



# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

www.stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk

APRIL/MAY 2015

*"TO LIVE LOVE AND LEARN IN A CARING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY"*

## HEAD TEACHER MISSION AWARDS

At the whole school assembly in February, we presented the Headteacher Mission award certificate to the following pupils who have been actively living out our school mission statement:

Ash	Anna & Sophie
Beech	Niamh & Vivienne
Cedar	Lorcan & Patrick
Elm	Amelia T. & Ella
Fir	Janey & Cristina
Hazel	Isabella P. & Thomas T.
Maple	Gabriella & Daniel L.
Oak	Jack & Alicia
Pine	Ophelia & Jack
Sycamore	Abbie & Joe
Willow	Max & Will

## RE WORKSHOP

The pupils really enjoyed the Ten Ten theatre group visit earlier in the term. Reception, Year 1 and 2 saw Freedom Fighter which helped the children to understand the importance of rules and to see that true "freedom" comes when you are not bound by urges and desires. Year 3 and 4 saw Master and Servant which promoted the idea to find happiness by loving and serving others instead of using others for their own benefit. Year 5 and 6 saw Called Up which helped the children to cope with the impact of change, adjust to separation from family, embrace new friendships and discover God's plan for their lives.

## IMAM VISIT

We had an Imam come to visit the school and talk to the children - he talked about his life and his Islamic faith. It is very important to have these types of visits so that our pupils develop an awareness of other faiths and to counter balance any stereotypical rhetoric found in the media.

## MATHS CHALLENGE

This year 20 children from Year 6 were selected to take part in the Junior Maths Challenge in order to achieve a Bronze, Silver or Gold national maths award. The Junior Challenge is aimed at pupils in Year 8 or below in England and Wales, and involves answering 25 multiple choice questions in one hour and is sat in school under normal exam conditions.

We are looking forward to the results being published next month; well done to all of those involved especially as it was right before your SAT's.

## YEAR 6 SATs

Once again we are very proud of our Year 6 pupils who took their SATs tests last week. They have all worked very hard and adopted a mature attitude to their studies. Whilst the week in May is important, SATs marks are just a small measure of the great success and growth of our pupils. Our Catholic education celebrates the whole child's achievement, not just the academic.

## YEAR 6 SCHOOL TRIP

School has been a little quieter this week with the Year 6 pupils enjoying a week at a PGL centre in Sussex. Activities have included abseiling, raft building and wall climbing. Our thanks to Miss Brown, Mrs Brooks, Mrs Devlin and Mr Cowper for leading the groups. All will sleep well this weekend!

## GUIDE DOGS



EYFS were fortunate enough to be visited by The Guide Dogs this half term. The children met 2 dogs who have been through their training and they learnt all about their roles as guide dogs. The children found out a lot of information about how guide dogs help blind or partially sighted people retain some independence. As the guide dogs who visited us had retired we were lucky enough to get to stroke them.



## NOTE FROM GOVERNORS

The Governors have continued to be busy ensuring that we fulfil all of our legal responsibilities. As a Voluntary Aided School we, the Governors, are the employers of all the staff (rather than the Local Authority).

When I reported to you half a term ago, we were told that an inspection of the school building to pursue our bid under the PSBP2 (Priority School Buildings) was imminent. We do not know if the election delayed matters but this inspection is only now just happening. The results of the inspection and the recommendations are still some months away. Our bid is for funds to rebuild the whole school. We have had to spend hundreds of thousands of pounds patching this building up already and that is not going to stop. The current building does not have space for offices, meeting rooms, music, sports equipment, storage etc. This will not be resolved with a patch up and so we pray for agreement to fund a rebuild.

Our efforts also continue to convince the local authority that St. Joseph's should become a 2 form entry school. This would provide 15 more places for each year group. With thousands of houses starting to be built in Bishop's Stortford now, the argument must be made. An average estimation is that 10% of families moving into these new houses will be Catholic. These new families are likely to want a place in this school for their children. We are already oversubscribed and this is going to become a much bigger problem for Catholic parents in our large and growing Parish.

## HAZEL CLASS

The building work to the resources room is going well and should be nearing completion soon after we return after half term. The classroom looks great from the inside and hopefully will be Hazel's class before too long.

## SPORTING NEWS

Another sporty half term comes to pass.

In school we are having cricket and football coaching - inspiring both teachers and pupils.

We have finally finished our speed stacking and came 4<sup>th</sup> overall - well done to all the year 3 and 4 pupils who gave up their lunch time plays to have a go. We are busy running our virtual multi skills competition in years 1 - 4. Our year 3 and 4 boys went off to a 6 a-side tournament at Birchwood and, although not claiming the silverware, did really well at working together and encouraging those who don't play as regularly.



Two year 3 girls and two year 3 boys represented the school in a Tennis Tournament at Bishop's Stortford Lawn Tennis Club. We were very proud they reached the finals narrowly being pipped at the post by Summercroft School.

On Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April the whole school ran and ran and ran! As a school we completed over 20 marathons running a total of 564.4 miles which is an average of 1.66 miles per child. So far we have raised over £4,000. The day was fun filled and fast. Children from Nursery through to year 6 had between 20 and 30 minutes to do as many laps as they could. Thank you to the School Association for all their help and to parents for their support! Please keep sending in any money collected.

Paul has started his golf club after school on a Friday. Netball club will start up on Wednesday after school for years 5 and 6. Any willing helpers please let me know.

Keep active as Sports Day is round the corner!

Regards

Mrs Foster

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Following your feedback in the Autumn term, we are trialling an alternative school photograph company, Pret-a-portrait, for the class photos for this academic year and the individual photos in the Autumn Term. The class photographs will be taken on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June in the hall - please ensure your child is wearing the correct school uniform!

## SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

It has been a busy term for the School Association....

Following on from the fantastic efforts of the children in the Sponsored Marathon that took place in April along with the money raised by Leigh Castle who ran in the London Marathon we are delighted to report an outstanding amount of £4104 has been raised. This money will be shared between both Great Ormond Street Hospital & the School Association.

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May the sun shone brightly on St Josephs and we had a wonderful day at our annual May Fayre. It was great to see the school full of parents & children enjoying an afternoon of activities. An event like this takes months of planning and preparation and we thank all the wonderful team of staff and parent volunteers who all helped to make it happen.

To all who came along on the day...we hope you had fun and thank you for your kind donations & continued support. Approximately £4500 was raised on the day.

Save the date!

Summer Disco - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 6-8pm. Fingers crossed the weather is kind to us as the Summer disco is due to take place outside in the playground - along with music & dancing there will be a BBQ & Pimms/Beer stall. This is an all family event and children will need to be accompanied by an adult. Do come along and enjoy the last disco of the school year.

## DINNER MONEY FOR JUNIORS

Please note: Dinner money must be paid for either weekly or half-termly IN ADVANCE.

School meals for the second half of the Summer term will be £2.15 per day, £10.75 per week. Parents can pay weekly in advance every Monday morning or, if preferred, pay £75.25 for meals up to the summer holidays, payable as soon as the children return to school. If you know your child is having a day off for any reason (e.g. Year 6 transition or a trip) please deduct £2.15. Our standard method of payment is by WisePay. If you cannot pay by WisePay, please put payments in your child's book bag in a SEALED ENVELOPE. On the envelope, please write "Dinner Money", your child's name, CLASS and AMOUNT enclosed, making any cheques payable to Herts Catering Ltd.

Note: For weekly payers, it would be most helpful if the payments could be made by Monday morning as this gives the office staff the necessary time to allocate the payments to the correct week.

## NEW HEADTEACHER OF ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

I have had a very productive meeting with Mr Andrew Celano, the new Headteacher of St Mary's, earlier in the term. He is very keen to meet up with our pupils before they go to St Mary's and to strengthen the links between us.

Please see attached Safeguarding and Child Protection letter.

## **Commitment to Safeguarding and Child Protection**

**As a school we have a responsibility and commitment to the safeguarding and protection of all children.**

**This means we are aware of the things we see and hear from children that might indicate the child is at risk of harm. In most situations any matter of concern that is identified will be discussed with you as the parent/carer of the child.**

**We recognise these can be difficult conversations to have but we will raise matters with you as we know the wellbeing and safety of your child is important. In the best interests of your child we would hope that we can have an open and honest conversation, should the situation arise.**

**In certain circumstances I will share these concerns in accordance with the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Child Protection Procedures. This means I will contact the Children's Services within Hertfordshire. They will make a decision as to whether the concern warrants further assessment or investigation.**

**In very rare circumstances and where children are seen to be at risk of immediate harm, I may contact Children's Services without having spoken to you first and gained your agreement.**

**As a school we take our duty of care to the pupils very seriously and all staff receive training on safeguarding and child protection. As Designated Senior Person, I also liaise with Mrs Colette Kerins, our Safeguarding Governor, on a termly basis, to ensure all our policies are updated and training needs met. Please do visit our school website if you want further information on our child protection and safeguarding policies.**

**If you have a safeguarding concern about a child within our school, please do speak with Mr Coldwell (Designated Senior Person) or Mrs Nicholson (Deputy Designated Senior Person).**

**Alternatively, if you suspect for any reason, that a child is not being treated correctly, please contact the following numbers:**

**The Police: 999**

**Children's Services (including out of hours): 0300 123 4043**

**The Child Abuse Investigation Unit: via 101. This is a specialist team within the police with countywide responsibility for undertaking child protection investigations.**

**Also, use the above contact numbers, if you believe a child or group of children are being targeted by someone in your area.**

**As a concerned member of the public, your referral will be treated in the strictest confidence.**

**Thank you for your understanding in this matter.**

**Peter Coldwell**

**Headteacher**