



# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

www.stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk

JUNE/JULY 2015

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



## HEAD TEACHER MISSION AWARDS

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

Ash - Olaf & Francesca  
Beech - Sophia & Ava M  
Cedar - Yana & Febechi  
Elm - Victor, Olivia & Ella  
Fir - Richard & Evie  
Hazel - Robbie & Rohana  
Maple - Edward, Martha & Gabriella  
Oak - Alice & Olivia  
Pine - Chase & Harry  
Sycamore - Isaac & Katie  
Willow - Luca & Tara



Congratulations to Cian and Katie who received the Jack Fielder Scholar and Achievement Awards.



This year's Father Hanton Citizenship award are Annie and Liam. This award is voted by the pupils in Year 6 and given to the boy and girl who the pupils think best represent the mission statement of our school. As always the pupils picked two pupils who are a credit to the school and their families.

## ST. JOSEPH'S GOT TALENT

It certainly has judging from the 'West End' performances on show on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June. Our school audience were entertained by budding 'Dynamos', 'Bruno Mars' and 'Adeles'. Congratulations to our KS1 winners Tia and Cristina and KS2 winner Scarlett. Well done to all who participated.

## UKS2 RETREAT DAY

On Wednesday 1st July Upper Key Stage 2 were fortunate enough to attend a 'Retreat

## FOUNDATION STAGE

We have had another fantastic year in Foundation Stage. All the children have had so many lovely experiences including a trip to The Farm and tarantulas and snakes visiting us! At Christmas the Reception children performed their Nativity to a packed out school hall. We have had chicks in Nursery and fish join Beech class. A big thank you goes to all the parents for contributing towards our digging area and our 'mud kitchen'. All of these wonderful things have given the children in Foundation Stage a fantastic start to their learning journey at St Joseph's.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2015

Children in Year 3 and 4 made their first Holy Communion in June. The children involved celebrated this by sharing their experience and outfits with the school and parents at a special assembly to mark the occasion.



## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2016

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015, applications for the sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2016 will be available after the 9am Mass at St Joseph's and the English Martyrs Church.

## CYCLE TRAINING FOR YEAR 5

In June many of our Year 5 pupils took part in Level 1 and 2 Bikeability Cycle Training. The course included Highway Code theory, skills exercises on the playground and basic manoeuvres on local roads. Well done to all those who took part.



## YEAR 6 LEAVERS' MASS

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July, our Year 6 children, together with their families and the staff, came together for our wonderful Leavers' Mass which was celebrated by Father Peter.

Our current Year 6 children have been super role models and have achieved so much academically, musically and on the sports field. They will be greatly missed.

Day' organised by Mr O'Connell (R.E. teacher at St. Mary's). He was ably assisted by some Year 12 pupils on the subject of Discipleship. Through the sharing of songs, video clips and prayer the children were able to reflect on how God is present in our everyday life. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

### GIANT SLAYER

This year UKS2 performed the upbeat musical 'Giant Slayer' with such enthusiasm and energy. The audience were enthralled by the superb acting and singing skills of the Year 6s who were supported well by the Year 5s. The play comprised of 10 terrific stories which tell the tale of how a young lad took on the impossible and came out on top. Well done to all those involved.

### 'DEAR ZOO' DAY

Children in the EYFS celebrated the classic children's book 'Dear Zoo' by Rod Campbell by holding 2 days of enrichment activities.

Day one saw arts and crafts based on animals you might find in a zoo, such as peg crocodiles and hand printed giraffes. The children were also lucky enough to have their faces painted as a wild animal.

Day two provided the opportunity to get up close to some smaller animals when 'Animalistic' visited the children. The children had the opportunity to meet, and handle, animals such as a chameleon, bearded dragons, rats, hedgehogs and 2 snakes among others.

Staff in the EYFS would like to thank all of the parent volunteers who helped to make the days a success and very memorable for the children.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT NO PHOTOGRAPHS OR VIDEO CLIPS TAKEN ON THE SCHOOL PREMISES OR ON SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ARE ALLOWED TO BE PUBLISHED ON-LINE / SOCIAL MEDIA WITHOUT PERMISSION.

THANK YOU

### FLOWER AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

From the 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of September St

### A MUSICAL WEEK

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June about 50 children were involved in our annual instrumental concert. As in previous years the standard of the playing was very high and the children were able to showcase some of their exam pieces and some of their club ensemble work. Instrumental solos were performed on the piano, violin, recorder, guitar and trumpet.



We thank Mrs Hanson for another great year with our violinists and celebrate all their recent exam successes.

We also thank Miss Roper and Mrs Browne for running the recorder groups.



What a talented bunch of children we have !! Keep practising over the summer !!



On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July the singing club presented a concert to parents and siblings entitled 'Sharing Our Faith'. The programme contained a variety of songs celebrating the Christian faith including 'We are marching in the light of God', with full African percussion backing. The concert concluded a wonderful year for the club.

In September the singing club have been invited to sing at the Parish Arts festival, so if you missed this concert - you will be able to hear us again.

### COLLEGE CAR PARK DROP OFF

From September we hope to continue to run the drop off in the college car park for pupils in Year 3 to Year 6. Children can be dropped within the coned area any time between 8.40am and 8.55am where they will be seen through the gate to make their own way to class. This has proved to be a successful way of easing some of the congestion outside the school but there is plenty of capacity for more parents to use the drop off.

We have seen a considerable drop in volunteers this term. If we are to make this a success please consider using the drop off and volunteering. It will only take 20 minutes of your time once a week/fortnight if we can get enough volunteers.

The rota for next half term is now available at:

[www.signupgenius.com/go/20FOE4BAAA62EA1F49-drop](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20FOE4BAAA62EA1F49-drop) .

Please note that the drop off will not be open on days when we do not have two volunteers and unfortunately we may have to review whether it continues if we are unable to get enough volunteers each week.

Joseph's Church will be having a Flower and Music Festival. Over the past few weeks we have been working with Mrs O'Carroll to think of ways we as a school can be involved.

As a school we will be holding an Art competition for all children from Nursery to Year 6. Over the summer holiday we would like the children to plan a piece of art work, which they will produce in school, during the afternoon of Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The focus for the children's creations will be 'The World that God Created'.

Each child will be provided with an A4 sheet of Art paper to produce their work on. Paints, colouring pencils and charcoal will be provided by the school, but if your child/children wish to use a wider range of resources these need to be provided from home.

For each class three pieces of art work will be selected to be displayed in the church hall during the weekend of the Flower and Craft Festival. During the weekend the art work will be judged by the president of the Arts Society and prizes will be given for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place pieces for each class.

We very much encourage you to take your child/children to the Festival to view our school art exhibition along with the flower displays in the church. St Mary's School pupils will also be performing musical pieces during the weekend and lots of lovely family activities will be happening.

### DINNER MONEY FOR JUNIORS

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

As from September school meals will be at the new price of £2.30 per day, £11.50 per week or an amount of your choice to keep your balance in credit. You can pay online using the new School Gateway system or by cash or cheque, making any cheques payable to Hertfordshire Catering Ltd.

### IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE CATERING MANAGER

Two weeks notice in writing to Mrs Thompson is required for any changes to the children's dietary pattern.

### SPORTING NEWS

A sporty year it has been! Thanks to all the

### MILK ORDER

Don't forget that milk is now 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](http://www.coolmilk.com) to register and place your order. If your child is under five and you have filled in the milk form, arrangements will be made for milk to be provided to your child free of charge.



### CHAPLAINCY TEAM

The school chaplaincy team at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School have chosen to raise money for the Food Bank as part of an outreach project into the local community.

The school chaplaincy team was established for the first time in January this year and consists of 13 Year 6 pupils and one member of staff. The team's main responsibilities are to promote the spiritual life of the school, develop child led liturgy and to organise a school based project and an external project each year.

The school based project was to tidy up the memorial garden area and the pupils greatly enjoyed jet washing our beautiful stone tiles and restoring them to their former glory!

The outreach project has been to raise money for the Food Bank.

Mrs Jane Towns, a trustee of the Food Bank visited the chaplaincy team in June and discussed with them the need for monetary donations to the organisation. She also informed us that St. Joseph's were the first school who had become an official 'friend of the food bank.'

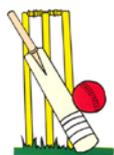
Miss Katharine Roper (staff member) said, "I am so proud of their enthusiasm and the way that they organised a competition, 'Guess the number of sweets in the jar,' by themselves. The team have a heart for serving others and this follows our school mission statement which is - 'to live, love and learn in a caring Christian community'".

The team raised £45 from their competition and this was added to a charity collection taken after their end of year show. The total amount raised was £305.00.

pupils for their keen participation and all the parents for their encouragement and providing lifts to and from events.

Sports Day was a fabulous day, perhaps a tad on the warm side, but enjoyed by all. Well done to the red team who won overall. Thanks again for all the help and support and for the ice lollies for the children.

We were busy this half term in the last competitions in our partnership events. We played in two rugby competitions. The year 3/4 team came third and the year 5/6 teams did well in their pools.



The cricket team went off to Hertford for the day to play in the county final, but unfortunately did not bring home the silverware.

Having been district champions, we ended the day 6<sup>th</sup> in the County - a fantastic achievement! In addition the team are playing in the local PSD cricket final in the last week of term, having won five out of six matches in the league. Some Year 5 and 6 pupils went to the St Mary's netball and football competition and did themselves proud there. We came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the summer netball league and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the pool for football.

The Y1 & 2 virtual multiskills was won by Cedar class and Oak came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Year 3/4 competition. The cricket team have done exceptionally well and are due to play in the finals - good luck!

BSRC held their annual fun day at the rugby club and we came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. Well done to all the athletes who took place in this event - be proud of your medals. Good luck to all those pupils who are going to the rugby fun day and attempting a world record!

The school has also achieved a silver sports award this year, so well done! Next year we will have to go for gold!

There will be some new clubs next year, so keep an eye out for emails/ flyers.

## FINALLY

On behalf of the Governing Body and staff,

## SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

From firm favourites such as cake bakes, discos and fayres to new events including the fashion show and sponsored marathon, it has been a really busy year for the School Association! We thought this would be a good time to highlight the money raised at each of the main events that have taken place over the last year.

Fundraiser	
Fashion Show	£479
Christmas Fayre- Dec 2014	£2,210
Cake sales	£450
May Fayre	£4,881
Sponsored Marathon (50% to Great Ormond Street Hospital)	£5,276
School Discos	£1,920
Sports Day Refreshments	£86

This is an amazing amount and it will all be put to excellent use throughout the school for all our children. None of this fund raising success would be possible without the commitment of the parents, staff and children. Thank you so much for your generosity and your support.

Whilst our Association events are important in raising money, they are equally important in providing enjoyment for our families and help enhance the fantastic community spirit we have at St Joseph's. To help us continue the work of the association, please do think about getting involved in any way you can.

We have received some feedback from parents who have expressed the difficulty they face in attending our meetings in the evenings. Following this feedback the School Association will be hoping to run catch-up meetings after morning drop off. Details regarding this will be communicated in September.

We are pleased to let you know that the "St Joseph's SA 100 Club" is now up and running. We would hope to make the inaugural draw when the new school year begins in September. See the school website for details.

Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 15th September 2015, 8pm

From all the School Association, we wish you a wonderful Summer Break!

I would like to thank you for your support of the school over the course of the year. In particular I would like to thank all the parent helpers who kindly offer their time in school and the members of the School Association Committee who have once again worked so hard to raise much needed funds for the school.

You will see cars in the car park over the summer holiday as staff need to prepare for their new classes and classrooms. However, the school is closed and I know that you will respect this fact as the teaching staff deserve a well earned rest to recharge and the site manager and our cleaning staff need to prepare for the next academic year.

The Year 6 children have reached the end of their time with us but are well equipped for the next stage of their journey, armed with the knowledge that Jesus is next to them as they go forward. We wish all our leavers and their families the very best over the summer and I know that they will continue to flourish in their new schools.

I hope that you all have a wonderful summer break and look forward to seeing you for the start of the new academic year which starts for pupils on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

**Please see your school  
Governors' Annual Report below.**

**GOD BLESS**

Thank you to every member of staff at St. Joseph's who have helped to make this yet another very successful year with outstanding progress achieved by the children. We continue to take steps to pursue our 5 to 10 year plan to re-build the school and make it a 2 form entry school. This would provide an additional 15 spaces per year which we could fill now if we had the space. The Diocese of Westminster supports us in this endeavour but money is the problem as usual. As we informed you during the year, we put in a bid for funding under PSBP2 and we passed the first hurdle. There has been an independent survey of the school building and we now wait to hear what we are going to be offered: funds to repair the building or a complete rebuild. We will keep you informed. Our detailed work is carried out in our Sub-Committees and by our individual Governors with specific responsibilities. We meet as a Full Governing Body twice per term to make decisions as a corporate group.

#### Premises, Finance, Health & Safety and Critical Incident Committee

*The Committee continues to provide assurance and monitoring of the spending of the school with reviews of all contracts and insurances to maintain best value for money and potential savings for the school. The new 3 year Budget has been agreed and presented to Herts County Council. The most visible benefit this year is the management and completion of the new classroom, converted from the old resources room, which will be fully available in the new academic year. In addition, less visible elements will be the new boiler and window walling; improving energy emissions and efficiency; also ready for this September. The Committee is also involved in planning future works; pursuing opportunities to improve the school buildings and safety internally and externally. There is a continuous review of all issues to provide a safe school. It is the committee's role to be in contact with any external parties on issues which could potentially impact on safety, including road safety. In addition, the committee tries to control energy emissions by a variety of projects including energy conservation, collections of materials for re-cycling and reduction in the use of vehicular transport to and from school e.g. Walk to School plans.*

#### Admissions Committee

The Committee reviews the School's Admission Policies in light of Diocese and Local Authority requirements. We administer the School's admissions criteria for applications for Nursery and for Reception. There are 45 places in each. Nursery and Reception places are considered separately because Nursery is not compulsory and some parents opt for a full time Nursery due to work commitments. Attendance at our nursery therefore never guarantees a place in our Reception. Whenever we use our oversubscription criteria the process is witnessed by an independent person who is not an employee or a Governor at the school. Minutes are taken by a paid Local Authority clerk. Legal requirements are followed strictly. We do not have any discretion to stray from the oversubscription criteria.

#### Personnel Committee

*As a Voluntary Aided Church School, the Governors are the employers of every member of staff. We are responsible for appointing and performance management and pay of all staff, including our Headteacher. We wrote to you recently to tell you that we have agreed to Mr Coldwell helping another Catholic Primary for the autumn term. The Committee has ensured that all measures have been put in place for the continuing excellent leadership of the school on the days when Mr Coldwell is not here.*

#### Curriculum Committee

Our main role is to review, challenge and support teaching and learning at school. Over a two year cycle, we review all subjects and the Special Educational Needs Disability (SEND) provision and policies such as Assessment and Children Looked After. To carry out a subject review, we examine the policy, results, development plan, reports on work sampling, differentiation, training and resources prior to the meeting; we question the subject leader; and interview another teacher about their experience of teaching this subject. We then speak to two children about the subject. We find this last part of the process particularly rewarding; it is always a joy to speak to our enthusiastic and engaged pupils about their learning. The subjects we have reviewed this year are History, Geography, Art, Music and PE.

#### Promotions & Publicity Committee

*The Committee has overseen the completion and launch of the new website. Thank you to all who helped during the development of the site. We have also had a number of 'good news' items in the local press and in the St. Joseph's Church magazine and we hope to continue with this in the new school year.*

#### Equality Duty Committee

The Committee has the responsibility to annually review the Inclusion Policy as well as the Equality & Accessibility Plan. As part of these plans the new school website which now has a dyslexia friendly font and Google translate. Changes have been made in the nursery to ensure that there is provision for children with special needs and classroom space has been increased by extending the resource room.