



Dear Parents

This half term has been as busy as ever at St Joseph's. I always find this term challenging for staff as the same amount of work has to be covered in less time. The pupils have been working really hard and it is great to see the progress they have made since September.

This week we have had the chance to walk with Jesus on our Stations of the Cross services and reflect upon Holy Week. Our Years 3 and 4 Easter performance, 'Passover, Palms and Passion' was truly wonderful and my highlight this half term. I wish you a peaceful Easter holiday.

Mass times during Holy Week

Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord's supper – 7.30pm at St. Joseph's

Good Friday – Children's Service – 12.00pm at St. Joseph's Solemn celebration of the passion – 1.00pm Holy Cross – 3.00pm St. Joseph's – 3.00pm Most Holy Redeemer

Easter Saturday - Blessing of Easter Food – 10.00am St. Joseph's (no 6.00pm mass)
Great Vigil of Easter – 8.00pm St. Joseph's – 8.00pm Most Holy Redeemer

Easter Sunday - 9.00am & 11.00am St. Joseph's – 9.00am Most Holy Redeemer – 11.15am Holy Cross

Praise from Rt Hon Nick Gibb, MP

This half term we received a letter from the Minister of State for school standards, Nick Gibb, congratulating the staff and pupils on our very high standard of achievement in reading last year – we were in the top 1% of primary schools in England for achievement in reading.

Chaplaincy Team Retreat

Our fantastic chaplaincy team took part in the first ever Lea Valley Deanery chaplaincy retreat day last week at the Niland Centre in Bushey. We led a workshop on helping the poor as part of our work on Catholic social teaching and also attended workshops led by other chaplaincy teams. Our great thanks to Miss Roper for all the hard work she puts into our chaplaincy team.

School Uniform

Please do take two minutes to check your child's uniform to ensure their name label is still clearly visible... unfortunately there is a large number of unlabelled uniform not claimed every week. Summer Uniform can be worn in the summer term through to the autumn half term. Please ensure that any sandals are not 'open toe' as these give little protection from chair legs or the playground etc. Following on from girls having a trouser option, girls will also be able to wear grey shorts in the summer term or grey culottes. Summer dresses should be blue and white striped or gingham. Please see the website for details of uniform. Mrs Parrish will be in school on Thursday 19th April to run the uniform shop.

Autism Awareness Week

During autism awareness week we shared the following video with KS1 and KS2 pupils- Amazing things happen:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JdCY-cdgkI>

This is a great video to help explain to children how we are all different and the challenges that an autistic person may face in the world.

Football

What a brilliant season for our football teams! Our A Team fought hard throughout the season and managed to finish fourth in the table. A wonderful accomplishment considering the standard of the league. They then went on to win the 'Plate' tournament with a nail biting final. Our B Team also had a successful season, finishing 3rd and scoring an impressive 44 goals! Well done to all involved!

Mr Doherty

Governing Body Update- Equality and Accessibility

The Board of Governors take our legal responsibilities to ensure equality and accessibility very seriously. The following list of actions summarise what we have been implementing over the last academic year.

In terms of PSHE in the school, the SCARF programme has been implemented and permeates throughout the curriculum. Particular attention is being given to the issue of cyber bullying and safety online issues.

Following the survey conducted last year, the uniform options have been extended to allow girls to wear trousers as outlined in the uniform policy. There is to be a review of the summer uniform also.

The school newsletter will continue to be used to communicate with parents and updates are made to the website which includes a high visibility version.

Communication in print is being used in the form of visual aids for those pupils who would benefit from it.

There is ongoing monitoring of the plans for the new school building proposals to ensure equality and accessibility meets the needs of the pupils.

Rwanda Movie Night

Thank you! Our Rwanda movie night was a great success and raised £852, making a grand total of over £6000 raised towards our Rwanda Project. The pupils really enjoyed watching the movies together with their friends.

Upcoming ASPECTS Parent Workshops

ASPECTS are holding a variety of workshops for parents next term including: managing anger and conflict in the family; reducing stress in teens; family life after separation and dealing with tantrums. Details can be found at:

<http://www.aspects.org.uk/workshops>

In addition, the NHS has asked us to make parents aware that they can also provide wellbeing support for parents. For more information, please see the attached flier.

Safe Travel News - The Big Pedal

As a school we are participating in Sustrans Big Pedal 2018. This is the UK's largest inter-school cycling and scooting challenge and is taking place between 23rd April to 4th May. The aim of the challenge is to increase the percentage of pupils cycling or scooting to school making the roads safer around our schools and pupils healthier. Each day the number of students taking place will be recorded. If over 15% of pupils scoot or cycle on each day of the challenge we will be entered into a daily draw to win exciting prizes including BMX and Mountain Bike stunt shows. For more information please visit

www.bigpedal.org.uk

DINNER MONEY FOR JUNIORS

Please note: Dinner money must be paid in advance. With effect from 1st April 2018, Herts Catering meal prices are increasing to £2.50 per day, £12.50 per week. You may pay any amount of your choice to keep your balance in credit. If you wish to pay for the next half term in advance, the total amount until 24th May is £67.50. Please pay online using the School Gateway system. All you need to do to activate an account is download the school gateway from your app store or visit the website www.schoolgateway.com and click new user. You will receive a message with a PIN number and you can use this to log in. Please be sure the school office has your up to date email and mobile phone number.

Mission Statement Awards

Congratulations to the pupils who received a mission statement award at today's assembly - a common theme was enthusiasm for learning and friendship.

Cedar - Isaac Wee - for being a polite member of Cedar and always holding the door open for others.

Nicolas Beko - for always being respectful and helpful to everyone.

James Hackney - for always being a smiley, kind learning partner to everyone in Cedar.

Callum Anderson - for being a kind member of Cedar and offering his help every day in class.

Elm - Jasmine Bhatanadamrongchit - for always asking questions to develop her knowledge and understanding in all areas of the curriculum.

Santiago Chaves Jaramillo for always being a wonderful role model to his peers and whenever given a challenge, always approaches it with enthusiasm.

Ellen Hughes - for always being kind, caring and considerate towards others.

Filip Jeziorski - for always trying his best in all his work and never giving up.

Fir - Thomas Greenhow for always being honest, hardworking and enthusiastic.

Maya Wojcik - for her gentle nature and for always being considerate of the feelings of others.

Miriam Lazzara - for being a kind and considerate friend to everyone.

Ava Boyle - for always being positive, enthusiastic and a great role model.

Hazel Shannon Carolan - for challenging yourself with all of your learning in class, and for performing so enthusiastically in our Easter play.

Lena Nawrocka - you always try your hardest in all you do. All of the adults you work with have noticed your efforts.

Heidi Kujawa - for continuing to challenge yourself to improve your writing.

Tommy King - for your huge effort with your learning, particularly your writing.

Maple - Max Foster - for approaching every day with resilience and for his keen and positive attitude towards all learning activities and challenges.

Imogen Soames - for being a polite and friendly member of our school community and for always looking out for the younger children around her.

Abbie Lee - for her supportive approach towards others and the effort she applies to all learning activities across the curriculum.

Matthew Peachey Cockerton - for his impeccable manners and caring attitude towards the environment around him.

Oak - Jessica Greenhow - for knowing the true meaning of friendship and for her thoughtful attitude towards others.

William Hood - for his ability to be a good friend to others and for his generous nature.

Katie Anderson - for building more positive friendships and for her contribution to all aspects of learning.

Conor Michna - for his kindness and generosity in class and for his ability to bring out the good in others.

Pine - Amy Bickham - for living out our mission statement in all her words, thoughts and actions. An outstanding role model to all.

Jessica McGivern - for her positivity, determination and unwavering smile! A true role model and a joy to have in the class.

Sofia Duggan - for the enthusiasm and commitment she shows to all aspects of her learning. A very respected role model.

Chiara Livermore - she is extremely organised, gets through so many tasks in the day, a true inspiration to us all.

Sycamore - Cristina Armari - for her kindness and the support she willingly shows towards others. She is a great role model.

Ethan Wee - for the enthusiasm and commitment he shows towards all aspects of his learning. He is a valuable member of Sycamore class.

Charlie Hoare - for always giving 100% effort in his work and for being a supportive member of our class.

Marta Zawadzka - for her kind, caring nature. She is a good friend to all and a great role model.

Willow - Clara Fodor Sandaval - for her outstanding attitude towards others and always helping those around her.

Anastasia Karbovska - for her caring and helpful nature and living out our mission statement.

George Boulter - for his fantastic work on the school council and his wonderful attitude towards others.

Eleanor Dodd - for being an excellent role-model for the younger children by giving 100% in all she does.

Amelia Thomas - for her kind and caring personality and her fantastic approach to school life. She sets a great example to all her classmates.

100 Club

The winners of the latest draw for the School Association 100 club were:

First prize - £25 - Mrs Ali Crockett

Second prize - £15 - Mrs Cristina Page

Third prize - £10 - Mrs Nicola Robertson

A very big thank you to our School Association who work so hard to raise money for the school. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped with the Sponsored Bounce and the Cake Sale.

Prayer

Lord God,

You sent your Son into the world,

And before his hour had come,

He washed his disciples' feet.

You had given all things into his hands.

He had come from you, and was going to you,

And what did he do?

He knelt down on the floor,

And washed his friends' feet.

He was their teacher and their Lord,

Yet he washed their feet.

Lord God, help us learn from his example;

Help us to do as he has done for us.

The world will know we are his disciples

If we love one another.

Strengthen our hands and our wills for love

And for service.

Keep before our eyes the image of your Son,

Who, being God, became a Servant for our sake.

All glory be to him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and forever.

Amen.