



Living as a community- Matthew 25:40 The King will reply, "Whenever you did this for one of my family, you did it for me!"

During this half term in assembly we have been reflecting on the call to community and participation. We are all members of many communities, including the school family of St Joseph's and part of a town, country and global community. We are called to live our lives engaged in the world, helping to transform society for the good of all, not just to sit back, expecting others to do things for us, or complaining about the ways things are.

When we live in a community, we have to think about other people. We cannot just have things our own way all of the time. We have to think about what others want and need, and treat them with respect. We are called to help others and get involved. To help the children understand this, in assembly we talked about the danger of walking around the school and life with a mirror in front of you – only looking at your own reflection, caring about yourself and being oblivious to others and their needs. This half-term the pupils have risen to this challenge and we have seen so many acts of kindness and support shown to each other in the class and around the school. Any child can and will have their moments- they are children – but we are blessed with the way our pupils and adults live out our mission, as seen below.



Across Charity Donation

The final totals were calculated from our enterprise week and we were thrilled to present a cheque for £1800 to the Across charity. The pupils really enjoyed going onto the jumbulance and learning how the money raised helps so many people less fortunate than ourselves.

Remembrance Display

Thank you for the many positive comments shared about our remembrance display this year on the 100th year anniversary of the end of World War 1. The children really excelled in this public display of thanks for those who fought in the wars. We raised £144.36 this year from the poppy appeal in school which goes to the Royal British Legion to help their community.

Foodbank Donations

Thank you to everybody who brought in a donation to the foodbank. We transported some 35 boxes to the Storehouse at Harlow who were very appreciative of the quantity and quality of the donations, and that we took it there directly. Many thanks to Miss Cassidy Jones, the Chaplaincy team, house captains and others who helped to load the car. – Marie Rhodes (Governor)

The season of Advent

Fr Carlos celebrated an advent mass for KS1 and KS2 this term to mark the start of the church year and season of advent. In addition pupils from Years 4-6 were given the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation with Fr Carlos. We had planned for two sessions, but soon had to double that number, such was the demand from the pupils, with over 120 pupils choosing to take this opportunity to grow closer to our Lord. Our thanks to Fr Carlos for ensuring that the season of advent was alive in the school.

Chaplaincy Team Advent Art Competition

Congratulations to all the pupils and staff who provided an entry into this art competition. The winners were: Jessica Bennett (KS1); Lucia Sathan (LKS2); Olivia Copping (UKS2) and Mr Coldwell (Staff).

Learning about other faiths

Living in a multi-faith community, it is vital that our pupils learn about tolerance and understanding of the beliefs of others. Each year as part of our religious education programme and following Diocesan guidelines, we learn more about other faiths, namely Judaism and Islam. This half term across the school we spent a week learning about these faiths and this will continue next term as we learn more Judaism and in particular, Hanukkah in EYFS, the stories of Abraham and Moses in KS1 and the Torah and Passover in KS2.

Carol Service

Last week the singing club took part in the annual Bishop's Stortford Schools carol concert held at St Michael's church. Our choir of mainly Year 4s and 5s waited patiently as we were the final choir to perform, but it really was the case of leaving the best till last, such was the quality of their singing. Our thanks to Miss Roper for leading the conducting and for Mrs Roper for accompanying on the piano.

EYFS and KS1 Performances

I know you were as proud as we were with the recent performances from EYFS and KS1 pupils in their nativity productions – all of the pupils were able to rise to the occasion, saving their best performances for you. I am amazed at the confidence of our pupils at such a young age when speaking to such a large audience, standing on a stage with bright lights on them. The performances really did help us prepare for the birth of Jesus on Christmas day.

RE Homework



It was lovely to see so many parents enjoying the RE homework on display on Wednesday after school. A huge thank you to all of the children (and parents) for the efforts that were put into creating a Nativity scene based on Luke's Gospel. The work was truly inspiring and, just like the children, each one was unique.

School Association

Continuing with the theme of getting involved, our great thanks to everyone who attended our school association AGM and offered their talents for the upcoming year to help raise funds for the school and our charity work. The pupils have been really thrilled with their new whiteboards that were installed during this term in five classrooms. The winter disco, chocolate tombola, 100 club and Christmas raffle do not run by themselves and we are so grateful for everyone's help in making these events happen.

88 Pianist World Record Attempt

This term the children of KS2 were lucky to receive a visit from a team of engineers from Cambridge University who are determined to break a world record for the number of people who can play a piano at the same time. The children spent a fun day designing their ideas for this and we are now waiting on news whether one of our designs will be chosen, making us a world record breaking school!

Anti-bullying workshop



As part of our ongoing PSHE work in school, Years 1-4 were treated to a visiting theatre company specialising in promoting anti-bullying in schools. The children not only enjoyed the show, but were able to learn about what bullying was and how to help stop bullying. In the Local Authority of Hertfordshire, bullying is when all three of the following dimensions occur: hurt that has been deliberately/knowingly caused; a repeated incident or experience eg multiple incidents; an imbalance of power – the target feels they cannot defend themselves or the perpetrators exploit their power eg. size, age, popularity etc. For more information about our anti-bullying policy, please see our policy section of our website under 'About Us'.

Oliver!

UKS2 pupils were treated to a performance of the musical Oliver! by the students of St Mary's. Not only was it a great performance, but it was wonderful to see so many of our past pupils taking part and continuing to use the skills Miss Roper taught them in singing and performing here combined with their God given talent.

Parking and use of the College Drop Off

Following on from our email last week, unfortunately we have not been able to access the College drop off of this week as a result of the actions of a minority. If we are able to use this drop off when we return after the Christmas holiday, you simply cannot park on the access road at any point and must **ONLY** use the gravel car park for drop off and pick up. If the gravel car park is full, then I am afraid it is full. We need to be working with the College as part of our local community or we will not have access to this area in the future.

Sports News- Football



What an amazing, undefeated, start to the season for both our Gold league and Silver league teams! The Gold team are sitting comfortably at the top of the table with 5 wins and an impressive 26 goals scored. The Silver team are resting in third place with 2 wins out of two and, again, an impressive 13 goals scored. We have been treated to some wonderful team goals and, as always, top-level sportsmanship. Let's keep it up in the new year!

Mission Statement Awards

The following children were awarded with the Head Teacher Mission Statement Award for living out our Mission Statement:

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| Cedar | <u>ES</u> – for always thinking of ways to be helpful to other children in Cedar class.
<u>EP</u> – for using our school mission statement every day when he is making choices. |
| Elm | <u>AJ-M</u> – for always living out our school mission statement and by being kind and caring towards all of her Key Stage One friends.
<u>AF</u> – for a huge improvement in his confidence in school and always trying his best in all his work.
<u>JJ</u> – for a fantastic start to Key Stage One and listening carefully to instructions in class. |
| Fir | <u>AS</u> – for being thoughtful, considerate and a wonderful example to others of how we should all behave.
<u>LA</u> – for playing nicely with his friends and for trying much harder in all that he does. |
| Hazel | <u>FA</u> – for the care you take with your learning and the love you show to the school community.
<u>ON</u> – for sharing your ideas in class discussions to help your classmates learn. |
| Maple | <u>NS</u> – for arriving to school every day with a smile and ready to learn and for the effort he puts into his lesson challenges across the curriculum.
<u>NC</u> – for being a superb role model to her peers and the younger children in our school as well as her reinforcement of the mission statement for others to follow. |
| Oak | <u>VS</u> – for her gentle and caring attitude towards the needs of others.
<u>DK</u> – for being a thoughtful member of the class who supports his learning partners and celebrates the successes of others, as well as his own. |

Pine	<u>QC</u> – for her lovely attitude and positive approach towards all aspects of school life – a wonderful addition to our school. <u>CA</u> – for optimising our mission statement in all her words, thoughts and actions. An outstanding role model and a joy to have in class.
Sycamore	<u>AJ-P</u> – for the invaluable help he gives in class and in the playground to his teachers and the support he gives to younger children. <u>CL</u> – for the commitment he unfailingly shows towards his work and to the extra-curricular life at the school.
Willow	<u>YD</u> – for her willingness and desire to enjoy all aspects of school life. Her enthusiasm is a great example to all. <u>RL</u> – for his impeccable manners and friendly attitude towards all. He is a great friend and role model to everyone in the school. <u>IC</u> - for her kind and thoughtful nature towards other children and for willingly offering help to anyone – always with a smile on her face.

DINNER MONEY FOR JUNIORS

Please note: Dinner money must be paid in advance. School meal prices are £2.50 per day, £12.50 per week. You may pay any amount of your choice to keep your balance in credit. 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.

MILK ORDER

Milk is available to all age groups through the school. If you would like your child to receive mid-morning milk please just visit www.coolmilk.com to register and place your order.



Mass times this Christmas Season:

Monday 24th December

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

5pm Mass

7pm 2nd Vigil Mass of Christmas

11.30pm Carols and Readings

Midnight Mass

Most Holy Redeemer:

Carols and Readings 7.30pm – Vigil Mass at 8pm

Tuesday 25th December–The Nativity of the Lord

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass

11am Mass

Holy Cross:

11.15am Mass

A Christmas prayer: Rejoice and be glad

Christ, my beloved Lord,
Heavenly host proclaim your birth
Rejoice and be glad they say
In a stable, in Bethlehem, the
Saviour of the world is born
To save and to redeem us
May we be grateful and never forget
All he has given and done for us
Son of the living God, Jesus Christ the Lord.

(Diana Ng-Sutherland/CAFOD)

We wish you and your family a peaceful Christmas holiday and look forward to the pupils starting back on Wednesday the 9th of January.