



Headteacher Mission Awards

Cedar	MAEVE – For being an exceptionally kind and patient learning partner, as well as a thoughtful friend to everyone.
	DOMINIC –For being extremely thoughtful and helpful in the classroom and always being polite.
Cherry	EMILY – For always making the right choices and trying her best and for being a wonderful role model for her peers.
	SOPHIE -For always being polite, kind and caring towards her friends and consistently living out our School Mission Statement.
Elm	NOAH – For always working hard, being kind and caring and having an upbeat personality.
	RUBY – For listening really well and applying this knowledge to her work, which is always her best!
Fir	POPPY -For always being a wonderful role model to her peers and for demonstrating her kind and caring personality in Fir class
	PEYTON – For his excellent motivation and positive attitude towards his learning.
Hazel	MAX - For settling into school seamlessly, whilst naturally and consistently following our School Mission Statement, by being caring and a supportive member of the class. Also, for his consistent positive attitude to learning and always challenging himself to extend his learning.
	TAYLOR - For the brilliant progress she has made already this year through her determination and attitude to learning. She leads by good example through her cheerful and positive attitude and is always willing to help others.
Maple	ISABEL – For her unwavering efforts across all lesson activities and for continuously putting others before herself. She is a true model to all.
	KAI – For his exceptional manners and for his willingness to offer a helping hand to all members of our school community.
Oak	GRACE – For settling in so well to St. Joseph's school this term and for quickly learning what it means to live out the mission statement every day.
	CIAN – For his polite manners and gentle consideration of the needs of others in the class. He always works hard and has a wonderful sense of humour!
Pine	EMILIA - For always living out the mission statement and being an excellent role model to others.
	GEORGINA - For showing great resilience, thoughtfulness and a positive attitude which inspires us all.
Poplar	ELLIE-MAY – For the warmth, love and compassion she shows to all her fellow classmates at all times. They are very lucky to have you as a friend.
	CALLUM –For all his hard work since September, particularly in Maths lessons. Well done for making accelerated progress with your addition, subtraction and times table calculations. Keep up the great work after Christmas!

Sycamore **ISABEL**-For the commitment she gives towards all that she does-her learning and her Chaplaincy Team role. She is a great role model.
ETHAN-For the enthusiasm he shows towards his learning, always trying his best and for being such a super helper to his learning partner and his teacher.

Willow **SALVATORE** - For the superb effort you're putting into your work and for sharing so many interesting facts during our Titanic unit.
MIKOLAJ - For approaching all tasks with a can-do attitude and contributing your thoughts and ideas during class discussions.

Chaplaincy Team

After a long and patient wait, Father Antonio commissioned the Chaplaincy Team during our Advent Mass on 1st December. Father Antonio said a special blessing that the children would have faith and courage to spread the Good News throughout the school.

The Team have already been busy sharing the Word of God. Each Monday they create a poster based on the weekly Gospel through which all of the children are given a Monday Mission to live out throughout the week. Our prayer co-ordinators (Isabel, Natalie, Anthony and Maya) led Acts of Worship in some of the LKS2 and KS1 classes on the theme of Advent. These were very well received by the children in class, with one child saying, "That helped me to think about how I can get my heart ready for Jesus's coming at Christmas." There will be more exciting news from the Chaplaincy Team in the New Year.

The Chaplaincy Team want to wish you all a Happy Christmas and to share this Advent prayer with you:

Christ, come into our world of darkness

Light up our lives with your coming.

Help us to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Help us to work for good in our world

And to share the hope of your birth that each Advent brings.

Amen

(Sr Bidgette Rooney/CAFOD)

Sunday Times Top 150 Primary Schools in England

Not to be undone by the Sunday Telegraph, the Sunday Times has also listed our school as being one of the Top 150 primary schools in England. Whilst this was measured on an average of attainment scores prior to COVID over the years, it is nice to know that your children are currently attending a school ranked in the top 1% in the country. This is down to all of our hard work and the successful partnership of School, Home and Church to foster a very positive learning environment where pupils can thrive academically, but also socially and spiritually.

Sports News- football was back!

After some challenging games and a break from fixtures, St. Joseph's silver team are back and were hungry for a win in our game against All Saints. As the sky darkened around us, our skills lit up the pitch. With Joshua in goal and a strong defence in front of him, we kept a clean sheet. Eric scored a hat-trick and Paige finished things off with a great strike into the bottom corner. We all played with smiles on our faces and stepped off the pitch as 4-0 winners.

Written by Jada and Maya

Following three weeks of Covid restrictions, we are back in the football world. The gold team's match against All Saints started as we had hoped: with a goal in the first 30 seconds. In a game full of suspense, we played with enthusiasm and won 4-1. Daniel, Joseph (2) and Ollie were all on the scoresheet. Let's hope this is the beginning of a winning streak!

Written by Joseph and Ian

Food Science Room

The food science room has been busier than ever over the last few weeks as some classes have been working on their Food Tech units with a fully equipped kitchen- thanks to the School Association and their recent donation. As one teacher told me, it is actually a pleasure to teach food tech now in a space where pupils don't have to share 1 vegetable peeler between every six pupils and we have working ovens! You name it, we have now got it for our budding chefs.

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. If you wish to pay for the half term beginning 6th January, the full amount is £72.90.

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 Angela Hoare, 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.

Car Parking

Unfortunately, it has been brought to our attention that a local resident had the wall of their property damaged by a car. The incident happened on Tuesday, 14th December at approximately 3pm on Windhill. If anyone witnessed anything they think may help please contact the school office.

EYFS/KS1 Online Carols/ Nativity- Restrictions online

EYFS and KS1 staff have been working very hard to organise access online for these recordings. Passwords are being sent out via Tapestry/Seesaw, and they will hopefully be available soon.

Please note that we do not have permission to make these public on the wider internet or social media. **Do not copy these shared clips and upload them to any other site. We have vulnerable children in our school who cannot have their image put on Facebook, Twitter or any other social media platform.** Thank you for your co-operation.

KS1 and KS2 Christmas Panto/ EYFS Entertainer

The pupils were given a surprise treat this week with a holiday pantomime for KS1 and KS2 and an entertainer for EYFS - lots of fun was had by all.

E-safety Parent Information from Herts for Learning

Please find attached the Autumn Term e-safety parent newsletter from Herts for Learning.

Holiday Wellbeing Information

Please find attached information to help prevent wellbeing during this Christmas holiday.

Message from HCC

We have been asked to distribute this message from Hertfordshire County Council:

As we head into the festive season, we'd like to say thank you for continuing to play your part in the fight against COVID-19 and helping to keep yourselves and others safe.

We are all looking forward to spending time with friends and family this year, there are simple steps you can take to help make this festive period as safe as possible and reduce the risk of you and your family catching and spreading COVID-19:

- **Get vaccinated** - Vaccination continues to offer the best protection for ourselves and others around us from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. You can also now get your booster three months after your second dose, to book this and any COVID-19 vaccinations, visit:

www.nhs.uk/covidvaccination

Young people aged 12-17 yet to receive their COVID-19 vaccination(s) can find out more and book at: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/vaccine-information-for-young-people>

- **Test regularly** – 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 don't display symptoms. Regular rapid testing at home can help to prevent transmission. Find out all the ways to get home test kits (LFD tests) at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest
From 14 December, all adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 by NHS Test and Trace – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating.
- **Stay at home** – if you have symptoms stay at home and book or order a PCR test online at: www.nhs.uk/get-tested
If you test positive you must self-isolate for the required period and not have people visit you at home. There is support available to help people who need it to self-isolate, call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044, email info@hertshelp.net or visit www.hertshelp.net

Finally, please do not send children back to school in January if they have symptoms. Hertfordshire's childcare, nurseries, schools and colleges are working so hard to keep our communities safe and reduce disruption to children's learning and development so let's all work together to help them and each other.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and safe festive season.

Hertfordshire County Council

Parish Mass Times Over Christmas

Day	Time	Church	Booking Required?
Christmas Eve	5:00 pm	St Joseph	Yes (Bookings open from 17 December)
Christmas Eve	7:00 pm	St Joseph	Yes (Bookings open from 17 December)
Christmas Eve	Midnight	St Joseph	Yes (Bookings open from 17 December)
Christmas Day	9:00 am	St Joseph	Yes (Bookings open from 17 December)
Christmas Day	9:00 am	Most Holy Redeemer	No
Christmas Day	11:00 am	St Joseph	Yes (Bookings open from 17 December)
Christmas Day	11:30 am	Holy Cross	No

Bookings will be open for Masses requiring reservations from Friday, 17 December. You may book on the Parish website or by calling the Parish Office.

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 safe and peaceful Christmas and look forward to the pupils returning on Thursday 6th January 2022.

