



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

www.stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
2016

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



HEAD TEACHER MISSION AWARDS

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

Ash – Jessica & Gabriel
Beech – Ruby & Jeshua
Cedar – Gioia & Salvatore
Elm – Alice & Dylan
Fir – Elise & Riley
Hazel – Marta & Daniel
Maple – Evie & Michael
Oak – Cloideach & Heidi
Pine – Tristain & Sienna
Sycamore – Sofia & Daniel
Willow – Laura & Thomas

DINNER MONEY FOR JUNIORS

Please note: Dinner money must be paid for either weekly or half-termly IN ADVANCE. School meals for the new term will be £2.35 per day, £11.75 per week. If you wish to pay for the second half of the Autumn term the cost will be £89.30 to Xmas. 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 not the school.

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 and if your child is coming into school late due to an appointment please remember to book their meal when you ring in. Thank you.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Many thanks to you and the staff for the recent parent teacher consultations. There is a big jump for our Reception, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5 pupils as they settle into higher expectations and demands from the curriculum. The pupils have been settled into their new routines for a number of weeks now and showing the types of progress we would expect after half a term.

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 to register and place your order.



SECONDARY TRANSITION

Mr Celano the Headteacher from St. Mary's Catholic school paid a visit to the Year 5 and Year 6 pupils to talk about St. Mary's and the opportunities it could offer them for their future. He also welcomed any parents that wanted information prior to the St. Mary's open evening.

If you have a Year 6 child please note the deadline for applications to all the secondary schools is Monday 31st October.

CHAPLAINCY TEAM NEWS

There was an excellent response from our Year 6 applicants this year and interviews highlighted many suitable candidates.

Mr Coldwell, Miss Roper and Mrs O'Carroll, RE Governor, selected the following eight children to form our new Chaplaincy team for this year. Congratulations to:

Rohana, Lilly, Shriya, Ethan, Daniel, Matilda, Isobel and Vittoria.

There will be an opportunity for other applicants to assist with some of the projects throughout the year at the invitation of team members.

SYCAMORE FIELD TRIP

On Thursday 29th September, Sycamore class ventured into town to collect primary data as evidence of change in Bishop's Stortford, despite the heavens opening several minutes after we left school (giving us no alternative but to seek shelter under the trees in the graveyard!). We accomplished our mission and found lots of evidence of change over time in South Street and Riverside.

SPORTING NEWS



We have started our clubs and PE is in full swing! The football league has started under the guidance of Mr Doherty. We have won one and lost two so far. We will be reporting on all the matches via the school website, so do keep an eye out for this.



Tennis coaching, through BSLTC, continues on Tuesday mornings before school. This term is for the Year 3/4 cohort. Year 5/6 pupils will have a turn in the spring term and Year 1/2 pupils in the summer.

Oak class have been doing some speed stacking. These times will be recorded and submitted for the local competition, so keep practising. There are lots of camps and training sessions run at various clubs during the half term, please keep active!



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to the 185 pupils in the school with 100% attendance this half-term. Top marks to Maple and Pine who lead the school with 98.4% attendance

KS1:
Cedar - 97.2% Elm - 97.9% Fir - 97.4%

LKS2:
Hazel - 96.2% Maple - 98.4% Oak - 97.1%

UKS2:
Pine - 98.4% Sycamore - 98.3%
Willow - 98.1%

If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, please call the school on the first day of absence before 9.00am. There is an automated service available for you to leave a brief message and this reassures the school that your child is safe and that you, the parent, are aware of the absence. If you do not call you will receive a text/email advising you that we need an explanation for your child's absence.

QUANTUM THEATRE

On Wednesday 19th October, the quantum theatre company visited St Joseph's to deliver maths shows based on a pirate theme to Reception, KS1, LKS2 and UKS2. The children had great fun working out the mathematical problems and enjoyed identifying the pirate's miscalculations! I asked some of the children what they thought of the day and here are some of the things they said: "awesome - I loved counting in tens with the parrot", "I learned more about equivalent fractions". A great day was had by all!



COLLEGE CAR PARK DROP OFF VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

A huge thank you to the parents that have kept the drop off open this half term. Unfortunately, due to a lack of volunteers we have been unable to run it every day and may have to consider stopping. 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. The rota for next half term is now available at www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E4BAAA62EA1F49-drop

Pupils in Years 3 to 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. This has proved to be a successful way of easing some of the congestion outside the school. Please note that the drop off will not be open on days when we do not have two volunteers. For pupil safety please do not drop off outside of the coned area or when the drop off is not manned.

MESSAGE FROM FOUNDATION STAGE

Next term the Foundation stage will be having their 'Show and Share' sessions.
Acorn morning - Thursday 3rd November 11.00am
Acorn afternoon - Thursday 3rd November at 2.45pm
Ash and Beech - Thursday 10th November at 2.25

If you are having a clear out over the half term the Foundation Stage would greatly appreciate any donations of unwanted good condition toys such as dolls, books, puzzles and Happy Land. Please hand them to Mrs Hunt. Many thanks.

SCHOOL ASSOCIATION UPDATE

The School Association have only held one event this half-term...but it was a cracker! Last Saturday a hugely enjoyable quiz night took place in the school hall (with the added bonus of a lovely hot meal provided by Nicky the school cook). It was a great evening which made a fantastic profit of £735! Special thanks goes to Andy Faulkner our Vice-Chair for organising this event. We also would like to thank everyone who came along to support the evening and those who bought raffle tickets.

Although it has been a quiet term for the School Association...fear not as we have plenty of things coming up after half-term

CHILDREN'S DISCO - Friday 18th November
3:45pm-4:45pm Foundation Stage & Key Stage 1

5.00pm-6:30pm - Key Stage 2
£5 per child to include drink, treat and a glo-stick. No need for parents to stay

AGM - Tuesday 22nd November 3.45pm
Maybe this is your year to join the School Association?

The Annual General Meeting is a legal requirement of the School Association. Amongst other items on the agenda we will be electing a new committee and officers. If you are interested and would like any information about either becoming an officer or part of the Committee than please do get in touch. All officer positions will be available for re-election, this includes Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. If anyone would like to know more about these roles please email

stjosephsschoolassociation@hotmail.co.uk
or speak to one of the committee members.

The AGM will be held straight after school pick up & we hope that as many parents as possible will be able to attend. The school will kindly make provision for children to be looked after while the meeting is being held. Further details will be sent out via Schoolcomms very soon.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE - Friday 2nd December

The School Association are currently busy planning the Christmas Fayre. Please look out for further details after half term. This event takes a lot of planning & we really need more volunteers to help make it a success – the more volunteers, the more fun and games for the children!

We will need people who can be at school that afternoon to help set up; people to run the games/craft tables/Santa's grotto & people to help with drinks and food then people to help clear it all up! (That's quite a lot of people!) Please drop us an email if you can help in any way

stjosephsschoolassociation@hotmail.co.uk

CHRISTMAS SAVINGS CLUB - The cheques to those who have been saving this year are due to be distributed in the second week in November. The savings club is a great way to save for Christmas throughout the year. Please contact us if you would like more information on this.

ST JOSEPH'S SA 100 CLUB - We have had many happy winners over the past year - buy a number to have a chance to win in the draw (whilst also helping to raise funds for the children)! If you would like to join please see the school website for details.

FACEBOOK PAGE -

Information on all the School Association events can now be found on our new Facebook page - St Joseph's School Association Bishop's Stortford Official Group.

Remember every parent is automatically a member of the School Association - the more we can do, the more all our children will benefit!

Have a great half term!

SAFEGUARDING

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All adults who work in school need a satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. All staff are trained in child protection procedures and have the safety of the children in mind at all times. We have a number of policies and procedures in place that contribute to our safeguarding commitment, including our Child Protection Policy which can be viewed in the policies section of our website.

Sometimes we may need to share information and work in partnership with other agencies when there are concerns about a child's welfare. We will ensure that our concerns about our pupils are discussed with his/her parents/carers first unless we have reason to believe that such a move would be contrary to the child's welfare.

Our Designated Senior Person for Child protection (DSP) is Mr Peter Coldwell (Headteacher). Our Deputy DSP is Miss Ann Cassidy-Jones (Deputy Headteacher). If you have a safeguarding concern, please speak with your class teacher or to Mr Coldwell or Miss Cassidy-Jones directly.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Now that we are entering the second half of the Autumn Term, please remember that we no longer wear our summer dresses or shorts to school. Outdoor footwear needs to be navy blue or black and not trainers. There may be a few pupils in school who have been given permission to wear alternative footwear under medical advice before corrective surgery. If that is the case for your child, please make an appointment to see Mr Coldwell.

TIME TO PRAY – A PARENT'S REFLECTION

Jimena, mother of one, tells us about the challenges of finding even the smallest amount of time to pray:

Time to pray? Ha! I barely have time to brush my hair, let alone pray. One of the challenges I face as a new mum is coping with the voices from the outside world telling me that I should somehow be able to continue living the life I had before, while also looking after a little fireball of a toddler. Life changes when you become a parent though, standard activities that I would have time for previously are now on a list of 'special treats'. Is prayer one of them? It is when I find ten minutes on my own where I can actually chat with Jesus rather than having to cook, clean, make a phone call, or simply breathe. However, the real treat – and a bit of a surprise too – is when I catch myself constantly thanking God for my beautiful son whom I adore and who drives me nuts in equal measure. Praying has become less of an activity and more of a spontaneous outburst. Quite fitting in toddlers' terms. Perhaps God's too.

from Ten:Ten Resources October 2016.