



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

"To Live Love and Learn in a Caring Christian Community"

NEWSLETTER NO.27 Part 2 July 2020

Parish News

St. Joseph's Church needs your help!

We are hoping to open the church for Public Masses in early August when the building work will be finished. For this to happen we need to have volunteers to be stewards to guide people in the church for Mass and private prayer. Many people have already offered to help with the cleaning, but few for being stewards. Please consider helping your fellow parishioners and keep our Church doors open. Without stewards we cannot open! If you would like to help, please contact Debbie Jackson in the parish office at bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk or telephone 01279 654063 to sign up.

Remember, it is more important to consider how you can help others rather than how others can help you.

Many thanks,
Fr. Peter and Fr. Carlos

In addition, if your child is entering Year 3, please do check the Parish website before the end of the summer for further details of the upcoming First Holy Communion program for next year.

School Dinners

For the first two and half weeks of term the lunch options will be a packed lunch option as opposed to hot food. Our hope is that hot food will be on offer once we work out the logistics with Herts Catering with the Covid-19 restrictions.

Dinner Money for Juniors

Please note: Dinner money must be paid in advance. School meal prices are £2.70 per day, £13.50 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.

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.

Arrangements for September

As with all things Covid-19 related with this government, we have had the headlines announced in the press that all pupils will be returning back to school in September, but the actual details of how this will be achieved is going to provide everyone with challenges to meet. The HCC guidance was published at the end of last week and whilst new measures will be put in place, I am sure our pupils will be able to follow them sensibly. The joy on the faces of our Year 2/3/4/5 pupils last Friday fills me with belief that we will be able to get used to our new normal school life for Autumn term very quickly.

We will write to you in the last week of the holidays to clarify what measures we are taking place in school. Suffice to say that the news that all pupils are now expected back from 2nd September is what we have all been wanting. There will be a staggered start and end of day in order to get pupils to classes safely and to reduce the number of people on site at the same time. Fortunately we were just getting used to this due to the building work in January, so we know that this is possible with all the pupils and parents returning in September.

In order to keep adults safe by keeping social distancing, the following measures need to be introduced from 2nd September:

- Only 1 adult may accompany their child on the school site for drop off or pick up
- No adult will be allowed to enter the classrooms or any other part of the school building except the school office foyer
- Adults and children need to keep to a social distance around the school site - keeping to the markings on the pathways

	Drop Off	Pick Up	Route	Afternoon Route
Nursery (am only session)	08.40am	11.40am	Pick up and drop off from outside the Nursery classroom	Pick up and drop off from outside the Nursery classroom
Nursery (pm only session)	12.30pm	3.30pm	Pick up and drop off from outside the Nursery classroom	Pick up and drop off from outside the Nursery classroom
Nursery (30 hours)	08.40am	2.40pm	Pick up and drop off from outside the Nursery classroom	Pick up and drop off from outside the Nursery classroom
Nursery (All Day)	08.40am	3.30pm	Pick up and drop off from outside the Nursery classroom	Pick up and drop off from outside the Nursery classroom
Reception	08.45-09.00	15.00-15.10	Pick up and drop off from outside the Reception classroom	Pick up and drop off from outside the Reception classroom
KS1 (Yr.1 & 2)	08.45-09.00	15.00-15.15	Path to the classrooms from the right of the School Office (Usual entrance and exit)	Path to the classrooms from the right of the School Office (Usual entrance and exit)
LKS2 (Yr.3/4)	08.50-09.10	15.15-15.30	Path to the classrooms from the right of the School Office (Usual entrance and exit)	Path to the classrooms from the right of the School Office (Usual entrance and exit)
UKS2 (Yr.5/6)	08.50-09.10	15.15-15.30	Path to the classrooms from the left hand gate by Willow classroom	Path to the classrooms from the left hand gate by Willow classroom

ST. JOSEPH'S GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT 2020

We would like to thank all the staff who have worked so hard during this very difficult year. The school did not fully shut down and staff have kept working to provide the children with work to do at home whilst also taking care of those in school. The year ahead should be an exciting time with the new school building nearing completion.

New School Building Group

We are delighted to report that despite this very difficult period that the progress on our new school building is up to date. We have had monthly update meetings on Team since lockdown with the many parties involved. Our only regret is not being allowed to share photos of the progress with you. In September we are going to need to start our fundraising for the many items that we need inside and outside the building that are not included in the current project.

Premises, Finance, Health & Safety and Critical Incident Committee

The school remains in a financially stable position, reporting a credit balance and one of only a few schools not requiring a financial recovery plan. There is some uncertainty regarding future funding formulas and increasing costs of employment, particularly as we move to a two-form entry. However, prudent three-year forecasts are prepared and reserve levels monitored to ensure future fiscal management. In addition to grant funding, the school has continued to generate other incomes such as parental donations, though the return from school facilities lettings has been affected due to unprecedented times. Throughout the year several policies have been subject to review and approved. This ensures that guidance is current and statutory requirements are complied with. Risk assessments relating to operating around the new school build and a return to classroom activities have been a particular focus, ensuring a safe environment for all and that contingencies are planned for.

Curriculum Committee

Meetings are held once a term. In them, we consider teaching, learning and progress at St Joseph's. Each subject is reviewed biannually. This entails the subject leaders submitting data, plans and policies to us before the meeting and then presenting a report and answering questions at the meeting itself. We also have the opportunity to hear from pupils about their learning and to see work they are proud of. This year, we have reviewed Religious Education, Mathematics and English. In the summer term we were to review Science, Computing and Design & Technology. Due to Covid-19 these reviews are postponed to the Autumn 2020 term. New subject teams have been formed and this enables the reviews to be better focussed. It is a real privilege to see how well the subjects are prepared, taught and assessed, and, particularly, to hear from our enthusiastic and well-motivated pupils.

Admissions Committee

The Committee reviews the School's Admission Policies considering Diocese and Local Authority requirements. We administer the School's admissions criteria for applications for Nursery and for Reception separately because legally this has to be the case. 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. A paid Local Authority clerk takes minutes. We do not have any discretion to stray from the oversubscription criteria set out in our published Admissions Policy.

Personnel Committee

As a Voluntary Aided Church School, the Governors are the employers of every member of staff (apart from the kitchen staff). We are responsible for the appointment, performance management and pay of all, including our Headteacher. We are also responsible for the annual review of many Policies.

Promotion and Publicity Committee

The committee worked hard during these unusual and challenging times. We are looking forward to the next term and are planning ways to celebrate the completion of the New School Building.

Equality Duty Committee

The Board of Governors take our legal responsibilities to ensure Equality and Accessibility very seriously. An important issue is that of implementing a new policy for Religious and Sex Education. Parents have been consulted and the school will consider the feedback. There will be training for staff with regards to this policy. The new school building plans meet all disability access laws. Uniform changes were implemented and have been successful. Parent surveys will be gathered in the upcoming academic year for our new Equality Duty and Accessibility plan 2021-2025.

Farewell Year 6 Pupils and families

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 Wednesday 2nd September.

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,
'I am with you always'.

Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
and keep me in your care.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,

Christ behind me, Christ before me,

Christ beside me, Christ to win me,

Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,

Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,

Christ in hearts of all that love me,

Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.