



School Building Update

Finally I am able to share with you that we have had confirmation that the main building work will commence on the school site on January 6th 2020. Attached to this newsletter is a flier from Kier, our builders, which will be sent to the local residents in the near future.

In addition, we have included their plans for setting up their site compound. This will involve installing a path around the main school building and introducing a new entrance for Reception and Nursery amongst other works.

Safeguarding and Health and Safety of our pupils and staff is of utmost importance. Keir and the Department for Education are very experienced in school construction and all necessary safety procedures and risk assessments will be in place. Keir staff have enhanced DBS checks.

The plans shared for this two week phase can obviously change as building works do, but at least it gives you an idea of what will be happening. All of these minor works will be fenced in so that the children will be safe and we will have daily briefings with Kier to co-ordinate when breaks can happen safely.

Once Kier have set up the site- hopefully by 18th January 2020, we will need to make different arrangements for drop off and collection of the pupils as the pedestrian entrance to the playground will not exist and pupils will need to come in from the pedestrian gate by Nursery building.

Current Nursery and Reception children will have a new entrance leading to the outside area.

There will be a path around the main school building and we will need to operate a one way walking system. Registration time will be extended to 09.10 as it will take longer for pupils to get to their classrooms.

We will also have a 'soft' end of school day so parents can pick up their children between 15.15-15.30 from the classrooms to help ease congestion.

We will give more details towards the end of the first week once I actually see the works starting!

Advent Celebrations

KS2 pupils took the opportunity this half term to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation with Fr Carlos and to mark Advent with a special adoration of the blessed sacrament.

In a change from previous years, the EYFS performance was held at the Church with Fr Carlos this year. Over 80 angels, stars and shepherds walked down to church ready to retell the story of the birth of Jesus, supported by the chaplaincy team. The children did a wonderful job learning several traditional carols and sang them beautifully.

KS1 classes worked very hard on their nativity and gave two fantastic performances last week. I was so proud of their ability to perform so well to such large audiences under bright lights and without stage fright.

KS1 and KS2 classes held a lovely Christmas Carol service with readings, carols and music performed by our recorder groups, led by Miss Roper this week in the hall.

Pupils were treated to a Christmas performance of the Nutcracker this week in KS1 and KS2 and EYFS celebrated with an entertainer and party. Wednesday was our Christmas Dinner lunch and Nicky Thompson and her team once again provided a lovely meal for nearly 400 pupils and staff.

School Association

Many thanks to Mrs McConn and Mrs Volpe for organising the Christmas raffle- the hampers looked amazing again this year! The chocolate tombola yesterday was a great success, and thanks to Mrs Crockett and Mrs McCarthy for taking on this event and to Mrs McConn and Mrs Downie for their help on the day. The annual Christmas Savings Club made nearly £500 for the school and our thanks to Mrs Kelly for running this over a number of years now and for Mrs Frino who has taken over. For information about the savings club, please do contact Mrs Frino to start saving for next December. Finally thanks to Mrs Wong, our new treasurer, for ensuring floats and raffle tickets were organised and to Mr Faulkner for publicising events on our behalf. If I have left anyone out, my sincere apologies.

Congratulations to the winners of the School Association Xmas Raffle:

- 1st Prize - Mrs Page
- 2nd Prize - Mr Strange
- 3rd Prize - M Tilley
- 4th Prize - Ms Hamblen
- 5th Prize - Mrs Howard
- 6th Prize - Mr Pohlman
- 7th Prize - Mrs Page

Primary Admission 2020-2021

A reminder to all our Nursery parents that the closing date to apply for a Reception class place for the academic year 2020/21 is 15th January 2020. You must ensure you complete your Local Authority application (online if you live in Hertfordshire) **AND** bring your completed School Information Form with all documents to the school by 15th January 2020. For more information please see the admissions tab on the school website.

Mission Statement Awards

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

- Cedar** Ciaran - for being exceptionally helpful and thoughtful, especially in holding doors open for adults.
Sienna - for always being extremely polite and showing lovely manners to everyone.
- Cherry** Chelsea - for always making the right choices and living out our school mission everyday.
Tilly - for always being a kind and caring member of our class and starting every day with a smile.
- Elm** Marcus - for outstanding improvement in reading.
Joseph - for fantastic contribution and effort made during lessons.
- Fir** Jackson - for being enthusiastic, hardworking and for being a wonderful new member of the family of St. Joseph's.
Rose - for being thoughtful, considerate and a kind friend to everyone.
- Hazel** Grace - for showing such determination in all her learning and for being such a kind member of class. She is a great example to all.
Ian - for his calm, measured approach to school life and for being such a good role-model in all he does.

Maple	<u>Ieva</u> – for her kind and caring attitude towards her friends as well as her willingness to always offer a helping hand around the classroom. <u>Benjamin</u> – for always trying his best and for the effort he puts into all his learning across the curriculum.
Oak	<u>Ruby</u> – for being a thoughtful learning partner and for her kindness and positivity in the classroom. <u>Sorcha</u> – for being an excellent role model to others and for her wonderful love of learning.
Pine	<u>Ann</u> – for her perseverance, caring nature and positive attitude, all of which are evident in all she does. <u>Anna</u> – for her positivity, determination and unwavering smile. All of which have been present throughout this half term. <u>Harry</u> – for entering each and every day with positivity and a relaxed attitude. This attitude has a wonderful effect on the class.
Sycamore	<u>Gioia</u> – for her enthusiasm for learning and her determination to achieve her very best in all aspects of school life. <u>Christiaan</u> – for the endless positivity he demonstrates towards all aspects of his learning. He is a great role model.
Willow	<u>Evan</u> – for his mature approach to school life and for being a great role model.

DINNER MONEY FOR JUNIORS

Please note: Dinner money must be paid in advance. School meal prices are £2.60 per day, £13.00 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.

Two weeks' notice in writing to Nicky Thompson, our Catering Manager, is required for any changes in dietary pattern.

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.

Prayer

The Hope of Christmas
 God, our dayspring and our dawn,
 We turn to you when we fear the dark
 And all around us weep.
 We pray you greet us with your shining light
 That we may spread your warm embrace
 And kindle the hope of Christmas In all whose lives remain in shadow.
 Come and be our strength
 O Lord, our hope and our salvation. Amen

We wish you and your family a peaceful Christmas holiday and look forward to the pupils starting back on Tuesday 7th January 2020.

Mass times this Christmas Season

Christmas Eve:

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; 8pm Mass

Christmas Day: The Nativity of the Lord

St Joseph and the English Martyrs: 9am Mass; 11am Mass

Holy Cross: 11.15am Mass

