



Admissions 2019/20 Draft Policy Consultations

The Governing Body are consulting the local community on our draft 19/20 policy. The policy sets out the arrangements for applying for a school place and has some changes to the oversubscription criteria. The main change is to include Catholic children from Gilston and Eastwick as we are their nearest Catholic school in Hertfordshire. However they will be ranked after Catholic children in the Parish of Bishop's Stortford.

A copy of the draft policy is available on our website under admissions. Any comments can be sent to the following email address by November 6th 2017:
policy1920@stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk

We thank you in advance for your views. Whilst we will not be replying individually to contributors, all comments will be considered by the Board of Governors, along with the views of the Local Authority and Diocese of Westminster as part of our consultation.

Key Stage 1 & 2 Curriculum Information Sessions

Many thanks to all those parents who were able to attend one of these sessions. Feedback has been very positive and it will be worthwhile doing again next September. As promised, the PowerPoints are available on our website...go to the pupils tab and then curriculum ...and the link is on the left hand side in the gold section.

E-Safety

Leading a safety assembly recently, I was extremely impressed with the pupils' knowledge and understanding of our SMART rules. We had a good debate about whether it was safe to put a picture of your dog online as they will be wearing a tag with your address on! ESafety is a feature of all our computing lessons and is highlighted every term in assemblies, as well as in eSafety week. Please find attached an information letter from the local authority which may be of use to you as parents.

More information about the SMART rules we follow can be found here:
<http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/beingsmart/>

RE Life of the School

Fr Carlos has celebrated two lovely masses in Sycamore and Willow classes over the last two weeks, with Pine class mass upcoming on Thursday 12th October. Lower Key Stage 2 class masses and an EYFS liturgy will be held in the Summer Term and KS1 class masses in the Spring Term. Once we have dates from Fr Carlos later in this term, we will let you know as soon as possible.

Our chaplaincy team were commissioned last week in a lovely ceremony in school which Fr Carlos attended. It was great to see how happy our pupils in Year 6 were for their fellow classmates, which is always a feature of our pupils in school. We must continue to cultivate a 'You first, not Me first' attitude to living out our faith.

The hall was packed again last Friday with pupils praying the rosary at the start of October. I was on break duty and a Year 1 child at the start of break kept telling me how they were really looking forward to praying with friends...a future Bishop in the making!

Parent Consultations

A reminder that consultations are this Wednesday 11th 16.00-17.00 (Nursery only), Thursday 12th 16.00-19.00 (Nursery-Year 5/6) or Monday 16th 16.00-19.00 (Nursery – Year 5/6). Please use the online booking system for your appointments.

At these sessions we will be also asking for your opinions of the school and ways to improve for our next School Development Plan via a questionnaire. Please do take five minutes to complete it!

BAGS 2 SCHOOL

Our next collection is 9am Thursday, 2nd November. Collection bags are being sent home but any large plastic bag can be used. Bags can be left in the bike shed from Monday, 30th October. Please do not leave bags after 9am on 2nd November as they will miss the van and we are not able to store them until the next collection.

Dinner Money for Juniors

Please note: DINNER MONEY MUST BE PAID FOR IN ADVANCE. School meals are £2.40 per day, £12.00 per week. Please pay online using the School Gateway system.

Cleaner Vacancy

Please help us in finding a cleaner to join the team, 3.30pm to 5.30pm weekdays, term time only with possible overtime during school holidays. Do you know of someone that might be interested or are you able to advertise the position for us? For more information, please speak to Steve Bowes or Nicola McManus. The school is committed to safeguarding children and young people. All post holders are subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and two satisfactory references.

Communication you may have missed over the last two weeks sent via Schoolcomms:

School Disco/Christmas Fayre/Barn Dance/Free School Meals & £70 Uniform Voucher/
Year 3/4 Guitar Lessons

Thank you for your continued support of the school.

Peter Coldwell
Headteacher