the event and many thanks to the School Association for the well-deserved treat they provided for all the children afterwards.



Writing Club – Year Two

Aoife: "I loved learning new and exciting vocabulary each week that I now use in my creative writing".

Theo: "I liked challenging myself to write more at length using our WOW words!"

Eliza: "Writing club was very fun, I especially enjoyed learning new and interesting adjectives!"



Knitting Club

This school year, an after-school knitting club was set up by Mrs Duhig (Hazel Class) for the Year 5 and Year 6 children. The purpose being to make knitted squares and blankets which will be donated to the Maternity Unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, for use in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. So far, the children have really enjoyed their knitting sessions and everyone has picked up the knitting technique extremely quickly!



School Instagram

A huge thank you to Mrs Carpenter, one of our school governors for her hard work in setting up the school Instagram account. It is wonderful that the school is being 'viewed', 'shared', 'followed' and 'liked' in the online world. As Mrs Carpenter explained, the purpose of the Instagram account is to share our school's news, achievements and successes with the wider community; therefore, the page is public in order to reach a wide audience. A reminder to please inform the school office if you do not wish photographs of your child to appear on the Instagram page.

The Instagram handle is: @stjosephsbishopsstortford

Upcoming Events:

Year 6 Residential Trip	Friday, 7 th June 2024
Class Photos	Wednesday, 26 th June 2024
Sports Day EYFS	Monday, 1 st July 2024
Sports Day KS1	Monday, 8 th July 2024
Sports Day KS2	Friday, 12 th July 2024
Summer Fair	Friday, 12 th July 2024
End of Term	Friday, 19 th July 2024

Rosary



As May is the month of Our Lady, the Chaplaincy Team led the Rosary on Friday lunchtimes; it was wonderful to see how many children chose to attend.

We continue to keep Mr Coldwell in our prayers as he continues to recover.

In our assemblies over the last few weeks, we have been thinking about St Francis of Assisi – the patron saint of our Trust – and how he showed great love and care for all aspects of God’s Creation, and how he is a wonderful role model to us. St Francis asked God to help him bring hope, peace, joy and love to all God’s people. We can follow in his footsteps by praying the following words:

Prayer of St. Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen*



St Francis, pray for us.