



Headteacher Mission Statement Awards:

Congratulations to the following children who received a Headteacher's mission statement award for the second half of the Autumn term:

- Cedar** **LILY** – for always showing kindness and God's love to her friends in her words and actions.
RAFAEL – for noticing when his friends are doing good things and praising them when they do.
- Cherry** **NINA** – for always making the right choices in class and being a wonderful role model for her peers.
RAFAEL – for a huge improvement in his approach to his learning, in school and at home.
- Elm** **HENRY** – for always showing kindness and understanding to his friends and living out our mission statement daily.
ABIGAIL – for thinking very spiritually and living out the mission statement every day.
- Fir** **SABRIN** – for being considerate, thoughtful and supportive to everyone in Fir Class.
MICHAEL – for being polite, caring and enthusiastic and for living out the mission statement in all that he does.
- Hazel** **LUCAS** – for his fantastic attitude towards his learning and all aspects of school life. He lives out our mission statement through his kindness and helpful nature and is a wonderful example to his fellow classmates.
ELIZA – for her hard work and caring personality. She always comes to school with a big smile on her face and is available to help others. She is an excellent role model for all.
- Maple** **GABRIEL** – for his mature approach to dealings with others and for the amount of effort he puts into his learning across the curriculum.
JESSICA – for approaching every day with resilience and a readiness to learn as well as for being a consistent role model to those around her.
- Oak** **GRACE** – for the gentle way in which she cares for others in the class and for always living out our mission statement.
EUAN – for his thoughtful awareness of the needs of others and for his lovely friendship and kindness in class.
- Pine** **ARIANNA** – for being a wonderful, kind and caring role model who always displays a mature attitude towards her learning. A great learning partner and friend to all.
KAI – for the effort, determination and perseverance he shows towards his learning and in improving his work.
- Sycamore** **TOMMY** – for the focus and effort he makes to achieve the very best he can and for being such a supportive friend and learning partner.
OLIVIA - for the endless enthusiasm she shows towards all aspects of school life. Her work sets the bar high for all in Sycamore Class.

Willow **LUCA L** – for his excellent attitude to learning in all subjects. He is a fantastic role model to all in our school community.
NATALIE – for her positive attitude to all aspects of school life and for being a caring and loving friend to all.

New School Building Update

Everything is still going to schedule with the new build. We have been given our crates which we will be packing up this week for the removal team to move over the holiday. Teachers visited the classrooms again last week and are excited with their rooms.

Groundworks are still continuing throughout December, so once they are completed, we will take photos and put them on the school website over the holiday so you will know how to enter and exit the new school premises. We will still be in bubbles and staggered times which we will have to evaluate according to what space we have to work with. If there are to be any changes, we will notify you before the end of the holiday.

The Pre-School Nursery and the Early Birds and Night Owls will take over the current Nursery building and their entrance and exit will be the new garden gate installed. The builders, Kier, will take over the current Reception classrooms as their offices for the second phase of the building project where the current school will be demolished and new playgrounds and car park installed.

Primary Admission 2021-2022

A reminder to all our Nursery parents that the closing date to apply for a Reception class place for the academic year 2021/22 is 15th January 2021. 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 2021. For more information please see the admissions tab on the school website.

COVID 19

If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) at any point during the Christmas break, please notify us as soon as possible so we can complete the relevant tracking and tracing process with public health, if required, and notify any other children or staff who have been close contacts and who need to self-isolate. During the holidays you should email: covid19@stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk
Please don't call the normal absence line as this won't be covered during the holidays.

Remember as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test regardless of it being Christmas.

Main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you're not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have COVID-19 or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Please do not send children back to nursery or school if any of the following apply:

- they have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- they, any members of your household, or any close contacts (including extended family or friends they have seen and bubbles at holiday activities and sports clubs) have tested positive for COVID-19
- they haven't completed the full **10 day** isolation period requested

Self-isolating is one of the most important things we can all do to help stop the spread of the virus and protect our loved ones and the vulnerable. You can read our helpful self-isolating guide at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide

If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, visit: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

Year 2 Nativity - The Landlord's Cat

Year 2 parents can watch the Year 2 nativity performance on the school website here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ybsj89xd>

User names and passwords are being sent home via Seesaw.

Home Learning during the Holiday

Work has been set for the home learning period of the holiday as part of the school move. This work can be found on the school website under the Pupils Tab/ Home Learning for Nursery/Year 1/Year 2/Years 3&4 and Years 5&6. The majority of work has now been uploaded for access when it suits you.

Message from the Catholic Parish of Bishop's Stortford:

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of term, I would like to make you aware of the following opportunities which you may like to make the most of this Christmas. As you know, there are limited spaces at our current public masses, including over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, spaces for which have been already allocated by ballot.

CHRISTMAS EVE - On Christmas Eve, St Joseph's Church will be open for private prayer from 10am until 4pm (after which doors will need to be closed in order to sanitise before our first Christmas Eve mass).

All families are most welcome to make use of this time of private prayer to come into the church to pray quietly. Between 3 and 4pm, we will also be doing some socially distanced carol singing outside the church, to put you in the Christmas mood! This hour would be the perfect time for you to take a walk past our crib scene with your family, so do pop it in your diaries!

(On this note, if there are any families keen to be involved in the Carol Singing, please do get in touch with me: bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk)

VIRTUAL CAROL SERVICE - We are also preparing our first parish virtual carol service, which we hope to upload to our website, a few days prior to Christmas. It will then be available online for you to watch in the comfort of your own homes – and at a time of your choosing – between Christmas and New Year. So do please keep checking our website for updates!

BOOKING FOR WEEKDAY AND WEEKEND MASS - We are currently offering one weekday mass a day, as well as weekend Masses. Our previous 'Booking system' has reverted and can be found on our new website under the 'Events' section. Up to 2 seats can be booked on line. <https://rcstortford.org.uk/events/> All other bookings are to be made via the Parish office please on 01279 654 063(Mon-Fri 9am-3pm). Bookings are released usually 10 days in advance. If the web site shows that Bookings are 'closed', it does not mean that there are not any seats left, it means that the booking is not yet 'open'. When there are no seats left, it states, 'Booking full'.

CHRISTMAS MASS BALLOT - The ballot was independently drawn in a very fair way yesterday morning and all available seats have now been allocated. Tickets will be sent out in due course. The number of Parishioners applying for Mass outweighed the limited number of places that we have available in the Church under the current Government restrictions. We know that those of you who were not successful in the ballot will be very disappointed. We too are saddened that we are not able to accommodate you this year, along with the large number of fellow parishioners and visitors that we are used to having at Christmas time. For those who have been allocated a place, if for any reason you are not able to attend, please do let us know as soon as possible so that your place/s can be reallocated to another parishioner.

24th and 25th Dec: Please remember that all four Masses, (Christmas Eve 5pm and 7pm, Christmas Day 9am and 11am) will also be live streamed.

There will also be a special streaming only Midnight Mass at midnight too.

Sat 26th Dec: There will be a Mass on Saturday 26 December at 10am at St Joseph's.

Sun 27th Dec: Public masses will be celebrated at 9am Mass at St Joseph's and at 5pm Mass at Holy Cross, for which booking will be available 10 days before via our website as usual.

This has been an extraordinary year and one that we could never have expected. Please God, this time next year, we will be able, once again, to gather together as we have always done before. Thank you for your understanding.

End of term- Wednesday 16th December 2020

In order to reduce the number of adults on site, we will have the following staggered end of day arrangements on Wednesday 16th December:

EYFS Pick Up Time: 13.00-13.15

KS1 Pick Up Time: 13.15-13.30

KS2 Pick Up Time: 13.30-13.45

Please remember to wear a facemask and that only one adult should be picking up your child.

Remember pupils return to school on Thursday 14th January 2021

I wish you and your family a safe and peaceful Christmas break.

A Christmas Eve prayer

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus,

That we may share in the song of the angels,

The gladness of the shepherds,

And worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ

Brings and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy

Children and Christmas evening bring us to our beds

With grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven,

for Jesus' sake.

Amen.