



# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

www.stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk

MAY 2016

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



## **HEAD TEACHER MISSION AWARDS**

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

Ash - Isabella & William  
Beech - Caitlin & Hannah  
Cedar - Lucia & Victor  
Elm - Luca & Dillon  
Fir - Katie & Finley  
Hazel - Sam & Ella  
Maple - Mya & Sofia  
Oak - Ciaran & Oliver  
Pine - Dominic & Rohana  
Sycamore - Carla & Robbie  
Willow - Matilda & Evie

## **DINNER MONEY FOR JUNIORS**

**Please note: Dinner money must be paid for either weekly or half-termly IN ADVANCE.** School meals are currently priced at £2.30 per day, £11.50 per week. If you wish to pay for next half-term in advance, the cost of school meals up to the summer half term will be £80.50. If you prefer, you can pay any amount of your choice to keep your balance in credit. Please pay online using the 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.

## **MILK ORDER**

Don't forget that 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](http://www.coolmilk.com) to register and place your order.



## **TEN TEN THEATRE**

On Tuesday 19th April, staff from the Ten Ten theatre group visited the school. Pupils were asked to engage in short drama sessions focusing on the Year of Mercy.

## **SHOESDAY**

As an incentive to promote our 'walking to school' initiatives, pupils were invited to wear their own trainers to school if they walked to school on Wednesday 20th April. On the day, many pupils and their parents made an extra effort to walk to school - lots choosing to walk together as part of the walking bus from Thorley Sainsbury's. Pupils were also asked to take part in a 'design a trainer' competition. Twelve pupils came up with winning designs and their efforts were celebrated during a special 'Shoesday' assembly.



## **PEDESTRIAN SKILLS**

During the week commencing 11th April, staff and pupils from Years 3 & 4 completed Pedestrian Skills training. Pupils really enjoyed the week as it gave them an opportunity to reflect on the importance of road safety.

## **SATs**

Very well done to all our pupils in Years 2 and 6 for completing their SATs. All of our pupils tried their best throughout the week and school staff were very impressed with the level of motivation and perseverance the pupils displayed. Thank you to all parents for supporting your child with additional homework/SATs preparation.

## **CLASS AND SCHOOL MASSES**

We are very grateful to Fr Fortunato, who has taken time to lead Class and School Masses this term.

## **CHAPLAINCY TEAM NEWS**

On Wednesday 18th May the members of the Chaplaincy Team led two assemblies on the theme of Pentecost.

They worked hard to produce PowerPoint slides and to engage the other children in reflecting on this great festival.

Well done everyone involved.

## SPORTING NEWS

Another sporty half term comes to pass.

In school we are having cricket and football coaching in KS1 and LKS2 – inspiring both teachers and pupils.

Early Years are still enjoying their sporty mornings led by Hockerill sports leaders. We are busy running our virtual multi skills competition in years 1 – 4. There is some competition between the classes and scores are high.

We have taken part in two competitions this half term: tri-golf and mini red tennis.

The year 3/4 pupils who represented the school did us proud and played their socks off. The tri-golfers competed against year 5 and 6 pupils.

On the football front, we took part in the PSD tournaments. The year 3/4 boys came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, as did the Year 5/6 girls in their tournament. The Year 5/6 boys won their tournament again which was a fitting end to a very successful season. Congratulations to Will Sullivan who was voted 'Goalkeeper of the tournament' who saved two penalties in the final penalty shootout against Manor Fields, and for captain, Reuben Skingley, who lead his team so well all through the season. We have made a good start to the football and netball leagues. The boys (football) have won one and lost one and the girls (netball) are unbeaten. This league continues through the term so keep practising!

Ali is now enjoying the endless energy of the Year 1/2 tennis group on a Tuesday morning. The favoured Year 5/6 group will have their last lesson when the infants finish their block.

Our Year 6 Kwik cricket clubs have seen pupils making a great improvement in their bowling and batting. In the cricket league, our A and B teams easily beat Thorley Hill but lost to Manor Fields. Next up will be Windhill school.

Congratulations to the team that came third in the local cricket competition, losing out to eventual winners, Manor Fields, by a single run in the semi-final, having beaten both Summercroft and Hillmead in the group stages. It is a sign of how strong our sporting tradition is at our school that we are consistently challenging in competition finals.

Keep active as Sports Day is round the corner!



## NOTE FROM GOVERNORS

Our School Governing Body is made up of: 9 Governors appointed by the Church (Foundation Governors); 2 parents; 2 staff including the Head Teacher; 1 appointed by the Local Authority; and 2 Co-Opted people. We currently have Bob Sherfield and Miles Edwards as parent Governors. All Governors are appointed for 4 year terms and parent Governors can complete their 4 years after their children have left. Miles is appointed until August 2017 and Bob is appointed until August 2018. At the moment we have 1 vacancy for a Foundation Governor and we will have another in September. We have carried out a skills audit and, although our Chair is a Solicitor, we would like to have more Governor with legal skills on the team. One other rule that we are bound by is that we cannot have more than 2 parents as Foundation Governors. We currently have 1 and so we can only seek 1 more parent Foundation Governor. If you have legal experience and you are a practising Catholic and you have the time to commit to being a Governor then please contact our Chair, Suzanne Fitzgerald, to discuss the matter further. If you know of someone who is not a parent of a child at our school and who fits this description then please pass this message on to them.

Please note that the role of the Governors is a strategic function to:

a. Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and direction;  
b. Hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and

c. Oversee the financial performance of the school. We are not here to get involved in the day to day running of the school, which is our Headteacher's responsibility, unless it is relevant to the above.

In the last Newsletter we informed you that we had appointed Ann Cassidy-Jones to be our new Deputy Headteacher in September. We congratulated Andrew Price on his appointment as a Deputy at another school and now we have to congratulate Stacey Brown as she too has been appointed as a Deputy at another school. This left us with a large recruitment responsibility but we are very pleased to let you know that we have filled the roles of all the Key Stage Leaders from September.

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, the argument must be made. On average 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 we are going to have to turn away more practising Catholic parents in the future. We pray that the local authority will agree to fund this expansion. We will let you know when we hear.

## YOUR SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The end of another half-term! Before we know it our children will be moving onwards and upwards!

What's been happening & what is coming up...

### May Fayre Mayhem!

The weather was kind to us and it was great to see so many families come along to our annual May Fayre on Saturday. As we always say the May Fayre takes a huge amount of planning & organising, however all the hard work is more than worth it when we see so many families enjoying a busy afternoon of fun! Thank you so much for supporting our biggest fund raiser – not only by attending & spending loads of money, but for all the donations that you so generously give leading up to the event. Special thanks must also be given to all the teachers, Steve (our school caretaker) & all those parents who kindly give up their time to make this day a huge success. The icing on the cake is that the May Fayre is set to have a bumper year...raising in the region of £5,000!!! Please be assured that every penny you help to raise will be spent on your children.

### Crazy Parents Abseil for the School Association & The Alzheimer's Society!!

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 4 brave Parents & 1 teacher- RobertRooney, Cathy McLornan, Rachel Kelly, Richard Abbott & Kim Foster – abseiled 110ft down the Harlow Water Tower to raise funds for both our children and The Alzheimer's Society. The support from the families at St Joseph's was fantastic & we were overwhelmed by the generosity of the donations. With Gift-Aid added, just over £3,000 was raised, which will be split between the two worthy causes. Thank-you! Thank-you! Thank-you!

### The Sponsored Bounce is back!

The School Association plans to continue raising money for the Alzheimer's Society with the welcome return of the Sponsored Bounce which is taking place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June. The children love to bounce like crazy to raise money...please help put a spring in their 'bounces' & sponsor their efforts. Sponsorship Forms have been sent home in the children's book bags today.

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO COUNT BOUNCES ON THE DAY** - If you can help (morning or afternoon or just for an hour or so), please contact the School Association at [stjosephsschoolassociation@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stjosephsschoolassociation@hotmail.co.uk)

### Disco Divas - Save the Date!

Family Summer Disco – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July. BBQ/Pimms/Music – (weather permitting!) we look forward to seeing you all enjoying a family evening in the July sunshine!

From all of the School Association, enjoy a great half-term break!

## COLLEGE CAR PARK DROP OFF

Thank you to the small dedicated group of parents who have been running the drop off. Pupils in Year 3 to Year 6 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. Please consider using the drop off and volunteering. It will only take 20 minutes of your time once a week/fortnight. The rota for next half term is now available at: [www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E4BAAA62EA1F49-drop](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E4BAAA62EA1F49-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.

## RWANDA PROJECT

Thank you for your help!

The Rwanda project money raised has been used to support many children with their education. In addition your donations have also enabled two homeless families to have a new home.

*Cassilda has four children and she has been lodging with 2 other families in the same house since her hut*



*fell down two years ago. The house only has two rooms and there is also a small outside toilet but Cassilda is really grateful that she now has a place where her family can be together in peace. Appoloniya naad Pascal's house started crumbling in recent rains and one wall has already collapsed. The new house isn't quite finished but we are almost at the stage of fitting the doors and shutters !*

*O Mary, my Mother,  
I offer you my soul, my mind, and my heart.  
Make of me God's instrument.  
Give me a penetrating mind to discover,  
firm to judge,  
open to understand,  
free to serve the truth;  
an honest mind in telling what it sees rather than what it wants to see;  
a tolerant mind which does not dictate to other people,  
but which explains what it sees clearly;  
a mind infused by the light and the truth of your Son Jesus,  
patient in faith,  
while waiting for the vision of eternal life.  
Amen.*