



School Building Redevelopment Plans

Well, about a year ago we informed you that the planning for our project was being submitted after the summer holiday 2018. A year on, three planning officers and lots of issues and negotiations later, tonight our planning application is being presented to the local authority. Obviously the local paper decided to use the publicly available information to run a story before the meeting has taken place. Once we hear some good news, (!) we will share it with you as soon as we can.

UKS2 Performance- 'Hoodwinked'

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils gave two superb performances of their show this week to their families. The comedic timing was the best it has been for a long time and I thoroughly enjoyed the stunning acting, singing and dance that brought the tale of Robin Hood to life. Well done to all the staff in UKS2 for all their encouragement, patience and creativity in getting the pupils ready for the shows.

PGL 2019

Our great thanks to Mrs O'Connor, Mr Sherfield and Mrs Finlay who gave up their time to go with Mr Dove and Mrs Brooks on the PGL trip this year. The weather was beautiful and the children were a credit to the school and their families. The last remaining photos have been uploaded onto the school website this week.

Sporting News

Our Summer Term has been another successful one for our sports teams. Well done to our Year 5 football team who enjoyed a great season with some brilliant results. Our cricket team were fantastic, winning 2 out of 3 games - some future World Cup Winners, I'm sure! Well done to our Netball team who had a difficult end to their season but Mrs Morrissey was very impressed with your attitudes and team spirit. Thank you to all the children who attended our sports clubs this year – we achieved record numbers of participants. This year we achieved the silver sportsmark again which is a great achievement. I'm looking forward to seeing what we can achieve in the new school year! Mr Doherty

Sports Day- Thursday 18th July

Please remember that we have swapped our events following feedback from last year and that the flat races and Year 6 long race are now being held in the morning and the activity sports are being completed in the afternoon. The main goal for sports day is participation and fun. We do not have the technology to apply photo finish still frames at the finish line... it is quite possible that our judges get something wrong, but that is the case in every sport!

Do not park in the College drop off for Sports day. . If you park over driveways etc you are likely to receive a parking ticket. We will open our playground at 09.05 for those needing parking spaces for the morning session. For more information, please refer to the letter sent out last week by Mr Doherty.

First Holy Communion Mass

It was wonderful that the school could celebrate with all of our First Holy Communicants and their parents. Fr Carlos ensured that the Mass was special for all. We are so proud of all of you who worked so hard in preparing for this sacrament.

School Attendance

Congratulations to all of the pupils whose attendance was in the green zone in their end of year reports – an excellent achievement.

Travel Plan

St. Joseph's school currently has Bronze STARS Accreditation for sustainable travel and we are continuing to build on our success and look to improve our rating to Silver STARS in the future. Initiatives to call out this year include: an Anti-Idling Initiative where leaflets were distributed to cars parked around the school to ask parents not to leave their engines running whilst waiting to collect their children. The school also participated in Walk to School Week and National Clean Air Day, when pupils and parents were encouraged to walk or cycle to school in order to reduce air pollution caused by cars. Look out for more travel initiatives next academic year including Bike to School Week in September and Sustrans Big Pedal in April 2020.

The Travel Plan team regularly attends the Joint Schools Travel meetings where we can share and discuss travel issues with local councillors and other schools in the area.

Whilst St. Joseph's parents are allowed to use the College Car Park as a vehicular drop off facility, it is essential that no one park along the access road to the Car Park as this would block emergency vehicle access to the College Pre-Prep. Unfortunately, we have had to spend staff time this year enforcing this, which is a waste of valuable staff time. Please do not park along the access road at any time.

Eco Plan

St. Joseph's school is committed to ensuring that the School will become a more stimulating place in which to learn, whilst reducing the environmental impact of the School on the community in accordance with our Eco Plan. The main goal for the School's Eco Plan is promoting environmentally responsible consumption of goods and services by the School and school community given the limitations of the age and construction of the school buildings and budget constraints. The School's Eco Plan covers a number of topics including: Eco Plan in the curriculum, Green Procurement Policy, Carbon Reduction Plan, Eco Initiatives and Eco Action Plan.

Governing Body Update - Equality and Accessibility

The Board of Governors take our legal responsibilities to ensure equality and accessibility very seriously. We have an Equality Duty Committee and we review the Equality and Accessibility Plan annually.

PSHE is now firmly implemented throughout the school curriculum. Particular attention is being given to the issue of cyber bullying and safety online.

There is ongoing liaison with outreach services and there is a speech and language programme for parents run by the school.

STEPS is the Hertfordshire preferred behavioural management scheme. There has been training school wide and this is now reflected in the school Positive Behaviour Policy.

The new school building plans include storage for wheelchairs, a lift and an SEN room. There will be disabled toilets on both floors.

The governors will continue to communicate with parents with regard to Equality Duty by way of the school newsletter. These and any updates are found on the website which includes a high visibility version.

Finally... for now

Unfortunately, it is with great sadness that I will be missing the end of year fun and activities as I will be having surgery by the time you read the first part of the newsletter; I shall then be off work recovering. I wish you and your family a peaceful and relaxing summer holiday in whatever form that takes. Part two of the newsletter will come out next Monday with our mission award winners, Year 6 award winners for 2019/20 and annual governing body report

We thank you Lord, for this term and year.

For the challenges, the successes, and the mistakes from which we have learnt.

Be with us as we spend our time with family and friends.

Give us strength and courage to do what is right; to be witnesses of our faith.

Help us to be a practical Christian these holidays, to appreciate what others do for us, to give time and effort to help others, to be peacemakers in our family.

Keep us safe in our activities; give us good rest and good fun.

Bring us back refreshed and ready for a new year.

We thank you for our classmates, teachers, parents and a community that cares for us.

May we always be conscious of you in our lives.

Amen.